



**Outcomes Practice  
Evidence Network**

Child and Family  
Services

Symposium 2018

#2018OPEN



## Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge that we are meeting on the land of the Kulin Nation and we acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land. We pay respects to Elders past and present, and emerging leaders. We recognise sovereignty was never ceded and the structural inequality created by colonisation continues to this day. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants in the OPEN Symposium 2018.



## Become a member!

### The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

advocates for the rights of young people, children, and families in Victoria. We aim to ensure that young people are heard, safe, have access to education, and remain connected to family, community and culture.

Students: \$10 annually

Individuals: \$50 annually

Organisations: Get in touch!

Head to our website to join: [cfecfw.asn.au/join-cfecfw](https://cfecfw.asn.au/join-cfecfw)

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# Welcome to the OPEN Symposium 2018

**The Centre is delighted to welcome you to the annual Outcomes, Practice and Evidence Network (OPEN) Symposium.**

OPEN aims to bridge the gap between research and practice by connecting service providers, researchers and policy makers to create, share and use the best available evidence and deliver outcomes-based services.

The OPEN Symposium is an opportunity to share and showcase how we are working to deliver services that are evidence-informed, building practice-based knowledge, implementing evidence-based programs, and moving our focus from outputs to outcomes.

The theme of this year's Symposium is Connecting the Dots: Better outcomes for Children and Families.

Connecting the Dots represents the important relationship between evidence and practice; between research, client perspectives and practice expertise. The conference sub-themes embody the breadth and depth of our work, as well as the importance of drawing on diverse forms of evidence to deliver effective services relevant to the values, cultures and needs of children, young people and families across Victoria.

Each year the Symposium features exciting keynotes and insightful presentations and this year is no different. We are thrilled to host Deborah Rubien from the New York City Administration for Children's Services and Chris Vanstone from The Australian Centre for Social Innovation. Deborah and Chris will explore the importance of evidence-informed practice and practice-based evidence in our services. All sessions and panels include speakers from across government, academia, and the child and family services sector.

The 2018 OPEN Symposium is made possible with the support of our generous sponsors: Family Safety Victoria, OzChild, Anglicare Victoria, and Key Assets. OPEN is supported by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. We thank our sponsors and supporters, and welcome you again to the 2018 OPEN Symposium.



**Deb Tsorbaris** CEO  
Centre For Excellence  
in Child and Family Welfare





# OPEN

## is the Outcomes, Practice and Evidence Network

OPEN is a vehicle to strengthen the evidence base for Victoria's child, youth and family services.

We need transformative thinking, resources and capabilities to understand what works for our children and families. OPEN connects workers, policy-makers and researchers to help build our practice based knowledge and to translate the best available evidence to practice.

OPEN aims to be a window to the world's best practice by connecting you with local, national and international expertise and providing accessible up-to-date information when you need it. Through regular workshops and events, technical advice and easy to access research and evaluation guidance, OPEN helps you understand and communicate the impact of your work.

OPEN is led by the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), community service organisations and universities. OPEN is governed by a steering committee that reflects this important system-wide collaboration and commitment.

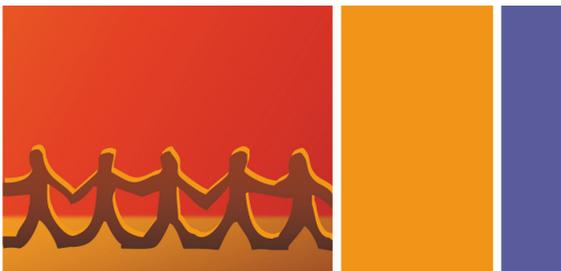
We invite you to join us in this exciting journey toward better outcomes for our children and families. If you are not already, we encourage you to become an OPEN member today — it's free!

[cfcfw.asn.au/open](http://cfcfw.asn.au/open)

### OPEN Member Benefits include:

- Regular forums and workshops with visiting practice leaders, researchers and evaluation experts
- Networking and collaborative research and funding opportunities between CSOs, research institutions and grant committees
- Access to technical advice and support
- Access to research and evaluation guidance including the monthly Research Review
- Communities of Practice and Interest Groups to share skills and experience including successes, failures and innovations
- Early-bird tickets to events e.g. the annual OPEN Symposium.

# Permanent Care and Adoptive Families



**PCA Families is an early intervention service that provides support to families formed through kinship care, permanent care and adoption.**

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...and not everything  
that is important can be measured.”

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# Symposium Sponsors

## Major Sponsor



## Supporting Sponsors



## OPEN Events Sponsorship

OPEN delivers events throughout the year which provide a unique opportunity for you to promote your organisation, service or product as well as network with professionals and organisations.

For sponsorship enquiries contact  
Emily Mellon:  
[emily.mellon@cfecfw.asn.au](mailto:emily.mellon@cfecfw.asn.au)



OPEN is supported by the  
**Department of  
Health and Human Services**

## Keynote Speaker

# Deborah Rubien

Deborah Rubien is the Senior Advisor for Evidence-Based Implementation at New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS), the government agency responsible for child welfare, juvenile justice and subsidised child care in New York City.

Deborah coordinates a leadership team that works to sustain and integrate the implementation of eleven evidence-based and evidence-informed practice models in the ACS preventive service delivery system.

Deborah has worked in a variety of child welfare positions, including director of a neighbourhood-based child welfare agency, the Mayor's Office for Children and Family Services and a public-private collaboration that developed coalitions in high-need neighbourhoods. She recently established a family resource centre for parents of very young children.

Deborah's Symposium address will discuss *The NYC Experience Implementing Evidence-Based and Informed Practices* and outline a multi-year effort to install and sustain the use of 11 evidence-based, evidence-informed and promising practice models serving over 10,000 families each year who are identified at risk of maltreatment and/or out-of-home placement in New York City.

Recognising that a 'one-size' prevention model does not fit all, ACS used implementation science to frame the tailoring of specific interventions to the range of families in all five boroughs in New York. This presentation offers the lessons learned from the ACS integration of research evidence into its preventive service continuum.

Deborah will also participate in the afternoon panel session so there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and explore Deborah's valuable insight and experience.



## Keynote Speaker

# Chris Vanstone

Chris Vanstone is the Chief Innovation Officer at The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) and has more than 18 years experience developing innovative programs and strategies in Europe and Australia.

Chris has designed solutions to increase democratic participation, reduce household carbon emissions, build relationships for socially isolated older people, enable more young people to thrive and has a special interest in families. At TACSI he co-founded the Radical Redesign team and co-led the creation of Family by Family - winner of an Australian International Design Awards. As Chief Innovation Officer his role is to ensure that TACSI keeps experimenting with approaches and interventions that will define our future social systems.

His keynote address asks the important question: 'Will evidence lead us to a brighter future?' Chris will explore what better social systems might look like, how we get there and the importance of evidence, imagination and experimentation. TACSI's work is founded on the belief that individuals are the experts in their own lives, and that future systems must unlock the assets and potential of our communities. In his presentation Chris will draw on examples from across Australia, including here in Victoria.



# Symposium Panellists

**‘How do we improve and innovate in a connected system?’**



## **Facilitator: Dr Sarah Wise**

Dr Sarah Wise has a long research and policy career in developmental child welfare, early childhood and change in complex social systems. She is currently the Good Childhood Fellow in the Department of Social Work at the University of Melbourne.



## **Kelly Stanton**

Kelly Stanton has worked as a practitioner to senior executive level, both within government and the community services sector. She has significant experience in strategic and operational leadership, service and policy design and development, practice and partnership. Throughout her career Kelly has demonstrated her deep personal commitment to the service of women, children, young people and families in Victoria.

Kelly has worked across Child Protection, Youth Justice, Out of Home Care, Homelessness, Disability, Employment Services, Lifeline and Aged Care. She is now the Executive Director, Support and Safety Hubs in Family Safety Victoria. In this role, Kelly leads the establishment and operational oversight of The Orange Door - a new way for women, children and young people experiencing family violence or families who need assistance with the care and wellbeing of children to access the services they need.



## **Paul Linossier**

Paul Linossier is a highly regarded public sector and community services professional, with forty years' experience in leading organisational change and systems reform while maintaining a strong commitment to marginalised and vulnerable people. Paul is the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Ltd. Uniting was established in July 2017 and continues the work of 24 community service works of the Uniting Church. With a budget of \$290 million and 3,800 staff and the same number of volunteers, Uniting has broad engagement in metropolitan, regional and rural communities across the two states.

## Argiri Alisandratos

Argiri Alisandratos is the Deputy Secretary, Children and Families Reform at the Department of Health and Human Services Victoria. Argiri joined the department more than 25 years ago as a child protection practitioner. Since then Argiri has held a number of senior leadership roles within the department.

Having been in charge of service delivery, performance and quality improvements across Southern Eastern Victoria, Argiri is now leading the state-wide design of the Child and Family Services system reform, under the Government's Roadmap for Reform agenda – Strong Families, Safe Children. The Reform agenda will drive detailed design of critical system components and enablers required to deliver the service system changes envisioned in Roadmap for Reform.



## Dion Sing

Dion Sing has spent over a decade working across the community services sector in Victoria. He began his career in residential care working with some of Victoria's most vulnerable young people and progressed into leadership roles, firstly in residential care and followed by roles in foster care, family services and Stronger Families. In 2017, Dion began his current role as Project Manager for Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative's 'As If' Section 18 pilot. This program transfers decision making and case planning responsibilities for some Aboriginal families from DHHS to an Aboriginal organisation and is one of the first of its kind in Australia. This program will move to authorisation later this year.



# Morning Program

Time	Session			
8:00 am	Registration			
9:00 am	<p><b>Welcome to Country by Ron Jones</b>, Wurundjeri Elder</p> <p><b>Minister's Address by Hon Jenny Mikakos</b>, Minister for Families and Children, Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth Affairs</p> <p><b>Symposium Opening by Deb Tsorbaris</b>, CEO Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare</p> <p><b>Keynote Address by Deborah Rubien</b>: The NYC Experience Implementing Evidence-Based and Informed Practices</p>			
10:20 am	Morning Tea			
	State Theatre Lounge	The Amcor Lounge	Members' Dining Room	The Pavilion
10:50 am	<p>The journey from conception to school: How families navigate through early childhood services in a rural Victorian city</p> <p><i>Carina O'Neill</i> <i>Dr Donna Ludvigsen</i> <i>Dr Christina Sadowski</i> Fed Uni, DET, CHCYAP</p>	<p>Reforming family violence service provision through co-production and recovery oriented service models</p> <p><i>Karen Field</i> Drummond Street Family Services</p>	<p>Children and Mothers in Mind - retrieving the mother-child relationship</p> <p><i>Margaret Kertesz</i> <i>Lauren Vanderzeil</i> University of Melbourne, Kids First</p>	<p>Designing a data-informed continuous practice improvement system in family services</p> <p><i>Warren Cann</i> <i>Katrina Herbert</i> Parenting Research Centre, Windermere</p>
11:30 am	<p>Red Hot Go - A Take Two journey of building evidence-informed practice</p> <p><i>Clare Ryan</i> Berry Street Victoria</p>	<p>Life through a lens - an infant-led approach to innovating practice</p> <p><i>Beverley Allen</i> <i>Catherine Fisher</i> Tweedle Child and Family Health Service</p>	<p>Doing It Differently: Insights From Nugel (Belong) - the first Aboriginal children in Aboriginal care</p> <p><i>Lisa Curtis, Sue Anne Hunter</i> VACCA</p>	<p>What are the health needs of Victorian children entering out-of-home care?</p> <p><i>Dr Karen McLean</i> Murdoch Children's Research Institute and University of Melbourne</p>
12:10 pm	<p>Restorative approaches to working with young people</p> <p><i>Glen McClure</i> <i>Glenn Jessop</i> Jesuit Social Services</p>	<p>Baby's first yarn: Newborn Behavioural Observations in the first weeks of life in the MDAS Early Years Service</p> <p><i>Kathy Crouch</i> <i>Leah King</i> <i>Susan Nicolson</i> Mallee District Aboriginal Services, Royal Women's Hospital</p>	<p>Refining Anglicare Victoria's Rapid Response Model - a journey of continuous improvement through innovative case-file auditing and statistical analysis</p> <p><i>David Giles</i> <i>Lalitha Nair</i> Anglicare Victoria</p>	<p>Innovation in Practice to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation</p> <p><i>Tracy Beaton</i> DHHS, Office of Professional Practice</p>

12:40 pm	Lunch			
1:30 pm	<b>Panel in the Pavilion:</b> With not for: Stories and perspectives on participatory approaches in research and practice Facilitated by Lauren Siegmann, Senior Consultant Clear Horizon			
	<b>State Theatre Lounge</b>	<b>The Amcor lounge</b>	<b>Members' Dining Room</b>	<b>The Pavilion</b>
2:00 pm	Embedding best practice in a statewide early childhood intervention service  <i>Dr Kerry Bull</i> <i>Claire Jennings</i> Noah's Ark Inc. and the Centre for Community Child Health	VACCA's Evaluation Framework - Strengthening the evidence base of an ACCO  <i>Kerry Brogan</i> <i>Melanie Ashman</i> VACCA	Respecting sexual safety in out-of-home care: An action research project  <i>Dr Gemma McKibbin,</i> <i>Nick Halfpenny</i> Melbourne University, Mackillop Family Services	Evidence-informed Approaches Panel:  <i>Oliver Hill,</i> OzChild <i>Trish Reck,</i> Anglicare <i>Brigid van Wanrooy,</i> DHHS
2:40 pm	Connections-Uniting Reflective Practice Program: Embedding a therapeutic approach  <i>Dr Renzo Vittorino</i> <i>Tymur Hussein</i> Uniting Connections	Building the evidence for participant co-design - Evaluation of the Parents Building Solutions Program  <i>Jonathon Cummins</i> <i>Dr Heather Morris</i> Anglicare Victoria	Listening to the experiences of victim-survivors and their children - Evaluation of the TRAK Forward Program  <i>Dr Deborah Absler</i> <i>Dr Gaye Mitchell</i> <i>Karen Piscopo</i>	Facilitated by Dr Melinda Polimeni, Senior Practice Design Specialist, Parenting Research Centre (PRC)
3:10 pm	Afternoon Tea			
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Keynote address:</b> Will evidence lead us to a brighter future? Chris Vanstone, Chief Innovative Officer, The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI)			
	<b>Panel:</b> How do we improve and innovate in a connected system? Panellists: Argiri Alisandratos, Deputy Secretary Children and Families Reform (DHHS); Deborah Rubien, Senior Advisor for Evidence-Based Implementation (ACS); Dion Sing, Section 18 Project Manager Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative; Kelly Stanton Executive Director at Family Safety Victoria; Paul Linossier, CEO Uniting VicTas. Facilitated by Dr Sarah Wise University of Melbourne			
	<b>Closing:</b> Professor Cathy Humphreys, University of Melbourne			



#OPEN2018

## Session Key

Diversity and Experience

Innovation and Promising Practice

Implementation and Measurement

Research and Practice with Aboriginal Children and families

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**Why not check out a 2018 OPEN poster presentation throughout the day?**

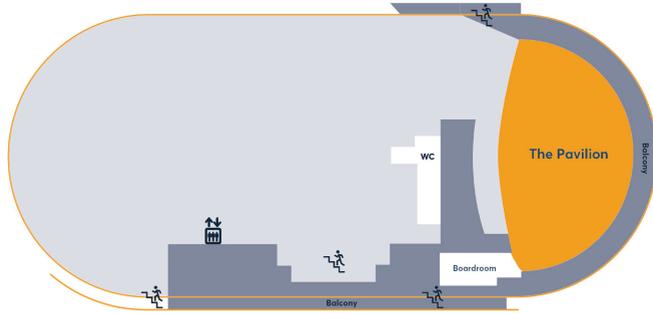
Poster sessions provide an opportunity to increase understanding of sector research projects and their outcomes. They can be viewed at your leisure – however, representatives will be sharing their poster presentations at lunchtime and will be available to answer questions and discuss findings. The posters cover a broad range of topics and are a part of the day not to be missed!

# Arts Centre Melbourne

## 100 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne

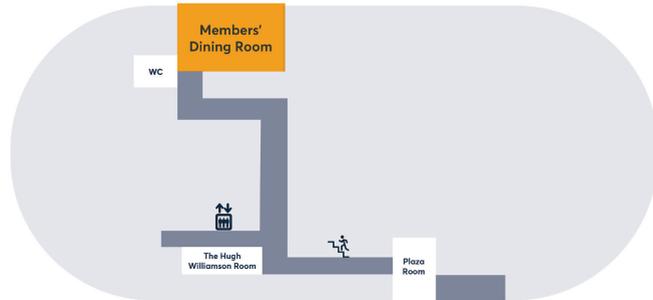
### Level 8

Two levels above ground



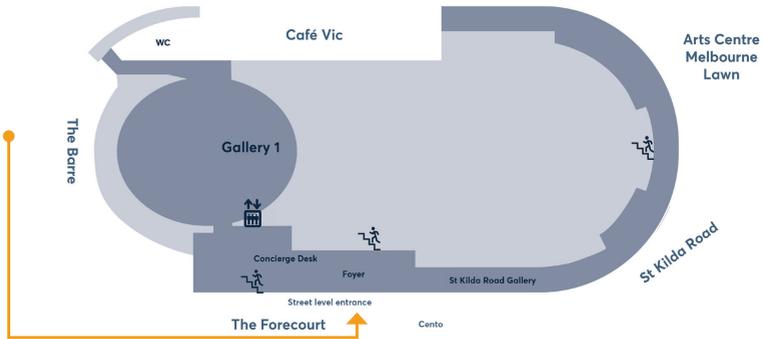
### Level 7

One level above ground



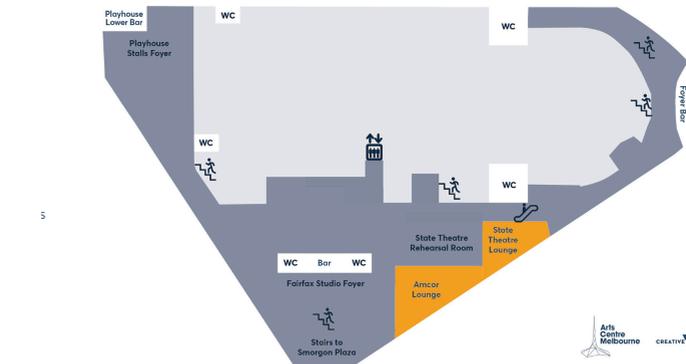
### Level 6

Entry via street level



### Level 3

Three levels below ground



- EVENT SPACES
- wc** TOILETS
- FOYER
- LIFTS
- STAIRS
- ESCALATOR



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