the BIG WEEK 24 TO 28 JUNE 2019

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE

24 & 25 JUNE 2019

BRISBANE

CFAW

CPP ChildProtectionPeak

PeakCare Queensland Inc.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The National Child Protection Conference is gathering together policy-makers, researchers, service administrators and practitioners from government and non-government mainstream and community-controlled organisations from across the country to explore what's hot in the world of child protection. This important conference is providing opportunities to showcase innovation as well as to explore and debate contentious issues currently confronting all Australian States and Territories.

The National Child Protection Conference is being co-hosted by the Child and Family Welfare Association of Australia (CAFWAA), the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP), and PeakCare Queensland

CAFWAA

CAFWAA is the national peak body for child, adolescent and family welfare in Australia.

CAFWAA's aim is to promote the welfare of children and young people in out-of-home care and those at risk of placement, together with their families.

CAFWAA has membership from peak child and family welfare bodies at state and territory level as well as national bodies and major service providers.

PEAKCARE QUEENSLAND

PeakCare Queensland provides an independent and impartial voice for the non-government sector providing care for children and young people and child and family support services integral to an effective child protection system. PeakCare has non-government organisation members and a network of supporters comprising individuals and other entities with an interest in child protection.

QATSICPP

The principal purpose of QATSICPP is to, above all, promote and advocate the rights, safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their families through effective partnerships and strategic collaborations. We provide leadership in advocacy and the development of policies, strategies and programs to resource, support and strengthen the capacity and capability of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community controlled child protection agencies in the interests of our children, families and communities.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands in which we work and honour the Elders, past, present and future.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE

DAY 1 – MONDAY 24 JUNE 2019

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 9.20AM – 10.00AM

PODIUM BALLROOM

PRESENTER: Mr Stan Grant

Award winning media host & speaker

Stan Grant is the Indigenous Affairs Editor for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, a multi-award winning current affairs host, an author and an adventurer.

Stan's Aboriginal heritage has shaped his dynamic, resilient personality. Born in Griffith in south-west New South Wales, in 1963, Stan Grant's mother is from the Kamilaroi people and his father is of the Wiradjuri.

Stan has won many major awards including an Australian T.V Logie, a Columbia University Du-Pont Award (the broadcast equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize), and the prestigious U.S Peabody Award. He is a four-time winner of the highly prized Asia TV Awards including reporter of the year.

DESCRIPTION:

Drawing on his personal history as a Wiradjuri man and his professional history as a journalist reporting from conflict zones around the world, Stan Grant confronts the big questions about who we want to be as a nation.

The big question about whether Australia can be a country that can fully enshrine the rights of Indigenous peoples, that can wrestle with its past, that can draw a line through its history, that can give Indigenous peoples the opportunity to make decisions about their lives that will lift Indigenous people and communities.

PRESENTATIONS: 10.30AM – 12.45PM

PODIUM ROOM 1

A Lived Experience of the Child Protection System and the Journey to Self Determination

TIME: 10.30am – 11.15am

PRESENTER/S: Ms Andrea Myers

Andrea Myers is currently a board member and broadcaster at Wangki Radio in Fitzroy Crossing WA, presenting two shows a week – 7 Habits of Highly Effective Fitzroy and Law and Order. A Bunuba woman, she is the granddaughter of a Stolen Generation survivor, who was removed to "better surroundings", only to ever see her mother once more before she passed away 40 years later, by which time she was blind. She has a Bachelor of Arts (English/ Media), a Masters of Indigenous Education from Macquarie University and is currently studying a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) at the University of Southern Queensland.

ORGANISATION/S: Wangki Yupurnanupurru Aboriginal Corporation (Radio Station)

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

As the single, mother of 4 children, aged 1, 5, 8 and 16, Andrea presents her lived experience of the child protection system in WA. Over 14 years she has experienced different assessment approaches used to assess families and fought for her children to remain in her care or with family. In 2014, despite strong resistance she returned to country in the Kimberley with her own children to meet all the family, that the Grandmother never met. She talks about her family's journey with the child protection system over the last 100 years, the struggles families in community face with self-determination and how the principles in the legislation often conflict with the reality on the ground. She also refers to some of the findings and recommendations of the Nous Group's Fitzroy Valley Youth Engagement Report, in regards to the current impact of a lack of shared vision between non-government organisations, what could help in the future, what has helped her family be resilient on a day to day basis despite our history and challenges and some positive steps currently happening on the ground.

The intersection of Culture, Trauma Informed and Self-Determination Theory: Protect, Connect and Heal

TIME: 11.15am – 12.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Sue-Anne Hunter

Sue-Anne Hunter is a proud Wurundjeri woman, committed to self-determination, advocating for the rights of Aboriginal children, young people and families and strengthening culture. She has worked at The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) for 18 years and is currently the organisation's Principal Practitioner with oversight of all the clinical healing services and is the central point for the development of an integrated culturally appropriate and trauma informed approach to working with Aboriginal children and families.

ORGANISATION/S: Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This presentation will draw from Sue-Anne's story, the story of the Wurundjeri people and her experience of working for over 18 years with the Aboriginal Community, on behalf of the Victorian Aboriginal Childcare Agency (VACCA) most recently as the organisation's Principle Practitioner to illustrate the intersection of culture, trauma informed and self-determination theories which comprise VACCA's whole of agency approach to healing, Cultural Therapeutic Ways. Cultural Therapeutic Ways places children and families at the centre of the way that services are delivered, with culture as the dorroong-(Woiwurrung)-the heart of program design. This presentation will illustrate what self-determination really means for the Aboriginal people and families who access VACCA services and VACCA.

Collaborating for Self-Determination for Aboriginal Families

TIME: 12.00pm – 12.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Wendy Moore

Wendy Moore is a proud Palawa (Tasmanian Aboriginal) woman. Her grandmother was born on the Aboriginal Reserve at Cape Barren Island (an island located off the top of Tasmania). Wendy's grandmother and father were tireless advocates for the Tasmanian Aboriginal community's rights to land and social justice. They were involved in various successes including land returns, the introduction of legal aid and health services and the saving of precious heritage areas.

She is a qualified Social Worker, and currently works for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. Wendy is employed as a Program Coordinator with the Aboriginal Health Service. Her role includes working closely with the Tasmanian Child Safety Services to achieve the best outcomes for Aboriginal children and families.

ORGANISATION/S: Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This presentation introduces a case-study of collaboration in child protection between the Tasmanian Government's Child Safety Services (CSS) and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC). In 2018, the TAC was contracted by CSS to provide strong cultural support to two Aboriginal children on care and protection orders, as a pilot program. The objective was to keep the family (mum, dad, the two children) physically, mentally, culturally and emotionally safe. CSS remained the children's guardians. This program is ongoing.

This presentation will discuss jurisdictional-specific child protection issues; however, the implications of collaboration will be relevant across jurisdictions and sectors.

Building a strengths-based support system for our families with greater integration between our services, and the broader service sector

TIME: 12.15pm – 12.45pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Kristy Clancy and Ms Rell Semmens

Kristy Clancy is a Wakka Wakka woman who was born and raised on Kalkadoon country in Mount Isa, and now lives in Townsville across the lands of the Wulgurukaba and Bindal peoples. She has a first class honours degree in Economics and is currently completing her Master of Social Work (Professional Qualifying) at James Cook University. After first joining the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service (TAIHS) on placement with the Foster and Kinship Service, Kristy now works with the Family Wellbeing Service at TAIHS. She is highly motivated by the outcomes made possible by early interventions that support children and families, and is particularly interested in the development of policies, strategies and programs that enhance strength in culture and true promotion of self-determination.

Rell Semmens is the Program Manager of the Family Wellbeing Service at the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service (TAIHS). With wide-ranging teaching qualifications and experience across the community and health services sectors in New South Wales and Queensland, Rell has a strong interest in promoting the significance of the early years and parents as children's first teachers. This commitment to the importance of the early years has driven the development of our Family Wellbeing House, Yamani Meta, as a culturally-safe space to deliver our own program of activities that promote optimal early years and ongoing child development. This early intervention and prevention strategy strives to harness culture as a protective factor in growing up kids by seeking every opportunity to support a positive sense of identity.

ORGANISATION/S: Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service is committed to providing integrated, holistic and culturally-relevant service systems that enhance the social, health and wellbeing outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Across our services, we strive to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children grow up safe and connected to their families, their communities and their culture. This presentation will outline some of the innovative new practices that have been developed by our Family Wellbeing Service, who recently invested in creating a Family Wellbeing House, named in language: 'Yamani Meta'.

Yamani Meta takes the form of a home that provides a child-centred space facilitating a great diversity of early interventions that aim to strengthen our families and keep culture strong.

PRESENTATIONS: 10.30AM – 12.45PM

PODIUM ROOM 2

Navigate Your Health – Improving Health Outcomes of Children and Young People

TIME: 10.30am – 11.00am

PRESENTER/S: Dr Reeny Jurczyszyn, Ms Celia Lenaghan and Brisbane Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Service

ORGANISATION/S: Children's Health Queensland

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Showcasing the implementation of the Navigate Your Health Trial and Priority Access to Health Services for Children and Young People in Care.

This presentation will detail the progress in improving the health outcomes as a partnership between Childrens Health Qld, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Brisbane Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service,

This will detail both Navigate Your Health Program and Priority Access measures that Childrens Health Queensland have instituted for all children in care to receive Cat 1 priority access.

The presentation will outline the journey of development, progress and preliminary outcomes of the trial.

Navigate Your Health – Forging pathways to better health outcomes for children in care

TIME: 11.00am – 11.30am

PRESENTER/S: Ms Imogen Holt, Ms Cheryl Glidden and Ms Tracy Wilson

ORGANISATION/S: Children's Health Queensland

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Navigate Your Health is a two-year trial partnership project between The Department of Child Safety Youth and Women, Brisbane Region, Children's Health Queensland and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service - Brisbane. Navigate Your Health is providing children and young people in care in the Brisbane region with improved access to health checks, referral management and health care coordination.

The trial is already demonstrating improvements in the health outcomes at an individual level with timely access to specialist care and also systemically with pathways developed to improve information sharing and health care coordination between oral health services, immunisation records, mental health services, child health and ATSICHS – Brisbane.

The presentation will cover Navigate Your Health from commencement through to the early evaluation phase.

Strengthening health response for children and young people in care

TIME: 11.30am – 12.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Karen Dawson-Sinclair, Ms Renne Blackman and Ms Fiona Hill

Karen Dawson-Sinclair is a Gubbi Gubbi woman from the Sunshine Coast region. She is the Program Coordinator for Strengthening Health Assessment and Pathways from children in out of home care project from Brisbane South PHN. Karen has more then 25 years' experience of working in human services sector across the state, with a core focus on improving outcomes for children and their families

Renee Blackman is a Gubbi Gubbi woman from the Sunshine Coast of Queensland. She is CEO of Gidgee Healing, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service that provides services to about 7,000 Aboriginal people living across a vast area of north-west Queensland, from Mt Isa to the Gulf. This role is the culmination of more than 20 years of experience as a clinician and working in senior management roles in metropolitan and remote areas.

Sandy Gilles is a Gungarri woman from southwest Queensland. She has been involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, social and emotional wellbeing and mental health at a local, community, state and national level over the past 25 years. Sandy has a wealth of knowledge and background in key decision making roles at senior level policy and program development levels through her various senior management roles both within the government and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health care sectors across Queensland.

ORGANISATION/S: Brisbane South Primary Health Network, Gidgee Aboriginal Medical Service, and Western Queensland Primary Health Network

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Brisbane South PHN is delivering the 'Strengthening health response for children and young people in care' State wide project, with 7 selected Child Safety Service Centres in the following selected communities : Nerang, Ipswich, Mt Isa , Maryborough, Townville, Caboolture and Bayside in response to the Queensland Child Protection Commission Inquiry and Recommendation 7:7. This presentation will provide a snapshot of the progress of all 7 communities. Showcasing in a deep dive Mt Isa and drilling down into a local placed base response to provide a culturally secure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health pathway.

Platform 18 Service

TIME: 12.00pm – 12.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Susan Fotheringham

Susan Fotheringham, BA, Dip. HV, RM, RN, has over 30 years experience in the nursing field. She worked as a Nurse and Midwife in hospital settings in Glasgow then as a Midwife and Health Visitor in a remote rural community in the Shetland Isles.

Since moving to Australia in 2008 she has worked in Primary school nursing, School Based Youth Health Nursing and Child Health Nursing in Bayside and Logan areas. Since 2017 she has been working in CPFMS (Child Protection and Forensic Medical service) as a CN CPLO and she has been seconded into the Platform 18 CNC role 0.5 WTE since April 2018. This role provides nurse led health assessments for Young people aged 15-18yrs under child protection orders.

ORGANISATION/S: CPFMS, Queensland Childrens Hospital

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Platform 18 was established to identify and redress the unmet health needs with assessment, screening and clinical care using a nurse led model.

The young people who access P18 are aged 15-18yrs and have been removed from their birth families due to abuse and or neglect. These young people often face a steep and hazardous transition to adulthood with many living independently before the age of 18yrs. This is in stark contrast to their peers who are remaining home until often 24yrs of age. Young people in care face financial hardship and isolation at a young age which leaves a legacy of disadvantage beyond the care years.

We provide reviews in Queensland Childrens Hospital and are also offering home visits to residential care homes for young people who prefer this option.

P18 is designed to deliver a youth led service which includes health education, clinical services with flexible appointments.

What care providers most need to know about trauma: The Three Pillars of Transforming Care

TIME: 12.15pm – 12.45pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Howard Bath

Dr Howard Bath has had a long career working with children and young people in the child welfare and youth justice systems in roles such as youth worker, house parent, program manager and agency director. From 2008 to 2015 he was the inaugural Children's Commissioner in the NT with a mission to promote the wellbeing of vulnerable children.

Trained as a clinical psychologist, Howard has also provided direct clinical services for young people and their families as well as training and program support for schools and agencies across Australia and internationally. He has authored papers and reports on child protection, out of home care, family preservation and developmental trauma and is co-author (with John Seita) of the recent book: *The Three Pillars of Transforming Care: Trauma and resilience in the 'other 23 hours'*.

ORGANISATION/S: Allambi Care

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This workshop describes the Three Pillars framework which is designed to support and empower the care providers working with our most vulnerable children.

This workshop will review the research case for the three identified trauma-related needs and explore how these core needs can be addressed through the identification of trauma-sensitive, everyday relationship skills. It will include table discussions, case examples and videos.

PRESENTATIONS: 10.30AM – 12.45PM

PODIUM ROOM 3

A Commissioner's perspective: The work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

TIME: 10.30am – 10.45am

PRESENTER/S: Mr Robert (Bob) Atkinson AO APM

Mr Robert (Bob) Atkinson served as the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service for 12 years from 2000 until his retirement in October 2012. Bob oversaw reforms after the Fitzgerald inquiry from 1990 as well as the Public Sector Management Commission Review and Report Recommendations of the Queensland Police Service in 1993.

Following his retirement from the Queensland Police Service, Bob was appointed as one of six Commissioners of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. In 2018, Bob was appointed as Chair, Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce.

ORGANISATION/S: Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The five year Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) was one of the most extensive inquiries of its kind in the world. Mr Robert (Bob) Atkinson was one of the six Commissioners appointed to the Royal Commission. Mr Atkinson's presentation will include an overview of the work of the Royal Commission; and key findings from the Royal Commission.

Weaving the tapestry: The work of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce

TIME: 10.45am – 11.00am

PRESENTER/S: Mr Robert (Bob) Atkinson AO APM (Chair), Ms Diane Carpenter, and Ms Joan Isaacs

Diane Carpenter is a proud Aboriginal woman, mother and grandmother from the Mitakoodi people. Diane grew up in St Joseph's Orphanage, Neerkol. Diane courageously provided evidence to the 1999 Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Queensland Institutions (the Forde Inquiry) and 2004 the Senate Inquiry into children in institutional care, later known as the Forgotten Australians report.

Many years later in 2015, Diane again provided evidence to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse about her experiences in Neerkol. On leaving Neerkol, Diane spent many years working as a nurse. Diane has coordinated a shelter for women experiencing domestic and family violence in Mornington Island and was a community health facilitator at the Townsville Migrant Resource Centre. In 2018, Diane was appointed as a member of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce.

Joan Isaacs is a wife, mother and doting grandmother. At the age of fourteen, she was groomed and sexually abused by the chaplain at her school. Despite her abuse, Joan went on to be a teacher. Silenced by her abuser and later by the Catholic Church through their Towards Healing program, Joan was finally able to speak in 2013 when she gave evidence at the Child Abuse Royal Commission. In 2018, Joan was appointed as a member of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce.

ORGANISATION/S: Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce (the Taskforce) was established by the Queensland Government as a key element of its response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission).

The role of the Taskforce is to provide advice to the Queensland Government through the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence on Royal Commission related reforms.

It is our understanding that the Taskforce is unique to Queensland and similar structures have not be established in other states and territories. The Taskforce continues the work by the Royal Commission to hear the voices of people with lived experience.

The presentation will cover:

- the role, functions and responsibilities of the Taskforce
- how the Taskforce works together ie our vision, values and principles
- our priority areas of interest for 2019
- some key messages for keeping children safe today.

Youth Justice in Queensland

TIME: 11.00am – 11.45am

PRESENTER/S: Mr Robert (Bob) Gee APM, Mr Darren Hegarty and Ms Jessica Oostenbroek

Robert (Bob) Gee APM was appointed as Director-General for the Department of Youth Justice in May 2019.

Prior to this, Bob was the Deputy Police Commissioner, Regional Operations in the Queensland Police Service (QPS). Bob was also the State Disaster Coordinator, a board member of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, and the QPS Indigenous Champion prior to taking up this role.

Bob's priorities are the safety and wellbeing of children being cared for and supported by the Department of Youth Justice, as well as the safety and wellbeing of Youth Justice staff and our partners, to prevent young people from entering or remaining in the Youth Justice system.

ORGANISATION/S: Department of Youth Justice

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This presentation will discuss the way forward for Youth Justice in Queensland, with a particular emphasis on culturally appropriate methods being embedded in systems and organisational culture. The panel will then be open to questions.

Child Safe Organisations – Walking the Talk: How a small regional service has sought to put policy into action and what we learnt along the way

TIME: 11.45am – 12.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Petrina Medlock and Ms Gail Smith

Petrina Medlock is a senior counsellor at Peirson Services and holds a Bachelor of Social Work. Petrina has a passion for the wellbeing of families and delights in seeing parents grow well with their children and has a special interest in families affected by domestic and family violence. She is trained in Gottman Couples Counselling, David Mandel Safe and Together Model and Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy.

Gail Smith is the general manager of Peirson Services and holds a Bachelor of Human Services. She has over 20 years counselling experience in working with trauma, addictions, domestic violence, disaster recover, youth work and parenting issues and is an accredited Parenting under Pressure Therapist. Gail has also worked extensively amongst the Indigenous communities of Arnhem Land.

ORGANISATION/S: Peirson Services

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Peirson Farms operates as a training facility for at risk youth (in partnership with Youth Justice).

The What Kids Say about Feeling Safe at Peirson's Project was modelled on earlier child inclusive projects by the ACT Children and Young People Commissioner (Roy & McKinnon, 2014) and upon the principle of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF, 2019). The young people who participated in the project were encouraged to assess our building and environs and provide feedback about what they would like changed. Rather than offering a blueprint for success, we hope to inspire other organisations to 'walk the talk' by asking their children and young people what they need to feel safe, welcomed and to grow at their service.

Mind the Gap: examining strategies and challenges in being evidence informed

TIME: 12.15pm – 12.45pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Belinda Mayfield

ORGANISATION/S: Affiliated with Life Without Barriers

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Research can provide important guidance relevant to our practice including what interventions might be expected to be most effective in response to individuals' circumstances. However busy caseworkers face a range of challenges in trying to keep abreast of the research and in connecting with colleagues to share and learn from practice experiences.

This presentation will explore the challenges including time constraints, accessibility of the research literature and the issue of the transferability of research findings conducted overseas to Australia, particularly our cultural context. The presentation will also explore strategies that to support evidence informed practice. This will include discussion of practical examples.

PRESENTATIONS: 10.30AM – 12.45PM

PODIUM ROOM 4

Where to from here? Using research and evidence to better inform Australian carer support practice and enhance outcomes for children and young people living in foster and kinship care now and in the future

TIME: 10.30am – 11.15am

PRESENTER/S: Ms Bev Orr

ORGANISATION/S: Australian Foster Care Association

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This presentation builds on a 3 year research study that reviewed current literature and identified promising evidence based practice to attract, better support and retain Australian foster and kinship caring families. The research identified links between the provision of quality support for carers and enhanced outcomes for children and young people in care. The presentation will explore these links, opportunities and options available within the Australian OOHC context beyond 2020 including enhanced carer support, provision of quality care and achievement of better outcomes for children and young people in care.

Connection and Relationship- towards a framework of high quality care

TIME: 11.15am – 12.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Stephan Lund

Stephan Lund is the Executive Manager Metropolitan Operations at Wanslea Family Services, in Perth, Western Australia. Stephan's particular interests include innovation in fostering, evidence informed practice, specialised fostering and research and evaluation. He has nearly 20 years' experience in the Social Work field and completed his PhD at the University of Western Australia, researching the area of permanence and stability in foster care. Stephan received the Western Australian Social Worker of the Year 2016 Award.

ORGANISATION/S: Wanslea

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Foster carers' understanding of their role and of their place within the foster care system are components of knowledge required to enhance the care they provide. This presentation looks at the results of a PhD study which focussed specifically on the foster carers' part in assisting children to achieve a sense of permanence and stability as part of their experience of care. The presentation will discuss the practical applications of the research findings including the necessity for fostering agencies and support staff to provide individualised support to foster carers.

Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare

TIME: 12.00pm – 12.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Mr Barak Ben Or and Ms Margaretha Josephsohn

Barak Ben Or is a therapeutic specialist with over 12 years' experience in the field. He has been practising Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare for more than 2 years. Barak has been leading the Outer East Team in Victoria since October 2018, servicing 65 families, predominantly dealing with domestic violence, mental health, substance abuse, and reunification.

Margaretha Josephsohn has been working as a therapist and supervisor for over 15 years in Australia, New Zealand and Europe in the government and not for profit sectors, specialising in early childhood trauma and attachment difficulties. She has post-graduate training in developmental psychology and a Masters degree in Clinical Family Therapy. She is the first and, so far only, fully accredited supervisor for Functional Family Therapy - Child Welfare (FFT-CW) in Australia. She has been a team leader and clinical supervisor of the FFT-CW program in Mornington, VIC since November 2016.

ORGANISATION/S: OzChild, Victoria

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The Victorian Child Protection framework aims to reduce the number of Out of Home placements. In response to this need, OzChild implemented an evidence-informed model called Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare (FFT-CW) in 2016. This presentation will outline the growth from 1 FFT-CW program on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria to 3 FFT-CW programs in Mornington, Mitcham and Shepparton, Victoria, 1 team in Canberra, ACT and 6 teams in New South Wales. It will discuss challenges and the navigation of issues, such as the implementation of FFT-CW, working with complex and challenging families, geographical remoteness and working alongside other agencies.

MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY – Connecting carers, children and families in a community

TIME: 12.15pm – 12.45pm

PRESENTER/S: Mr Chris Skinner

Chris Skinner has 20 years' experience in child protection and out of home care working in both government and non-government sectors. This experience incorporates front-line casework, operational management and delivery of training and staff development. Chris is passionate about new, innovative and practical ways to improve the outcomes for families, children and young people associated with OOHC. He holds an undergraduate degree in Social Science (Welfare) from the University of Newcastle.

ORGANISATION/S: Life Without Barriers

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ is an innovative approach to structure the support to, and with, foster and kinship carers through community connections. It creates an extended family community designed to support, develop and retain foster and kinship carers, and meet the complex needs of children and young people in Out of Home Care (OOHC).

The approach, was developed by The Mockingbird Society (TMS) in 2004 in Washington State, USA. Through discussions with agencies, carers and children, TMS saw a need for a supported approach within foster care, and subsequently the MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™ community approach was created.

As part of an Evidence-Informed Strategy, Life Without Barriers is the accredited Host agency for MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY™, enabling pilots in the Australian context. This workshop is designed for those who are interested in learning more about this innovative approach of supporting carers through peers and a collaborative community. The interactive format will provide opportunity for discussion about the strengths and potential of the approach and some of the implementation challenges encountered.

PRESENTATIONS: 10.30AM – 12.45PM

LEVEL 12 ROOM SOUTH

If we know a young person's date or birth, why does them turning 18 years of age come as such a shock?

TIME: 10.30am – 11.00am

PRESENTER/S: Ms Vicky Meyer

Vicky Meyer, Business Engagement Leader, has worked for IFYS since October 2015. Prior to this Vicky worked for Queensland Government in a range of roles across Child Safety, Youth Justice, Housing and Disability Services. Vicky manages a growing team of dedicated Transition Case Managers, working across the Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and Brisbane to deliver a range of transition programs supporting young people engaged with Child Safety, Youth Justice and Probation and Parole.

ORGANISATION/S: Integrated Family and Youth Services

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

We know exactly when a young person is going to turn 18 from their date of birth. Yet why is it we still struggle to respond in a timely manner to their transition from care? When should we start planning with a young person to transition to adulthood, when is too early and what should we focus on? If there was one thing we could do which could change a young person's life trajectory, what would it be? What skills and knowledge would we need to impart as a member of a young person's care team to help them realize their ambition?

We don't have all the answers, but we have seen how a specific and sustained focus on education, training and employment can make a huge difference to young people's future prospects. Don't just take our word for it, hear from some of the young people we have supported and the University of the Sunshine Coast which has evaluated our approach.

Supporting Young People after 18

TIME: 11.00am – 11.30am

PRESENTER/S: Ms Kate Leslie

ORGANISATION/S: Churches of Christ in Queensland

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Youth CONNECT is one of Queensland's three Social Benefit Bond programs developed to help young people get on their feet and develop the skills and confidence to live independently. Youth CONNECT is a long-term, holistic solution to youth homelessness and achieves sustainable outcomes through four levels of support: housing; employment; education and work readiness; and personal development.

Youth CONNECT has been in operation since December 2017 and has identified some key areas of need and development for children and young people in the process of exiting from out of home care and transitioning into independence and adulthood.

The program learnings to date include the need for increased advocacy, increased pathways to access appropriate mental health care, and a wider variety of housing solutions for young people with complex trauma experiences.

Improving outcomes for vulnerable adolescents who have experienced trauma: A Tasmanian study

TIME: 11.30am – 12.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Mr Doug Faircloth and Mr Justin Cooper

ORGANISATION/S: Verso Consulting and The Salvation Army, Tasmania Division

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This presentation considers a 2017-18 study of vulnerable young people that included young care leavers, young people experiencing homelessness, young people disengaged from education, and culturally and linguistically diverse young people with a trauma history (including refugees). The study measured outcomes of a therapeutically designed and trauma informed program targeting these young people.

The conference presentation will include a summary of the evaluation method, quantitative and qualitative outcomes. The presentation will demonstrate the effect of safe places and safe people, and consistent assistance to problem solve. The presentation will also report on outcomes and related benefits experienced by participants, the community and local service providers.

Home Stretch – Stretching to Queensland

TIME: 12.00pm – 12.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Leanne Wood and Ms Aimee Hele

Leanne Wood is the Research and Advocacy Advisor at Anglicare Southern Queensland. Over the past three decades, Leanne has worked in the academic, government, private and not-for-profit sectors in a wide range of research, policy and project roles largely focused on community-building, social cohesion and the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

ORGANISATION/S: Anglicare Southern Queensland and CREATE Foundation Youth Facilitator

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This presentation provides an overview of the national Home Stretch campaign, and a local update on activity as we prepare for the roll out of the campaign in Queensland. Home Stretch asks all state and territory governments to provide options for the support of young people leaving the out-of-home care system until they are at least 21 years old.

In Queensland, there have been positive moves to support these young people as they face especial challenges in their transition to adulthood. Unlike recent commitments made in other states, however, the legal right to care through to 21 years is not embedded in Queensland legislation. Post-care programs and support services are important and valuable, but their provision is not mandatory, and they will depend on a young person's ability and capacity to access them. Nor do they provide the stability and emotional support of a home. Young people transitioning out of care deserve the same level of support most other young Australians have in their transition to adulthood.

Changing the Frame – supporting children and families affected by trauma and adversity

TIME: 12.15pm – 12.45pm

PRESENTER/S: Mr Brett Cutting and Ms Maria Gasser

ORGANISATION/S: Churches of Christ in Queensland

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Our jobs and our lives have become juggling acts, with demands placed upon our time and our ability to be present. We take this all on and eventually find ourselves slipping beneath the weight of it all. Fortunately, a change of frame can give us a break from that stress.

Something as simple as grabbing the kids to get out of the house and head outside, can help us to 'change the frame' putting us in a new environment and providing a neutral and natural space to spend time with our family, can literally do wonders for both our health and our relationships.

This is underpinned by the PACE model which is premised on playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy, as outlined by Dan Hughes and is widely accepted as best practice principles.

This workshop will endeavor to share some innovative and creative ways used by the Families Together team in supporting children and families affected by trauma and adversity.

PRESENTATIONS: 1.30PM – 3.00PM

PODIUM ROOM 1

The Queensland First Children and Families Board

TIME: 1.30pm – 2.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Aunty Rachel Atkinson

Rachel Atkinson is a proud Yorta Yorta woman and is the Co-Chair of Family Matters Queensland and Board Executive of SNAICC. Ms Atkinson has extensive expertise in health, family support, child protection and youth justice. She has significant leadership skills and experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations, influencing and advocacy through boards and peak bodies; and the establishment of social enterprise and new programs and projects in remote Indigenous communities. Ms Atkinson has long-term experience working with remote and discrete Aboriginal communities in the North Queensland region and in managing and developing Indigenous organisations.

ORGANISATION/S: The Queensland First Children and Families Board

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The Queensland First Children and Families Board was established to guide and oversee *the Our Way strategy: A generational strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2037* (Our Way) and all associated action plans including *Changing Tracks: An Action Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2019*.

The Board is a key action within the *Changing Tracks* action plan and is another fundamental step the Queensland Government has taken towards achieving the *Our Way* vision and eliminating the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.

The Queensland First Children and Families Board comprises of 11 members (including three standing office-holder appointments). It is co-chaired by Aboriginal leaders Mick Gooda and Professor Boni Robertson and includes prominent leaders from diverse geographical locations across Queensland, who have a vast range of expertise including a strong cultural perspective.

Reimagining 'community' in community work: shifting beyond strengths and weaknesses

TIME: 2.15pm – 3.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Mrs Karla Brady

Karla Brady is a descendant of the Moa Island people from the Torres Strait and a Fijian woman. Mrs Brady has worked in the social service sector for over 20 years in childcare, housing and Indigenous community development. Mrs Brady is the Chief Executive Officer for Inala Wangarra Inc., an Indigenous community controlled organisation that provides the Indigenous community with opportunities to increase their social mobility and active citizenships in the southwest corridor of Brisbane. Mrs Brady is also the Chairperson of Hymba Yumba Indigenous School, that seeks to educate and inspire young Indigenous children to learn and lead in both worlds.

ORGANISATION/S: Inala Wangarra Inc.

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This presentation critically examines family and early years intervention practice from the perspective of a small Indigenous community development organisation, Inala Wangarra Inc., which firmly situates its practice within a strength-based approach. The work of Inala Wangarra includes a range of innovative, locally designed protective child and family support programs such as Welcome Babies to Country, Gift of Gallang – Healing of mind, body and spirit which focuses on youth suicide prevention, Aunties and Uncle's mentoring for young people in care and Jarjums Life Museum which empowers young people and their communities to narrate their own stories of being.

While working with strength might be an obvious starting point for working with children and their families, it is often hindered by imaginings of the 'poor', 'disadvantaged' and/or 'ethnically and culturally othered' communities. Meaningful engagement with a strength-based approach thus requires a meaningful engagement with and reimagining of the capacities of the children we work with, and their families, communities and cultures. This presentation examines the impetus and capacity for the community services sector to engage in emancipatory work in both policy and practice.

PRESENTATIONS: 1.30PM – 3.00PM

PODIUM ROOM 2

The problem with diversion in child protection

TIME: 1.30pm – 2.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Professor Clare Tilbury

ORGANISATION/S: School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Similar to other jurisdictions, one of the main directions for reform of child protection in Queensland is to reduce the number of children in the child protection system. One of the main strategies for achieving this goal is to "divert" children and families from the statutory interventions of investigation and out-of-home care, by increasing access to preventative family support services. This is based on the premise that helping families at early stages of problem development will improve outcomes for children and reduce costs later. The policy of diversion, imported from the criminal justice system, is based on redirecting or turning away from something bad to something good. This is problematic because it positions the child protection system as "bad" and the family support system as "good". Second, there is no evidence that early intervention reduces demands on the statutory system. Third, it overlooks the main reason that the number of children in care is increasing, which is not new entries to care but duration in care. Alongside such policies there are fundamental shifts taking place in the family support sector, especially as new funding concentrates in intensive or targeted services that give priority to "high-risk" families.

This presentation will outline the problems with diversion and last resort approaches. It will present evidence on effectiveness in family support and emphasise the importance of setting performance goals and outcomes related to child wellbeing and family capacity to care for children, rather than system goals. While it is agreed there are too many children in care, and way too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care, strategies to address this problem should be informed by research and a sound understanding of data.

Addressing child protection challenges in a low socio-economic community: Ensuring youth and community voices in local government planning

TIME: 2.15pm – 3.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Erica Russ and Dr Stuart Robertson

Dr Erica Russ is a Lecturer in Social Work at the University of New England, Australia. Erica has extensive industry experience in Social Work across child, youth, and family, services with particular expertise in child protection, out-of-home care, and adoption. During her career Erica has worked across direct practice (including child protection, youth justice and out-of-home care in regional areas), practice consultancy, program management, operational and strategic policy, and management in child protection, including holding practice advisor, research coordination, and senior management positions. She has sat on University committees and review boards as an industry and academic representative. Erica's research interests have focused on child protection and workforce issues.

Dr Stuart Roberson is a lecture in Community Service at the University of New England's School of Health. Prior to Stuart undertaking his PhD he worked within the NSW Government disability and child protections system for over 10 years. He was employed as a Team Leader of the NDIS LAC program prior to starting his current role.

Stuart's main area of research interest is the delivery and maintenance of services for regional and remote communities. He has published on the dependency by remote communities upon the services provided within remote mining communities and the impact upon those communities if the services are lost following the mine closure.

ORGANISATION/S: University of New England

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

High rates of child protection reports in a regional local government area provided impetus for seeking better engagement with youth and community that would inform the council's youth strategic plan and community responses. This approach was seen as a step to address social issues relevant to youth and reduce child protection demand in the area.

The regional local government area was created in 2016 through merger of three smaller disparate local government areas. High needs, low socio-economic status, increasing child protection service demand, and limited cohesion and coordination due to previous funding arrangements based on past local government boundaries, were identified as contributing factors to youth issues in the area. The council was identified as key stakeholder and lead organisation by the state child protection agency. The council sought to enhance its coordination role with community agencies and build a more cohesive service network across the various communities. The state child protection agency was working with council to enhance local responses to identified needs, including targeted child protection, family support and youth services. To achieve this the council sought to undertake an independent consultation process that would engage with community, services, and importantly youth, to inform future planning and improved responses to youth needs.

This presentation will discuss the consultation and youth engagement process used and key findings that informed local government and local service strategic planning. The lessons from this process may be relevant to other regions in the development of youth strategic/action plans and community responses where high rates of child protection issues have been identified.

PRESENTATIONS: 1.30PM – 3.00PM

PODIUM ROOM 3

Intervening early to prevent child sexual abuse: A Stop it Now! program in Australia?

TIME: 1.30pm – 2.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Gemma McKibbin and Mr Matt Tyler

Dr Gemma McKibbin is a Research Fellow in the Department of General Practice and the Department of Social Work at the University of Melbourne, working with Prof Cathy Humphreys and Prof Kelsey Hegarty under the Melbourne research Alliance to End Violence against women and their children (MAEVe). She has recently completed a PhD in the Department of Social Work at the University of Melbourne about the prevention of harmful sexual behaviour carried out by children & young people. Gemma is a scholar with the Safer Families Centre for Research Excellence and is also the lead researcher on a large action research project in partnership with MacKillop Family Services.

Matt Tyler is Executive Director of the Men's Project at Jesuit Social Services working with a team committed to providing leadership on the reduction of violence and other harmful behaviours prevalent among boys and men, and build new approaches to improve their wellbeing and keep families and communities safe. He has particular expertise in improving social services including within child protection, family violence, criminal justice and mental health. He holds a Master of Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School, Honours in Economics (University Medal) from Monash University, and a B.A (Psychology) / B.Comm (Finance) from the University of Melbourne.

ORGANISATION/S: University of Melbourne and Jesuit Social Services

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse identified that there are currently no national early interventions in Australia for adults, children and young people who are worried about their sexual thoughts or behaviours in relation to children.

The Royal Commission highlighted Stop It Now! as a potential model to adopt in the recommended national child sexual abuse prevention strategy. This presentation discusses how Stop it Now! could be implemented in Australia and potential implications for child protection systems.

Following discussions with experts and practitioners in the field of child sexual abuse, in late 2017 The Men's Project initiative at Jesuit Social Services embarked on a scoping study about Stop It Now!

Twenty-three recommendations were made in the study report about how Stop It Now! should be implemented in an Australian context.

Continuous Quality Improvement in Child Safety

TIME: 2.15pm – 3.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Meegan Crawford

ORGANISATION/S: Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

In 2018 the Department implemented the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process which outlines nine service delivery standards and 36 quality indicators. These standards and indicators outline what we as a department are trying to achieve for children, parents, families, carers and staff.

Twenty-five week-long site visits have been completed to date, with a number of strengths and opportunities identified across practice and systems.

The CQI process has been well received by staff and partners and their messages and perspectives help inform our future directions.

This presentation will outline the development, implementation and early outcomes from the CQI process.

PRESENTATIONS: 1.30PM – 3.00PM

PODIUM ROOM 4

Lessons learned for full scheme NDIS implementation

TIME: 1.30pm – 2.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Emma Tovell

Emma Tovell has managed the NDIS transition for Child Safety within Queensland's Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women since July 2017. Prior to this, Emma managed stakeholder engagement for Queensland's NDIS transition as part of the whole-of-government NDIS Program Management Office, and led a range of disability reform and NDIS readiness projects for the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors. Emma is passionate about improving all aspects of government service delivery for people and communities, and at present has particular focus on improving rates of NDIS participation for children in care, and closing the gap in access to NDIS and disability supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

ORGANISATION/S: Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Presentation discussing Child Safety's experience during Queensland's transition to the NDIS (2016-2019) and lessons learned for full scheme NDIS implementation across Australia from 1 July 2019.

Topics covered within the presentation will include:

- Rates and types of disability experienced by children subject to ongoing child protection intervention
- Challenges and opportunities introducing disability frameworks in a child protection context
- Discussion and analysis of NDIS participation rates for children subject to child protection intervention across regions including rates of referral and access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- Opportunities and challenges for the sector including the need for connections between family support and child protection organisations and NDIS organisations and partners
- Presentation of key resources developed by Child Safety in Queensland for use supporting children and families with NDIS.

Out-of-Home Care in Australia: Children and Young People's Views

TIME: 2.15pm – 3.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Joseph McDowall

Dr Joseph McDowall has a PhD from the University of Queensland in Social Psychology. He joined the Board of the CREATE Foundation in 2008 and is now Executive Director (Research). He has written several reports for CREATE concerning transitioning from care in Australia. In 2013, Dr McDowall produced the first comprehensive survey of life in the Australian care system from the perspective of children and young people. Subsequently, he has reported on the placement of siblings in OOHC, and the connection to culture experienced by Indigenous young people. Recently, he completed the report on CREATE's *National Survey 2018* representing the voices of 1275 children and young people. Currently, he is a Visiting Fellow at the Queensland University of Technology in the School of Public Health and Social Work. He also is a member of the Australian Psychological Society, the Royal Society of Queensland, and is a Fellow of the Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences.

ORGANISATIO/S: CREATE Foundation

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

CREATE's second national survey recording the views of 1275 children and young people in care throughout Australia provided an opportunity to compare the results from this recent research with data reported by AIHW that have examined the performance of child protection departments and agencies in implementing the National Standards for Out-of-Home Care introduced under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020.

Results indicated that, while for some Standard measures consistently high scores were obtained, on others (such as being able to have a say in decisions affecting their lives, and feeling adequately prepared for leaving care), respondents provided consistently lower scores.

Furthermore, a set of indicators revealed substantial differences between what children and young people reported to CREATE, and the findings the governments attributed to their young informants. These measures all concerned knowledge of and involvement in planning, including case plans, cultural support plans, and leaving care plans. Discussion will focus on possible reasons for the observed discrepancies, and will explore actions that may be taken to address the issues of poor information sharing with children and young people in care.

PRESENTATIONS: 1.30PM – 3.00PM

LEVEL 12 ROOM SOUTH

Turning the Corner: An organisational journey to working with young people with harmful sexual behaviours

TIME: 1.30pm – 2.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Mr Jason Fagg and Dr Deirdre Thompson

Jason Fagg is program coordinator of the Turning Corners Program at Bravehearts. Jason has extensive experience working with at risk populations, specialising in mental health, trauma, harmful sexual behaviour and complex needs. Jason also has substantial experience providing consultation and training to the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Woman, Queensland Health, Restorative Justice and out of home care providers.

Dr Deirdre Thompson is the Director of Therapeutic and Support Services at Bravehearts and she has been with the organisation for five and half years. Deirdre holds a Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) and a Doctorate of Clinical Psychology, with over 25 years of experience both in the UK and Australia. Deirdre is responsible for developing and implementing new and innovative clinical approaches to supporting those affected by child sexual assault and exploitation. She was responsible for establishing the Turning Corners Program 4 years ago.

ORGANISATION/S: Bravehearts

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Bravehearts championed the development of the Turning Corners program to work with young people aged 12-17yrs who have engaged or at risk of engaging in harmful sexual behaviour, providing an option for early intervention option that also encompasses support for those who have not been in contact with the criminal justice system. Turning Corners is a specialised therapeutic response to working with young people and families in an evidence based and developmentally appropriate way. This presentation outlines the organisational journey including the internal paradigm shift for an agency usually associated with working solely with victims of child sexual assault through to the development.

Working at the intersection of the child protection and criminal justice systems: Enablers for collaborative practices

TIME: 2.15pm – 3.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Jodi Burnstein

Jodi Burnstein holds Bachelor degrees in Arts and Laws, a Post Graduate Diploma in Social Science and recently completed a Graduate Specialist Certificate in Implementation Science. Jodi has worked with Barnardos for 18.5 years, is based in Orange, NSW and oversees management of a range of early intervention, safety and prevention child and family welfare programs. The Barnardos Western NSW Centre covers a large geographic area of regional rural and remote NSW.

ORGANISATION/S: Barnardos Australia

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

As a group, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have the fastest growing incarceration rates in Australia (WRI, 2018). When they are incarcerated, the children either enter statutory care or voluntary family care.

The Beyond Barbed Wire program seeks to improve a range of outcomes including social and emotional well-being for women with children in contact with the criminal justice and child protection systems. The presenter will examine practice features of the program that support effective service delivery, including identifying enablers for collaborative practices between various service systems, and draw out the implications for evidence informed practice to achieve improved social and emotional wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal mothers leaving prison and their children in a rural NSW context.

PRESENTATION: 3.30PM – 3.40PM

PODIUM BALLROOM

Leanne's Gift – an information pack for parents

PRESENTER/S: Ms Leanne Claussen

Leanne Claussen is the Founder and CEO of Parents on a Mission and is a Mother of six children. She is also the creator of Leanne's Gift, an information pack for parents. Leanne is a Parent Advocate, Mentor, Author and Empowerment Agent. Leanne works with multiple community agencies to be a voice of lived experience in the areas of child protection and disability.

ORGANISATION/S: Parents on a Mission

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This presentation will provide an overview of Leanne's Gift, an information pack for parents who have had their children removed from their care.

PANEL DISCUSSION: 3.40PM – 5.00PM

PODIUM BALLROOM

Bringing a human rights lens into child protection, youth justice and other service systems encountered by children and families

Facilitated by: Ms Aimee McVeigh – McVeigh Law

Panel Members: Commissioner Scott McDougall, currently from Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Commission and soon to be Queensland's inaugural Human Rights Commissioner; Mr Michael Hogan, Director-General, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women; Ms Ruth Barson, Legal Director, Human Rights Law Centre, Victoria; and Mr Cameron Harsley APM, Chief Superintendent, Queensland Police Service

Aimee McVeigh is a Brisbane-based human rights lawyer. She recently coordinated the successful campaign for a Human Rights Act for Queensland. Aimee is a founding and current director of Disability Law Queensland, a non-profit law firm that works with people with disability and their families to plan for the future, assert their rights and access justice. Aimee was previously the Principal Solicitor of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Service. Aimee has represented parents with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in child protection proceedings, work which inspired her to fight for better human rights protections for Queenslanders.

Scott McDougall commenced as Commissioner of the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland on 8 October 2018 and will become the inaugural Queensland Human Rights Commissioner on 1 July 2019. Prior to his appointment he was the Director and Principal Solicitor at Caxton Legal Centre Inc. in Brisbane.

Since admission to legal practice in 1993 he has worked with and advocated on behalf of diverse marginalised communities. He has conducted major litigation and led program and policy development in a number of areas including discrimination, native title, criminal law, guardianship and coronial inquiries.

He holds a Bachelor of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology.

Michael Hogan was appointed as Director-General, Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services in April 2014 and has continued in the Director-General role for the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women since late 2017.

Michael has held various senior executive roles in the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and its predecessors, as well as in Premier's departments in both Queensland and New South Wales. Michael also spent 10 years in the non-government sector and has served on a number of community sector and government boards.

Ruth Barson joined the Human Rights Law Centre in 2014 and leads a team of lawyers advocating for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, economic justice and a fair and equal criminal legal system.

Ruth's recent work includes coordinating High Court challenges to excessive police lock-up powers and Supreme Court challenges to unfair imprisonment and detention laws. Ruth has also led the Centre's advocacy in relation to youth justice; deaths in custody; inhuman conditions in prisons; and racial inequality in the criminal legal system.

Detective Chief Superintendent Cameron Harsley APM

Detective Chief Superintendent Cameron Harsley APM is currently the District Officer for North Brisbane District, Brisbane Region.

He has been instrumental in driving significant government reforms in the area of Child Protection and Social Services. He has also worked at executive level within a number of agencies including; Queensland Police Service; Crime and Corruption Commission; Department of Child Safety; and Commission for Children and Young People.

He was appointed by the Queensland Government as an independent member of the Child Death Review Committee with a focus on implementing systemic reform. He commenced leadership of the Carmody reforms across government in 2014 maintaining strong relationships and engagement with key community organisations.

He was awarded the Australian Police Medal in 2015 acknowledging him as a dynamic leader who builds organisational capability and competency within his area of control.

Cameron is currently also appointed by the Queensland Government as an Independent Advisor to the Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission.

HOPE & HEALING

Queensland framework for working with children and young people living in residential care

Hope and Healing

The Queensland framework for working with children and young people living in residential care was developed in response to a Carmody Child Protection Inquiry recommendation. It is currently being implemented through an e-learning platform with over 5,000 residential care workers and their immediate supervisors enrolled on the platform. The training has been the recipient of the Gold LearnX Impact Award for Best Learning and Development Project – Wellbeing category.

Come and find us in Podium Room 5 behind reception desk for a chance to run through e-learning modules and to win a lucky door prize.

Minimum qualifications

TAFE Qld is proud to be able to provide the Certificate IV in Child, Youth and Family Intervention in response to the requirement for residential care workers to achieve a minimum qualification. It is the preferred option and is well supported by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training making the cost minimal for individuals.

TAFE Qld representatives are present during the conference in Podium Room 5 behind the registration desk to help with enrolments and enquiries.

the BIG WEEK 24 TO 28 JUNE 2019

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE

DAY 2 – TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2019

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 8.45AM – 9.15AM

PODIUM BALLROOM

PRESENTER: Mr Isaiah Dawe

CEO and Founder of ID Know Yourself

Isaiah Dawe is a proud Butchulla and Gawara Salt Water man. His skin name is Yakamarri and his personal totems are the swamp wallaby, grey shark and his community totem is a dolphin. He grew up within the foster care system from when he was 2 months old until he was 18 years old, suffering all sorts of disadvantages and abuse. These struggles are what prompted Isaiah to create the ID Know Yourself company and incorporate his experiences to form the core in enabling the success for those young people currently going through the system. Isaiah has studied IPROWD, as course enabling Aboriginal people enter the NSW Police Force and studied workforce essentials at Charles Sturt University and he also completed his High School Certificate.

To list just a handful of Isaiah's accolades achieved, he was the 2017 winner of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander of the year award TAFE NSW, and the first Indigenous person to win TAFE NSW Graduate of the year, 2017 National Indigenous Youth Parliamentarian - future leaders (winner of the major award - positive influencer), the 2018 First Indigenous person to become the chair of the NSW Youth Advisory Committee, a part of the first Indigenous team to sail in the Sydney to Hobart and Sydney to Gold Coast Yacht Race and he is well known as a young leader within the Redfern community.

PANEL DISCUSSION: 9.15AM – 10.30AM

PODIUM BALLROOM

What are the responsibilities held by non-Indigenous non-government and government agencies in relation to self-determination by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in relation to the safety, wellbeing and protection of their children?

Facilitated by: Ms Natalie Lewis, CEO of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak and Family Matters Co-Chair

Panel Members: Mr Richard Weston, Healing Foundation; Professor Boni Robertson, Queensland First Children and Families Board; Commissioner Phillip Brooks, Queensland Family and Child Commission; Mr Isaiah Dawe, CEO and Founder, ID Know Yourself; and Mrs Karla Brady, CEO, Inala Wangarra Inc.

Natalie Lewis is a Gamilaraay yinar and CEO of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP). She is the Chair of the national Family Matters campaign and played a major role in influencing the Queensland Government to embed the Family Matters building blocks as the foundation of the Our Way strategy. Natalie was recently appointed to the Queensland First Children and Families Board to provide guidance in the implementation of the strategy.

Richard Weston is a descendant of the Meriam people of the Torres Strait. He has worked in Indigenous affairs for 25 years. His current role is CEO of The Healing Foundation based in Canberra, a post he has held for 9 1/2 years.

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that partners with communities to lead responses to ongoing intergenerational trauma caused by actions such as the forced removal of children from their families and communities. The Healing Foundation's work has demonstrated that life changing outcomes can be achieved when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are supported to lead and develop their own healing solutions to long standing, seemingly unsolvable problems that rob communities of hope and a sense of purpose.

Professor Boni Robertson is the Professor of Indigenous Community Engagement, Policy and Practice at Griffith University. Professor Robertson has extensive experience in influencing through government boards (both state and Commonwealth).

She brings significant experience in Indigenous tertiary education and social policy and has a background in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and young people.

Philip Brooks is the Commissioner at the Queensland Family and Child Commission. Phillip is a descendant of the Bidjara Tribe (Great Grandfather), the Kairi Tribe (Great Grandmother), and the Ducabrook Clan located at Springsure Central Queensland.

Phillip has held an esteemed career in the child, youth and family support portfolio in Queensland across a range of roles including as Officer in charge Queensland Police Service, Manager of Child Safety and Youth Justice Service centres, Director Government Coordination, Executive Director Strategy and Regional Director Child family and community services North Queensland. Phillip is currently undertaking the Executive Masters of Public Administration with the Australia New Zealand School of Government.

Isaiah Dawe is a proud Butchulla and Gawara Salt Water man. He grew up within the foster care system from when he was 2 months old until he was 18 years old, suffering all sorts of disadvantages and abuse.

These struggles are what prompted Isaiah to create the ID Know Yourself company and incorporate his experiences to form the core in enabling the success for those young people currently going through the system.

Karla Brady is a descendant of the Moa Island people from the Torres Strait and a Fijian woman. Mrs Brady has worked in the social service sector for over 20 years in childcare, housing and Indigenous community development.

Mrs Brady is the Chief Executive Officer for Inala Wangarra Inc., an Indigenous community controlled organisation that provides the Indigenous community with opportunities to increase their social mobility and active citizenships in the southwest corridor of Brisbane. Mrs Brady is also the Chairperson of Hymba Yumba Indigenous School, that seeks to educate and inspire young Indigenous children to learn and lead in both worlds.

PRESENTATIONS: 11.00AM – 12.30PM

PODIUM ROOMS 1 & 2

Understanding and Responding to Pain and Pain-Based Behaviour with Young People in and from Care: The Healing Journey

TIME: 11.00am – 11.45am

PRESENTER/S: Dr James Anglin

Professor James Anglin began his career as a child and youth care worker in a mental health centre in Vancouver after which he developed a 6-bed group home for adolescents in Victoria, Canada. In 1979, he joined the faculty of the School of Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria where he is Professor Emeritus and former Director. He also served as the university's Associate Vice President Academic and Director of International Affairs.

ORGANISATION/S: University of Victoria, Canada

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Much of the literature presenting the experiences of young people in and from care, especially their stories and accounts from interviews, is what can be termed "unprocessed pain". There is a need for more exploration of processes of healing that represent the experiences and voices of young people themselves. This presentation will offer findings from a process of dialogic research bringing together "inside-out" and "outside-in" perspectives; that is, understandings derived from co-research by a person with lived experience in care and a career child and youth care professional drawing upon selected research and literature. This is a work in process, and this session seeks to extend the dialogue with session participants.

Theory of Change for Healing

TIME: 11.45am – 12.30pm

PRESENTER/S: Mr Richard Weston

Richard Weston is a descendant of the Meriam people of the Torres Strait. He has worked in Indigenous affairs for 25 years. His current role is CEO of The Healing Foundation based in Canberra, a post he has held for 9 1/2 years.

ORGANISATION/S: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation (The Healing Foundation) is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that partners with communities to lead responses to ongoing intergenerational trauma caused by actions such as the forced removal of children from their families and communities. The Healing Foundation's work has demonstrated that life changing outcomes can be achieved when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are supported to lead and develop their own healing solutions to long standing, seemingly unsolvable problems that rob communities of hope and a sense of purpose.

This presentation will discuss The Healing Foundation's Theory of Change for Healing – Why we have one and how we got there.

PRESENTATIONS: 11.00AM – 12.30PM

PODIUM ROOM 3

Commissioning for Outcomes: An Industry-Led Approach

TIME: 11.00am – 11.45am

PRESENTER/S: Ms Belinda Drew

ORGANISATION/S: Community Services Industry Alliance

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Community Services Industry Alliance (CSIA) CEO Belinda Drew will take participants through the Commissioning for Outcomes framework and road map, with a focus on how it will support understanding and management of the intersection of child protection with other service systems. She will share how CSIA elicited participation from key industry stakeholders and investors, as well as engaging industry and government to fund and support translation into practice. Participants will walk away with insights into how 'greenfield' work like Commissioning for Outcomes is influencing policy and can be translated into practice and to reconfirm industry leadership.

The sum is greater than its parts – integrating multiple innovations into a congruent whole

TIME: 11.45am – 12.30pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Mary McKinnon

ORGANISATION/S: Life Without Barriers

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

As a large organisation working across multiple jurisdictions and service streams, Life Without Barriers (LWB) has an array of models, initiatives, strategies, policies and innovations to improve our practice. This presentation will provide an overview of the last five years of LWB's journey towards integrating our practice initiatives into a congruent whole, and to focusing on the things that make the biggest difference to the lives of children and young people in care. The presentation will also share the many learnings, insights and experiences derived from putting these ambitious ideas into practice, and the challenges that have been overcome along the way.

PRESENTATIONS: 11.00AM – 12.30PM

PODIUM ROOM 4

Art as a transformational healing medium and gift for Aboriginal children, young people and families

TIME: 11.00am – 11.45am

PRESENTER/S: Dr Donna Leslie

Dr Donna Leslie is an Associate Professor and art historian who teaches Australian art at the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University. Donna specialises in Aboriginal art. She undertook her doctorate in the discipline of Art History at the University of Melbourne and is also a trained and experienced teacher. She is an Aboriginal artist who has worked on a broad range of creative projects, including the illustration of children's picture books. In 1993, Donna won the 'Crichton Award for Children's Book Illustration', from the Children's Book Council of Australia. She is the author of the book, *Aboriginal Art: Creativity and Assimilation*, which was published by Macmillan in 2008.

ORGANISATION/S: Queensland College of Art, Griffith University

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This presentation explores art as a transformational healing medium and gift for Aboriginal children, young people and families, from an Aboriginal perspective. It considers Aboriginal art and history, and creative, artistic expression as a powerful cultural legacy and presence in Aboriginal communities. Aboriginal art is a vitally important medium of healing and cultural expression.

The My Home Initiative – the best of all worlds

TIME: 11.45am – 12.30pm

PRESENTER/S: Mr Michael Coutts and Ms Anita Thomas

ORGANISATION/S: Adoption and Permanent Care Service, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The My Home initiative was designed to take the best of both the adoption and out of home care worlds by recruiting an alternative pool of permanent carers from the suitable adoptive register and re-assess and preparing them to provide 'forever' homes for children in long-term foster care. The following presentation will discuss the case of a child and how the learnings through this My Home approach has met the departments permanency framework in relation to meeting a child's relational, physical and legal needs. It will discuss practice approaches and learnings that can be applied to practitioners working with children in the child protection system.

PRESENTATIONS: 1.15PM – 3.00PM

PODIUM ROOM 1

The Sanctuary Model for Families

TIME: 1.15pm – 1.30pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Melanie Dolman and Ms Sarah Close

Melanie Dolman has worked in the human services sector for over 25 years and has been employed working with foster carers and in an intensive family support program, Families Together, at Churches of Christ in Queensland for the past 13 years. Melanie has been a part of the Churches of Christ Sanctuary journey from the beginning and implemented the framework into a new service in 2016. Melanie and her team have embedded the Sanctuary Model into their practice and work holistically to build safety and capacity in the lives of vulnerable children and their families.

Sarah Close is a Domestic and Family Violence specialist practitioner, employed by Brisbane Domestic Violence Service (Micah Projects) as an embedded worker in the Churches of Christ Care Intensive Family Support Service - Families Together. Since joining Families Together in 2016 Sarah has enthusiastically adopted the Sanctuary Model framework for engaging with people who have experienced trauma, adversity and chronic stress. Sarah has worked in the community services sector over eleven years. Sarah has a Post Graduate Certificate in Domestic and Family Violence, a Master of Social Work from Queensland University of Technology and an undergraduate degree in Human Services, majoring in counselling.

ORGANISATION/S: Churches of Christ in Queensland and Micah Projects

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

In 2016 Churches of Christ started a service to support families at risk of entering the Child Protection system and impacted by multiple and complex issues.

This presentation describes the adaptation of the psycho-education manual and implementation of the Sanctuary Model with families in the Brisbane Intensive Family Support Service.

DFV Best Practice Principles – Collaboration in Action – The Development of an Innovation Network across the Child Protection Services in the Brisbane Region

TIME: 1.30pm – 1.45pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Melanie Dolman and Ms Sarah Close

ORGANISATION/S: Churches of Christ in Queensland and Micah Projects

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This session provides an overview of the collaborative approach to support delivery of integrated child protection and domestic violence responses to families across the Brisbane region.

Building family empowerment focused child protection practice – A training project based on qualitative research

TIME: 1.45pm – 3.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Abul Khan

Dr Abul Khan is a clinical social worker with over 22 years practice, teaching and research experiences internationally in the areas of alcohol and other drugs, rural community development, child protection and child and adolescent mental health. He has completed master level research on an international comparative study, 'substance abuse management between India and UK' at Queens' University Belfast. He has also recently completed his doctorate in Social Work at James Cook University, Townsville on, "Re-visioning child protection management embedded in family empowerment".

ORGANISATION/S: Child and Family Interventions & Research Centre

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

An intensive specialist training project for the frontline child protection practitioners has been designed based on findings of a recent qualitative research (Khan et al., 2018) in Australia, which studies the scope of a family empowerment centered approach in child protection practice. The research articulates a link between the process of building family empowerment focused practice and empowerment needs of the frontline practitioners amid broader environment like team culture and system. The training process offers the participants tools on how to think in-depth on developmental needs against impact of occupational and related mental health challenges. It is expected that these intensive professional development sessions will not only build new insight into empowerment needs of the practitioners but add fresh perspectives into child protection service development (i.e. practice, team culture and frontline leadership capacity building) informed by the outcomes of the workshop.

Reference: Khan, A., Miles, D., & Francis, A. (2018).

PRESENTATIONS: 1.15PM – 3.00PM

PODIUM ROOM 2

The Power of Play to Heal: Using Play Therapy with Traumatised Children

TIME: 1.15pm – 1.45pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Kylie Ellison

Kylie Ellison is a registered play therapist and counsellor who has been working with children, young people and families in the child protection sector in a variety of government and non-government roles for the past 13 years. Along with a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology), Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology, Master of Counselling and Psychotherapy, Kylie completed clinical studies in Child Centred Play Therapy. Kylie is the founder and President of the Play Therapy Practitioners Association, a professional association established for those interested in or trained as play therapists in Australia.

ORGANISATION/S: Centre for Play Therapy Pty Ltd/ Play Therapy Practitioners Association

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Child Centred Play Therapy (CCPT) is an evidence based counselling modality for working with children who have experienced trauma.

The purpose of the current presentation will be to discuss the following:

- What is Child Centred Play Therapy (CCPT)?
- What is trauma?What are the benefits of Child
- Centred Play Therapy with traumatized children
- Recommendations for future applications

Young kinship carers: supporting permanency through co designing advocacy and support

TIME: 1.45pm – 3.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Meredith Kiraly, Ms Joanne Roff, Ms Narelle Tarrant, Ms Roxanne Mayer-Marks, Ms Katie Nagle-Jones and Ms Tracey Hamilton

Dr Meredith Kiraly is a psychologist with over thirty years practice experience, much of this in out-of-home care. She is a part-time Research Fellow in the Social Work Department at the University of Melbourne and has a small consultancy in human services. Her speciality research area is kinship care on which topic she has published extensively; she is also engaged in advocacy for children in kinship care.

Joanne Roff is Area Manager IFYS child protection programs. She has worked across the child protection continuum for over 25 years and is passionate about innovative responses for children and families that are outcome focused. Jo is an Industry Fellow with the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) and a member of the academic Board for Social Work at QUT and USC.

ORGANISATION/S: University of Melbourne and Integrated Family and Youth Services

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Using census data, a University of Melbourne research study has identified significant numbers of young kinship carers across Australia. Interviews with 42 young kin carers (10 Aboriginal) and 15 adolescents identified overwhelming themes of loss of educational/employment opportunities; associated poverty; and significant stress from managing troubled intrafamilial relationships and children's trauma-related behaviours. These carers are excluded from young carer support programs unless caring for a disabled child, and find kinship support groups inappropriate due to the focus on grandparents. The university research team has partnered with IFYS to develop a national advocacy and support service for young kinship carers. This presentation will be co-presented with several young kinship carers, and will outline developments and plans for the way forward. Video of the co-design workshop will be shown.

PRESENTATIONS: 1.15PM – 3.00PM

PODIUM ROOM 3

Communities Working Together to Keep Children Safe

TIME: 1.15pm – 1.45pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Sammy Bruderer

Sammy Bruderer is NAPCAN's Queensland Manager/National Manager Child Safe Organisations. Sammy is passionate about promoting the importance of prevention in all levels of the community. With a background in social work, Sammy's career has involved frontline work with vulnerable children and families, and in emergency medicine as a first responder to sexual assault, domestic violence and trauma.

Sammy's work at NAPCAN includes training/program and resource development, consultation and advocacy at State and Federal levels, and the development of whole-of-community engagement campaigns to encourage everyone to 'play a part'.

ORGANISATION/S: NAPCAN

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

NAPCAN's Communities Keeping Children Safe is an innovative, community education and development program, currently being delivered in remote communities across the Northern Territory and Queensland. A series of workshops have been designed to build the capacity, confidence and skills of community members to discuss difficult and sensitive topics such as child abuse and preventing violence in relationships. Each program is tailored to meet the needs of individual communities.

Through group activities, films and discussions, several of which will be demonstrated in the workshop, participants are able to explore ways they can promote safety in their community.

One of the major outcomes of the community workshops is the development of a shared community action plan for the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and their families.

NAPCAN's presentation will showcase the Communities Keeping Children Safe program to demonstrate innovation in policy, practice and program development across two jurisdictions.

Public Health Approach – Fact or Fallacy in Protecting Children? Panel Discussion

TIME: 1.45pm – 3.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Kirsty Nowlan, Professor Daryl Higgins and Mr Aaron Maher

Dr Kirsty Nowlan is the Executive Director, Strategic Engagement, Research and Advocacy at The Benevolent Society. In that role, she is responsible for leading the advocacy within an organisation that seeks to complement service delivery with a focus on systems change. She Co-Chairs two national campaigns: EveryAGE Counts, which aims to tackle ageism and Every Child, which aims to ensure all Australian children can thrive. She is on the boards of The Centre for Social Purpose and Peacifica. Kirsty holds a PhD in international law and politics.

Professor Daryl Higgins commenced as the Director of the Institute of Child Protection Studies in February 2017. His research focuses on public health approaches to protecting children, and child-safe organisational strategies. A registered psychologist, Prof Higgins has been researching child abuse impacts and prevention, family violence and family functioning for 25 years.

Aaron Maher brings 30 years' experience in consulting, private and not-for-profit sector management roles. Aaron leads Nous' Human Services Sector and Evaluation Services development and is currently lead Principal on the NSW Their Future Matters System Transformation. He has worked extensively in human services including domestic and family violence, disability, aged care, mental health, Indigenous Affairs, housing and employment. He is an expert evaluator, facilitator, and policy strategist.

ORGANISATION/S: Every Child, Institute of Child Protection Studies and Nous Group

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

National and State government reform agendas seek to support families early – and before problems worsen. Many specifically name the 'Public Health Approach', however these reforms are not matched by a policy, programs or money that would deliver on the promise. The public health approach has near universal support, but implementing it is going to require some disruptive thinking and leadership both from civil society and governments. Redesigning large scale systems is achievable – health, disability and WHS have managed change on a similar scale – there is much to learn from that experience.

What will it take to move beyond the rhetoric? How might we conceptualise a system that works on a public health model so that we are clear on the future we are working towards? Who are Australia's great systems thinkers – system designers capable of putting children and families at the centre of system design and thinking outside jurisdictional and legislative boundaries?

Join this Every Child panel conversation to explore these and other public health approach questions hosted by Campaign Co-Chair Dr Kirsty Nowlan.

PRESENTATIONS: 1.15PM – 3.00PM

PODIUM ROOM 4

The Big Picture- Fostering Strong Community

TIME: 1.15pm – 1.45pm

PRESENTER/S: Mr Isaac Freeman

Isaac Freeman is a Social Worker for Wanslea Foster Care in Perth, Western Australia. As a long standing member of the Moorditj Koolangka Moort (Solid Children and Families) team, he has developed a passion and commitment to keeping children and young people in foster care connected to their birth families. With a background in Counselling Support with Aboriginal Families, Reunification Support, and Family Finding with Children and Young People in Foster Care, Isaac is an experienced practitioner in the field.

ORGANISATION/S: Wanslea

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This presentation uses a case study of a reunification of a child in care which showcases a promising practice model of engagement of foster family and birth family. We will explore the journey of our carers in connecting with and supporting birth family and children on a human level, before unpacking some of the ups and downs they experienced, and some of what it meant for everyone involved. We will reflect on practice and offer insight into Wanslea's role in strengthening the whole process, before expanding the focus to examining the meaning of their contribution to our sector and to society.

Fostering Together- Better support and participation for the children of foster carers

TIME: 1.45pm – 3.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Stephan Lund

Stephan Lund is the Executive Manager Metropolitan Operations at Wanslea Family Services, in Perth, Western Australia. Stephan's particular interests include innovation in fostering, evidence informed practice, specialised fostering and research and evaluation. He has nearly 20 years' experience in the Social Work field and completed his PhD at the University of Western Australia, researching the area of permanence and stability in foster care. Stephan received the Western Australian Social Worker of the Year 2016 Award.

ORGANISATION/S: Wanslea

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

One group of children who are seen as playing a significant role in the success of placements is that of the foster carers' own children. There has been significant research interest in the last 20 years in the biological children of foster carers and the support that they receive. Wanslea Family Services partnered with Edith Cowan University to develop electronic and printed resources to assist foster carers and support agencies to better support children of foster carers. The research team conducted focus groups with foster carers and children of foster carers to inform the resources to be developed.

This workshop will present the innovative resources that have been developed and give examples of how to use them. Included in this workshop will be the opportunity to view and discuss the DVD which features biological children of foster carers giving their view of the challenges and rewards of fostering.

PRESENTATIONS: 3.30PM – 5.15PM

PODIUM ROOM 1

Learnings from Implementing Evidence Based Interventions – FFT-CW and SafeCare

TIME: 3.30pm – 4.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Diana Townsend and Ms Miranda Bain

Diana Townsend has 25 years of experience supporting families and has a Masters in Community Mental Health. She is the person behind Queensland's first Family Functional Therapy – Child Welfare program. Throughout the years, Di has run successful programs for families in all corners of the greater Brisbane region, including Intensive Family Support, Assessment and Service Connect and Referral for Active Intervention.

Miranda Bain holds both Masters and Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She has worked as a clinician and educator for over 25 years. Miranda has specialised in the area of interpersonal violence, and trauma focused professional practices. Miranda manages a number of programmes for Act for Kids Gold Coast Office, where she has worked for the past 12 years. Currently her work involves managing trauma counselling services; and the implementation of new child protection programmes in early intervention and statutory contexts.

ORGANISATION/S: YFS and Act for Kids

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

YFS in Browns Plains/Beaudesert and Act for Kids on the Gold Coast have been trialling new evidence based programs since June 2018 as part of the search for an effective system response to address the increasing pressure on the Child Protection system. We will provide an overview of the FFT-CW family-based therapy and SafeCare modular parenting education programs, their evidence base, and how they are positioned within the existing Queensland secondary service system. Translating a USA based program into the Queensland context has enabled us to take a fresh approach to established ways of operating within the sector.

Progressive universalism in Early Years Places: The public health approach to child protection in action

TIME: 4.00pm – 4.40pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Alana Laundy and Ms Marisa Philips

Alana Laundy is the Manager of Benevolent Society Child and Family Services Gold Coast. Alana has worked with children and families on the Gold Coast for over twenty years, in both the government and non-government sectors. Alana has a particular passion for infant and perinatal mental health, and has been involved with the coordination of the Gold Coast Infant Mental Health Conference for sixteen years.

Marisa Phillips is currently the manager of Browns Plains Early Years Places and Kindergarten Satellite services. Marisa's passion lies in excellence in early learning for all children. Marisa has been working in early childhood sector for over 20 years, and holds a Diploma of Community Services, Bachelor of Early Childhood (Education), and Graduate Certificate in Not for Profit and Philanthropy studies.

ORGANISATION/S: The Benevolent Society

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Since 2008, The Benevolent Society (TBS) has delivered 10 Early Years Places in Queensland, funded by the QLD Department of Education, in partnership with Queensland Health. This initiative is based on a public health approach to child protection. Early Years Places deliver a continuum of primary and secondary services, providing families with support to nurture and care for their children, with the aim of optimising child development, school readiness and preventing contact and intervention by the statutory child protection system.

A unique feature of the initiative is the enduring partnership between Health and Hospital Services and TBS. Through this partnership, parents and their children aged 0 – 8 years are able to access high quality and seamless child health, early childhood development and family support services, while visiting the centres.

In 2018, TBS supported 3020 parents and 4527 children in the Early Years Places. Quantitative and qualitative data about families' experience of these services will be presented demonstrating that purposeful collaboration, shared accountability and partnership delivers results.

Using Camp Programs to Enhance Outcomes for Children in Out-of-Home Care

TIME: 4.40pm – 5.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Mr Nick Martin, Mr Jeremy Seng, Ms Trish Landsberger and Ms Lexie Graham

ORGANISATION/S: Edmund Rice and Kyabra

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Edmund Rice and Kyabra Community Association developed a family camp program partially funded by Department of Child Safety through Flexible Support Funding. This program was designed to align with the Queensland Out-of-Home-Care Outcomes Framework.

PRESENTATIONS: 3.30PM – 5.15PM

PODIUM ROOM 2

Parents who Lead

TIME: 3.30pm – 4.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Karyn Walsh, Ms Susie Edwards, Ms Jenny Whitworth, Mr Sloane Stallon, Mr Stephen Utting, Ms Sue Swinburne, Ms Laura Lewis, and Ms Leah Cowell

Karyn Walsh is the CEO of Micah Projects, a Brisbane not for profit organisation committed to social justice through over 20 years of service provision and advocacy to improve the lives of disadvantaged and marginalised people. In 2016, Karyn was awarded a Doctor of Social Work and Nursing honoris causa by the University of Queensland in recognition of her work in the not for profit sector for over 40 years. In 2017, Karyn was awarded a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia for her work in the homelessness sector and in mental health support.

Susie Edwards is a social worker and the Coordinator of the Family Inclusion Network (FIN) South East Queensland, part of Micah Projects. Susie has volunteered and worked in the out of home care sector for the last 16 years and currently serves as the vice chair with The Family Inclusion Network, Australia. In her current role Susie has supported and promoted the inclusion of families in the development of policies and laws impacting family life.

Jenny Whitworth has worked in and around human services' social policy and service systems all her adult life. She has worked in policy, training, and project implementation roles in both government and non-government organisations: including 15 years in the Queensland department responsible for child protection, and a combined eight years in statewide social policy manager roles at QCOSS, and at the Crèche and Kindergarten (C&K) Assoc of Queensland. Since mid-2018 Jenny has had the honour of working alongside the parents of the Family Inclusion Network South East Queensland.

Sloane Stallon is a Ugarapul man from the Ipswich region and father to two daughters. He is currently developing a podcast for men, talking about issues men and fathers face. He explains, 'Growing up I had a culture of violence and abuse. Not knowing how to talk about issues reinforced a culture of silence leading to violence and abuse becoming a normal part of life. Since having children, I don't want them to experience the generational struggles that I endured.' This has grown into a desire to help other men make better choices for themselves and their families.

This led Sloane in becoming a co-founder of the men's group 'Circle of Pillars' in Ipswich.

Stephen Utting is a husband of 24 years and a father for 20 of those years. Stephen is a co-founder of the 'Circle of Pillars' group and author of the program run with men, based on honest discussion and growing each other in the group. Stephen was a graduate of the 2016 Parent Leadership Training Institute program which gave him the opportunity to focus on understanding and achieving his goals.

Sue Swinburne is the parent of a transgender child. She helps to run a peer support group for parents of transgender and gender diverse children, she advocates for the rights and well-being of gender diverse children in education and health, and was a consumer representative on CHQ's Diversity and Inclusion Working Group. Sue received a Health Consumers Queensland award in June 2018 for her advocacy for health services for gender diverse children and their families and extensive peer support of other parents on-line, over the phone and in groups.

Laura Lewis is a writer, speaker, mentor to autistic adults and has a passion advocating for inclusion and diversity in schools, workplaces and communities. Laura is a member of the Parents and Carer's Advisory Group for CYMHS, Children's Qld Health. She started her autistic high school son with his own successful business. In her spare time, Laura is hoping (on a pro bono basis) to help other autistic high school students start their own micro business.

Leah Cowell is a graduate of Parent Leader Training Institute 2018. Leah is aware the best learning children can do is through play and to explore in their own time to be able to find their own creativity. Finding a lack of resources available in the community she decided to team up with Substation 33 an e-waste recycling social enterprise to try to create them.

ORGANISATION/S: The Family Inclusion Network SEQ and Parent Leaders from the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Hear from parents who have graduated from the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) about their experience of making change happen for themselves, their families and communities.

Parents who attended PLTI are provided with a civic tool kit to help understand how community, government and sectors work to address social issues. Graduates from PLTI, now Parent Leaders, have embraced inclusion, diversity and their roles as change agents in their community.

This presentation, facilitated by The Family Inclusion Network will provide valuable insights into what parents feel are priorities for their families and communities and how they are working toward making positive changes happen.

Parents with Child Protection Experience Speak

TIME: 4.00pm – 5.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Karyn Walsh, Ms Susie Edwards and a panel of parents with child protection experience

Karyn Walsh is the CEO of Micah Projects, a Brisbane not for profit organisation committed to social justice through over 20 years of service provision and advocacy to improve the lives of disadvantaged and marginalised people. In 2016, Karyn was awarded a Doctor of Social Work and Nursing honoris causa by the University of Queensland in recognition of her work in the not for profit sector for over 40 years. In 2017, Karyn was awarded a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia for her work in the homelessness sector and in mental health support.

Susie Edwards is a social worker and the Coordinator of the Family Inclusion Network (FIN) South East Queensland, part of Micah Projects. Susie has volunteered and worked in the out of home care sector for the last 16 years and currently serves as the vice chair with The Family Inclusion Network, Australia. In her current role Susie has supported and promoted the inclusion of families in the development of policies and laws impacting family life.

ORGANISATION/S: Micah Projects and The Family Inclusion Network SEQ

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Parents with Child Protection experience have asked for a seat at the table. This session will challenge the paradigm that parents with child protection experience are passive recipients of a child protection system and introduce you to parents that want to be part of the reform process. Parents want to decrease the number of children entering out of home care, and can share what families need and want when things don't go to plan in their lives. This presentation will be led by Micah Projects CEO Karyn Walsh and the Family Inclusion Network, including a panel discussion with parents with child protection experience.

PRESENTATIONS: 3.30PM – 5.15PM

PODIUM ROOM 3

Embedding Child Safe Culture in Organisations – Moving from Policy to Practice

TIME: 3.30pm – 4.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Dr Chelsea Leach and Ms Hayley Holst

Dr Chelsea Leach has a research background in both Law and Psychology and is an endorsed Forensic Psychologist. She is currently an Advanced Allied Health Clinician with Forensic CYMHS. Her research interests include systematic responses to child sexual assault and she has published several articles in this area. Dr Leach's clinical experience includes working with young people in the child protection system, as well as adolescent sexual and violent offenders in both group and individual settings. Dr Leach also undertakes assessment and treatment with adult offenders, as well as victims of trauma and abuse. She has worked in both strategic and management roles within child protection, education, police and justice sectors and was integral to the state-wide implementation and evaluation of the police led Coordinated Response to Young People At Risk program. Dr Leach is passionate about the effective implementation of evidence-based research into the field of practice.

Hayley Holst has worked in the Human Service sector in frontline service delivery, as well as leadership and management roles in the child protection, youth, police and community sectors in government and non-government environments. She has worked on collaborative projects targeted at providing early intervention and support to vulnerable families, as well as coordinated the delivery of youth programs in schools and within the Queensland Police Service. She has written and delivered training in a range of environments including childcare centres, schools, community organisations and government departments and developed specific training packages to meet the needs of the organisations she has worked in.

ORGANISATION/S: Pracademics Inc

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Many organisations claim to be 'child-safe', but what does this actually mean? Do they really have an embedded 'culture of safety' or is it simply a policy statement?

This presentation explores how we can support leaders, managers and frontline staff, and build their capacity to shift organisational culture by having key conversations about child safety with children, colleagues and managers. This will support a shift in attitudes and beliefs about what it means to be part of a child safe organisation. For those working within a child protection context, we also explore the complexity of those conversations for children who have experienced maltreatment and abuse by adults. How can we teach children and young people that adults can be trusted, but not all adults should be trusted?

Moving beyond compliance: an industry-led Excellence Framework

TIME: 4.00pm – 4.30pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Beth Dwine

Beth Dwine is a Senior Project Officer with Community Services Industry Alliance. As a Social Worker with 20 years' experience, Beth possesses a breadth of skills and experience in practice and leadership that she has brought to workforce and sector development, and the capability and capacity building of organisations working with vulnerable people.
Beth has been instrumental in sector development and community-based partnerships to build community capacity and influential stakeholder relationships across child and family services.

ORGANISATION/S: Community Services Industry Alliance

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

When the Community Services Industry Alliance (CSIA) Laying Foundations for Industry Report was released it identified a need to focus on excellence through industry development strategies. Around the same time the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse released its recommendations. These included a series of child safe standards that child and family focused organisations would need to comply with into the future.

From this Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) and the CSIA partnered to support the development of an Industry-led Excellence Framework for Child Safe Organisations to empower organisations to prepare for the implementation of the standards. The presentation will explore how valuable an excellence approach to cultural change in organisations is in being able to prevent further abuse; respond to known or suspected abuse if and when it occurs; and facilitate and assist recovery from abuse that has occurred.

Preventing and Responding to child sexual abuse: a multi-faceted approach

TIME: 4.30pm – 5.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Melinda Clarke

Melinda Clarke is the Safeguarding Lead at Life Without Barriers, having worked in various operational and practice roles in child protection and out-of-home care for more than 20 years. Melinda leads child-safe organisation work at Life Without Barriers.

ORGANISATION/S: Life Without Barriers

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Life Without Barriers continues to apply learnings from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to the implementation of a multi-faceted child safety strategy: We Put Children First. Focusing on engaging directly with children and young people, Life Without Barriers is partnering with the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian to implement the SAFE Book Series with children aged 2 – 10 years in out-of-home care across Australia. The SAFE Book Series is a set of four books containing protective behaviours messages. The books support the rights of children and promote them having a voice.We're now exploring the best ways to engage with older young people about issues of safety, abuse and speaking up.

PRESENTATIONS: 3.30PM – 5.15PM

PODIUM ROOM 4

Achieving permanency for children through an evidence-based treatment approach to foster care

TIME: 3.30pm – 4.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Estelle Paterson and Ms Jacqueline Hudson

ORGANISATION/S: Ozchild

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

OzChild has been piloting Australia's first evidence-based foster care program, Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCO) in Victoria since April 2017 and has now implemented the program into South West region Qld and in NSW in 2018. TFCO is an intensive, short-term (six to 12 months) model which has evidenced effectiveness in addressing behavioural issues in children and young people, so they can be successful in living in family-based environments.

This presentation will present initial findings from our implementation in Australia and highlight how an "off the shelf approach" can be a critical part of a continuum of care response to child protection, providing therapeutic foster care and home-based services that are trauma informed and delivered utilising interventions that fit the family's culture and are strength based. The program has a systemic approach to children and young people with a focus on supporting families to be the agent for sustainable change.

Implementation challenges will also be discussed including cultural suitability of the approaches, the need for local customisation and the training, supervision and coaching needs to ensure these approaches provide effective, sustainable solutions to improving permanency outcomes for children and young people.

Partnering to independence: A residential care response keeping young homeless parents and children safe and together

TIME: 4.00pm – 4.40pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Alison Schneidereit, Ms Teagan Robertson, Dr Samantha Batchelor and Dr Kathryn Seymour

Alison Schneidereit is the Manager of yourtown's San Miguel Family Centre where she leads a high performing team that provides holistic integrated residential care for homeless young parents or parents-to-be and their children. Alison has over 15 years' experience in the Welfare sector across the non-profit sector including Out of Home Care and Community Development, however her passion has always been in family preservation.

Teagan Robertson, young mum of a beautiful 18 month old girl, found herself homeless following a broken family relationship. She came to San Miguel knowing where she wanted to be, but needing support to reach her goals. Teagan now has her own place to call home, where she lives independently and safely with her daughter while she continues to work on furthering her education and employment prospects with her San Miguel outreach case worker. Teagan aspires to becoming a midwife in the NICU unit so she can help other mums in difficult times. She also wants to empower young people to believe in their own destiny and is telling her story to inspire other young people to seek the support they need to have better outcomes for themselves and their children.

Dr Samantha Batchelor is a Senior Researcher at yourtown where she leads research, evaluation and advocacy projects that contribute to the development and enhancement of yourtown services, and give voice to young people. Sam has fifteen years' experience in applied research and program evaluation and is passionate about using her work to enhance service delivery and support social justice outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families. Prior to joining the not-for-profit sector, Sam completed her PhD at Griffith University where she investigated the relationship between parent involvement in education and the academic achievement of children in a disadvantaged community.

Dr Kathryn Seymour is a Senior Researcher at **yourtown** and an Adjunct Research Fellow in the Griffith Criminology Institute. She has a PhD from Griffith University, a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Flinders University, and a Masters degree in Applied Social Research Methods from the University of South Australia. Kathryn has worked across the university, government and NGO sectors in the areas of workforce profiling, women, youth, homelessness, and disability and has experience in policy and project development, management, evaluation and implementation. Her research contributes to our understanding of strengths based practice, the complex ecological environment of the youth sector and the contribution practitioners, programs and services make to young people's lives.

ORGANISATION/S: yourtown

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Straddling the child protection and homelessness service systems, the San Miguel Family Centre fills a key service gap by providing holistic, integrated residential care for homeless parents or parents-to-be aged 25 years or younger and their children. Parents as young as 16 years, both fathers and mothers, come to the service with their children, or during the last trimester of pregnancy. Many have grown up in out-of-home care, some have already lost children to state care and all are at-risk of losing children to care.

In this presentation each of the three speakers will bring a different perspective, that of a researcher, the Centre Manager and a young parent. We outline the theoretical frameworks underpinning the model before discussing the model in practice, particularly key successes and lessons learnt, and the transition experience from being a parent in residence to living independently.

Creating a workforce that reflects child safety and wellbeing in practice

TIME: 4.40pm – 5.00pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Sue Trembath

Sue Trembath is a social worker with 35 years' experience working with children and young people. Sue is currently working with Mission Australia as the Child Safe Lead for QLD/NT and has worked in a variety of roles in her career, from direct service to senior management. Sue has extensive experience in human services in both government agencies and community services organisations, primarily in the fields of counselling, child protection, family support, youth justice and out of home care. Sue also currently works in both vocational and tertiary education.

ORGANISATION/S: Mission Australia

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

A key feature of creating a child safe culture is a workforce which reflects child safety and wellbeing values in practice. Given that a workforce is drawn from, and reflects the diverse values of the community, initially candidates arrive with a range of attitudes towards the rights of children and young people. Organisations do not start with a homogenous pool of employees sharing common beliefs values, attitudes and behaviours. While some staff have a well-developed knowledge of, and commitment to, a rights based approach, holding qualifications in the field of human and community services, many staff members have had no exposure to this topic.

It is imperative that organisations identify, explain and reinforce behavioural standards for keeping children and young people safe which staff are required to adhere to in the workplace.

The post Royal Commission period provides an opportunity for major reform. The challenge for organisations is to develop strategies which ensure that child safety and wellbeing is embraced and not simply enforced. This presentation will discuss strategies employed at Mission Australia to address this challenge.

A Sensory Modular Lense of Trauma

TIME: 5.00pm – 5.15pm

PRESENTER/S: Ms Lauren Boyd and Mr Nathan Skaines

Lauren Boyd has a background in Behavioural Science and Community Services. She has a passion for therapeutic recreation and has developed innovative programs across the Child Protection, Disability, Community and Aged Care sectors, these include establishing inclusive community centres and a collaborative alternative education program. Lauren is currently Client Outcomes Lead with Out of Home Care for UC at the Gold Coast, working with young people in residential and foster care to create opportunities, provide advocacy and respond to the Voice of the Child.

Nathan Skaines has been working in the Residential Care sector for over 20 years. During that time, Nathan has observed significant changes in the way the field is viewed – from a "last resort" for children who had experienced multiple placement breakdowns, to taking its place as a legitimate OOHC option for some young people who are not suited to a family based placement. Nathan is currently the Service Leader at Williams House, and is passionate about maintaining a trauma informed focus with his Team to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children placed at Williams.

ORGANISATION/S: UnitingCare

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Williams House residential for young people in out of home care on the Gold Coast, is introducing a pilot program in relation to sensory modulation in order to support the young people who live there to better manage their stress response to perceived triggers.

This model will be implemented within a three-pronged approach, including the young people being assessed individually for their personal sensory diets; all staff being trained in sensory modulation and the residential house itself being over-hauled to include more furniture, items and spaces that will make the young people's capacity to engage in their 'sensory diet' to help them manage their emotions easier.

There has been significant research into this intervention with young people in care in the United States, showing statistically significant outcomes which indicate that this model is beneficial for our young people, so we are excited to be one of the first to undertake this new strategy here in Australia.

Thank you to our Conference Sponsors

Anglicare Southern Queensland

Every day the passionate staff and volunteers of Anglicare Southern Queensland are working to respond to growing community demand for our services. For over 140 years our staff have connected with people on every step of their life path, responding with compassion, creativity, commitment and courage to the needs of the members of our community who require support.

Anglicare Southern Queensland have been supporting foster and kinship carers in Queensland for more than 25 years. We're committed to providing a safe and happy environment for children in need.

In addition to Foster and Kinship Care, Anglicare provides a wide variety of support to the community including residential care, supported independent living, family intervention and support, mental health and wellbeing services, youth support, homelessness services and a wide range of aged care support.

https://anglicaresq.org.au/

Child Wise

Established in 1991, Child Wise has over 25 years of pioneering experience in keeping children and young people safe from harm, specialising in preventing, and responding to, child abuse. Child Wise is a Social Enterprise of Save the Children Australia. Save the Children Australia and Child Wise share a common vision: that all children are safe from violence, exploitation and abuse.

Child Wise has built a legacy of developing and delivering innovative, prevention-oriented child safety training programs and consulting services. Child Wise pioneered the use of Child Safety Standards within organisations where children and young people spend time.

Based on the principles of capacity building and prevention, Child Wise works with organisations to create and maintain a culture where child safety is front of mind.

https://www.childwise.org.au/

ACT Council of Social Service Gulanga Program

The Gulanga Program is designed to support ACT community sector organisations to develop and improve upon good, culturally appropriate practice standards.

The program employs Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander workers and aims to provide better engagement with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and their families to access the services that will best meet their needs.

The program is supported by funding under the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), which is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian Governments, and the Child, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP), an ACT Government funded initiative.

The Gulanga Program logo is based on an artwork by Kristie Peters.

https://www.actcoss.org.au/services-resources/gulanga-program

The Benevolent Society

We are The **Benevolent Society**.

We help people change their lives through support and education, and we speak out for a just society where everyone thrives.

We're Australia's first charity. We're a not-for-profit and non-religious organisation and we've helped people, families and communities achieve positive change since 1813.

https://www.benevolent.org.au/

Compass Seminars Pty Ltd

Compass Seminars is Australia's leading professional development training provider for people who work with children, young people and families.

https://www.compassaustralia.com.au/

Churches of Christ Queensland – Children Youth and Families

Churches of Christ Care: Children, Youth and Families, provide a broad range of services to children, young people and families throughout Queensland. These services include early childhood care, family support, child protection and transition to independence programs, with support provided based on the individual needs of children, young people, families and communities.

We are committed to supporting families to build their capacity to safely care for and protect their children at home. Where this is not possible we support the provision of safe and nurturing home environments, while keeping children connected to their families, primarily with assistance from our dedicated and committed foster and kinship carers.

We are committed to ensure children and young people grow up safe and cared for in family, community and culture and to reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.

https://www.cofc.com.au/care

Commsync Foundation

Commsync has taken the safety plan off the fridge door and placed it into wearable technology for children and risk. Children can now discreetly alert their entire chosen network of safety and support, including family, friends or emergency services all at the touch of a button, sending live location and audio.

https://commsync.com.au/

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is here to make a difference for children, young people, women, men and families.

Through the *Supporting Families, Changing Futures* 10 year reform program, significant progress has been made in building a statewide family support and child protection system in Queensland to better protect children and support families to safely care for their children. The department also continues to work with families, carers and communities to provide loving and safe homes and pathways for children in care.

The department is progressing the *Our Way* strategy and *Changing Tracks Action Plan* to improve wellbeing and reduce disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system.

We are also leading and coordinating the Queensland Government's participation in the National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/

IFYS Limited

IFYS Limited is a non-government organisation that has been servicing Queensland communities for 38 years. During this time, IFYS has instigated the development of a wide range of responses to the needs of children, young people, families and people living with a disability. At the core of our business are marginalised people who need services and support.

https://www.ifys.com.au/

Foundations Care Ltd

Foundations Care is a national organisation that really understands the reality of foster care and what is needed to make the experience a rewarding one for both the foster child and the foster family.

We recruit, assess, train and support foster and kinship carers for children who cannot live at home because their family can no longer look after them or they may be at risk of harm.

We also offer therapeutic residential out-of-home care options for children and young people with multiple and complex needs. This is aimed at actively facilitating healing and recovery from the effects of abuse, neglect and separation from family. It is done in a group home setting, facilitated by Foundations Care staff.

We are always looking for carers to join the Foundation's Care family, and open their hearts and homes to a child who is in need of care and support.

If you would like to find out more about how you can become a foster carer for a young person in need, please contact one of our dedicated team members at Foundation's Care on 1300 395 005.

https://foundcarekids.org.au/

Infinity Community Solutions

Infinity Community Solutions Ltd is a boutique secular social purpose organisation, motivated to make a difference in the lives of individuals. We strive to provide professional, evidence based services, specifically designed to enable individuals to reach their full potential, and live rich and fulfilled lives.

http://www.infinitycs.org.au/

House with No Steps

As one of Australia's leading disability service providers, House with No Steps is dedicated to helping people with a disability live a great life. A life with greater choice, control, and freedom.

Established over 55 years ago by Lionel and Dorothy Watts, we now provide disability services to over 5000 people across New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, and the ACT.

We have been working with children with a disability in the child protection space in Queensland for 6 years, creating a safe, nurturing and therapeutic space for the children to thrive and meet their potential.

The children and young people are, and always will be, at the heart of everything we do.

No matter what the goal is for the child or young person. Together, we can make it happen.

https://www.hwns.com.au/

Mission Australia

Mission Australia is a national Christian charity that has been helping vulnerable Australians move towards independence for over 160 years. Independence is something we all strive for, but life rarely turns out as planned. We've learnt the reasons behind a lack of independence and the ways for people to become more self-sufficient are different for everyone.

This informs how we support people by combatting homelessness, assisting disadvantaged families and children, addressing mental health issues, fighting substance dependencies, and much more.

Our team of 3,000 staff applies different approaches, inspired by Christian values. We are joined by government, our corporate partners and everyday Australians who provide generous support.

Together, we stand with Australians in need until they can stand for themselves.

https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/

WE LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS VE

We all share the responsibility for child safety

Life Without Barriers

Life Without Barriers is a leading social purpose organisation working in more than 440 communities across Australia. Our services support over 20,000 people including children, young people and families, people with disability, people with mental illness, older people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We are a national provider of out-of-home care working with children, young people, carers and the community to support children whilst they are unable to live with their family. We have an array of models, initiatives, strategies, policies and innovations to continuously improve our practice and help keep children and young people safe, supported and able to thrive.

At Life Without Barriers we put children first. The wellbeing of children is our greatest concern. Ensuring children are well cared for, supported and protected is an absolute, non-negotiable priority.

https://www.lwb.org.au/

parentline

parentline is a service of yourtown

yourtown (Parentline)

yourtown aims to tackle the issues affecting the lives of young people. Established in 1961, our mission is to enable young people, especially those who are marginalised and without voice, to improve their life outcomes. We deliver a range of services including: Kids Helpline, the national 24/7 telephone and online counselling and support service for 5 - 25 year olds; educational and employment programs; accommodation responses for families experiencing homelessness and domestic and family violence; expressive therapy interventions for children who have experienced trauma; and parenting services such as Parentline.

Parentline has responded to almost 240,000 telephone and online contacts from parents and carers from across Queensland and the Northern Territory since opening 20 years ago. Our professional counselling and information service responds to parents and carers about issues ranging from parenting strategies for challenging behaviours, relationships between children and their parents, family custody and access, domestic violence and abuse.

https://www.parentline.com.au/

Nature Play QLD

GETTING OUR KIDS OUTDOORS

Nature Play QLD

Nature Play QLD's mission is to increase the time Queensland kids spend outdoors playing and in nature. It is founded on the understanding that outdoor play is fundamental to a full and healthy childhood.

Outdoor play promotes health benefits, including cognitive, social and emotional development, and it builds resilience and creativity as well. Experiences in nature as a child also leads to environmental awareness and stewardship later in life.

Nature Play QLD is a collaborative organisation, working with partner groups to encourage the Queensland community to value nature play, and support families to prioritise it in children's lives. Our primary role is to advocate the nature play message and to increase access to outdoor play resources, events and programs for Queenslanders.

Nature Play QLD is administered in Queensland by QORF (Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation) and made possible through the support of the Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport & Racing.

https://www.natureplayqld.org.au/

true

relationships & reproductive health

True Relationships and Reproductive Health

True Relationships and Reproductive Health (True) is the leading provider of relationships and sexuality education (RSE) services in Queensland. True produce evidenced based, award winning resources and training programs that increase children's safety and promote healthy sexual development. This includes Traffic Lights®, a tool for adults to identify, understand and respond to sexual behaviour in children and young people. Traffic Lights® was recently updated following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

https://www.true.org.au/

Queensland Foster and Kinship Care

Queensland Foster and Kinship Care (QFKC) is a non-government association providing advice, support and advocacy to all foster and kinship carers in Queensland. While carers receive their day-to-day support through their care service, QFKC can be accessed to assist in more complex matters and can also provide advice that assists carers in interpreting policy, procedure and legislation into everyday care.

Carers can also be members of QFKC and receive the bi-monthly 'QFKC Reporter', which provides up-to-date information to carers about relevant matters in the sector. Carers do not have to be a member of QFKC however to receive a service from QFKC.

The Foster Care Advocacy Support Team (FAST) is a service provided by QFKC. Specially trained foster or kinship carers volunteer to provide support, advice and advocacy on behalf of other foster and kinship carers in their local communities.

FAST representatives are allocated to regions and you are able to contact any FAST rep in your region to receive support.

http://www.qfkc.com.au/

UnitingCare Community

Every day we see people tackling adversity and walk alongside them to achieve positive change and growth. As leaders in the protection of vulnerable children and family wellbeing, UnitingCare helps children and young people to live life in all its fullness, using our reach and vision to confront injustice.

Through our accessible services, we're committed to empowering children, young people and their families. In partnership with clients, communities, governments and other providers, we deliver services characterised by innovation and wisdom.

Come and talk to us about the brighter future we see for children, young people, families and communities.

www.unitingcareqld.com.au

YCSS, Child, Youth and Family Intervention Service

YCSS Child, Youth and Family Intervention Service (YCSS) is a licensed human services organisation providing specialist residential care services to children and young people aged 1217 with high to complex support needs.

Based in South East Queensland YCSS provides a stable environment for children and young people to ensure their care needs are met whilst in residential accommodation through to a young person transitioning from care.

Our commitment is to provide children and young people who are in the care of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services with a home based environment within a residential setting.

Each young person is provided with a team of dedicated and professional Care Facilitators who provide a range of support services through YCSS's Professional Practice Framework. As part of this Framework, a Care Management Plan is developed for each child and young person to ensure that their specific needs are met.

http://ycss.com.au/

Australia Zoo

Australia Zoo, home of the *Crocodile Hunter,* is the most interactive conservation destination on the planet! Cuddle a koala, walk with a tiger, hand-feed a kangaroo and watch a saltwater crocodile strike. Explore *Bindi's Island* with roaming lemurs and tortoises, and enjoy your ultimate up-close wildlife adventure.

www.australiazoo.com.au

Corpcut Mobile Hairdressing

Haircuts designed for individuals. A workplace benefit valued by all.

Looking for a way to keep your team looking sharp and provide an affordable workplace benefit that delivers flexibility and a better work-life balance?

Corpcut's mobile corporate grooming and styling service not only keeps your employees looking their best, it also eliminates the hassle of waiting in line at the barber's, minimising time away from the office. Plus it's a valuable employee benefit well-known for attracting new talent and maintaining a happy workforce.

https://www.corpcut.com.au/

Channel Seven Wheel of Brisbane

An iconic landmark on the South Bank skyline, the Channel Seven Wheel of Brisbane is a breathtaking way to take in a 360-degree panoramic view of spectacular Brisbane city.

Rising 60 metres above the ground you can enjoy the safety and comfort of a fully enclosed, air-conditioned gondola that seats up to 8 people and is fun for everyone.

Visitors can choose to experience the sights by day, a romantic sunset ride or the sparkling city lights at night with all rides including an engaging audio tour of the Brisbane landscape.

Try our NEW….*Sky High Picnics* on-board while you ride for a unique experience to spoil your loved ones.

https://thewheelofbrisbane.com.au/

Knowledge Partner Professionals

KPPro (Knowledge Partner Professionals) is a Brisbane based IT services company. Their tagline is "Your IT & Digital Partner" and this sums up their values and mission.

A local business technology services provider, catering majorly to Australia. The company was established in 2016 by enthusiastic and passionate technology expert, Ash Raina, to provide services and solutions to small businesses. A complete list of go-to-market services is as under:

- IT Services & Solutions, including
  - ✓ Websites
  - ✓ E-commerce portals
  - ✓ Mobile Apps
  - ✓ Web Apps
  - ✓ Product development
- Digital Solutions
  - Video Brochures
  - Digital Marketing
  - Social Media Marketing
- Recruitment & HR Services

www.KPPro.com.au

Five Star Cinemas

Five Star Cinemas offers a venue that's stylish and unique for entertaining clients and guests, social parties, fundraising groups, or a fun night out with family and friends. It's the perfect, memorable choice to celebrate a special event or occasion.

Five Star Cinemas can cater to your entertainment and event requirements whether you're looking to host a corporate presentation, treating guests to a private movie screening or a night of gaming on the big screen with friends.

https://fivestarcinemas.com.au