



Centre for Excellence
in Child and Family Welfare Inc.

Annual Report

2018 – 2019

Our Vision

Victorian children, young people and families are safe, happy and connected, with access to support when they need it.

Our Purpose

Policy and Ideas

Develop, influence and advocate for public policies that advance the rights and wellbeing of children, young people and families and address the social, economic and cultural barriers to improving their lives.

Research and Practice

Lead and share research to support innovation and evidence-informed practice.

Capacity Building

Strengthen the capacity of organisations to provide services that best suit the needs of vulnerable families and children.

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in Child and Family Welfare

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Acknowledgements

The Centre respectfully acknowledges that we work on the traditional land of the Kulin Nation, and we acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and those of the future. We acknowledge that we work on stolen land that was never ceded.



We appreciate and celebrate diversity in all its forms. We believe diversity of all kinds makes our teams, services and organisation stronger and more effective.





Chairperson and CEO Reports	4
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Advocating For and With the Sector

100 Years of Child Welfare Advocacy	7
State Election: Campaigning and Advocacy	8
Influencing Policy and Practice	10
Treating Families Fairly	10
Working Alongside Aboriginal Organisations	10
Tri Peaks Initiative	11
Submissions and Reports	11

Walking Alongside Children and Young People

Young Leader's Program	13
Raising Expectations	14
The Power of Young People	17
A Spotlight on Youth Justice	18
Home Stretch	18

Strengthening Sector Capability

Strategic Networking at the Centre	20
Strengthening and Supporting our Workforce	21
Building our Evidence Base	22
Strategic Leadership at the Centre	23
Working with the NDIS to Support Families at Risk	23
Calendar and Customised Training	24
Residential Care Learning and Development Strategy Training	24
E-Learning at the Centre	25
Child Safeguarding in Organisations	26
Resi Rocks 2019	27

Growing a Responsive and Sustainable Centre

Fostering Connections	29
2019 Study Tour	30
Reconciliation Action Plan	30
Our Board and Staff Team	32
Our Member Organisations	33
Financial Reports	34

Chair's Report

If the measure of a year is relevant to a life of a member of a peak organisation, then the 2018-2019 year has been a very significant one for the Centre of Excellence in Child and Family Welfare.

Over the last year the Centre has navigated itself effectively through a state election, welcomed a new Minister, engaged at all levels of government, advised on critical policy and program issues for children and family welfare, and serviced the needs of the membership in times of high demand and fiscal restraint.

We welcomed Minister Donnellan as the new Minister Child Protection to the portfolio and throughout the year have welcomed his openness and ease of access that he and his Department officials have displayed throughout the year.

The Centre was also integral, as Co-Chair of Home Stretch for Victoria, in gaining a historic breakthrough for care leavers, by the state government announcing that, for the first time, it acknowledges it has a formal role in supporting youth through to 21 years, through the provision of 250 extended care placements to 21 years over the next 5 years.

The Centre held and led a range of significant forums including CEO Breakfast with Kym Peake, 2018 Victorian Election Panel and Themes & Lessons from the 1st Year of Reportable Conduct with Liana Buchanan that have improved policy and strategic advancement of these issues over the year.

We also saw the Centre flourish in establishing the Outcomes, Practice and Evidence Network (OPEN) initiative which connects workers, researchers and policy-makers across Victoria.

The Centre's strong standing within the community sector and government is reflected through Deb Tsorbaris being Co-Chair with Minister Donnellan of

the Roadmap Implementation Ministerial Advisory Group (RIMAG). This is the preeminent policy forum to advance the Victorian Governments agenda for vulnerable children, youth and families.

The Centre has also provided significant leadership and advocacy to government, on behalf of members, on the financial sustainability and viability of the sector and the need for government to understand the impacts of various decisions and commitments against community sector financial imperatives.

On all measure it has been a very successful year for the Centre.

Looking ahead, the Centre is already turning its mind to what are the right investments and approaches in response to the significant demands faced by the child protection and community sector system, and the needs of the child, youth and family within this service paradigm.

I would like to thank the Centre's CEO Deb Tsorbaris for her leadership of the Centre, on behalf of her staff, the membership and the Board. I would also like to thank all of the staff of the Centre for their work and commitment to the cause and tasks of the Centre. Finally I would like to thank my fellow board members for their contribution to the stewardship and effectiveness of the Centre throughout 2018-2019.



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "P McDonald".

Paul McDonald
Chairperson

CEO's Report

Every day over the past year, I have seen the commitment of our members. Your dedication to supporting families, protecting and empowering children, breaking down economic, social and cultural barriers, and working to end disadvantage and inequality in our communities, is nothing short of inspirational.

In a year where Greta Thunberg and thousands of children and young people have taken to the streets, demanding a better, safer and more united future society, we at the Centre have focused our energy and resources on supporting young people with experience of our service systems to speak out and find their power.

In May 2019, we proudly launched Victoria's Outcomes, Practice and Evidence Network (OPEN) portal. The portal supports practitioners and sector partners to explore, use and share evidence to improve programs and practice. Evidence-based programs and evidence-informed models of care are starting to achieve remarkable results and outcomes for participating children and their families. The Centre has had a critical role in promoting sector-led developments and achievements in these areas.

In December 2018 we marked 100 years since the Australasian Child-Welfare Conference was run by the Centre's precursor: the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria. I thank and acknowledge our patron, Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott AM, for her inspiring presentation at the anniversary event and her ongoing support for our work at the Centre.

In 2018, we welcomed Hon Luke Donnellan MLA as Victoria's new Minister for Child Protection. We welcome the opportunity to work closely with Minister Donnellan in his role as Minister for Child Protection and as Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers. We also welcomed Nick Wakeling MLA to the role of Shadow Minister for Child Protection.

It has been a pleasure to work with Minister Donnellan to continue the work of the Roadmap Implementation Ministerial Advisory Group (RIMAG). As Co-Chair of the group I look forward to

progressing the RIMAG on to the next stage of its evolution.

Our Raising Expectations program continued to grow, with a new funding agreement from the state government and many more care leavers enrolling in post-secondary education. At the beginning of 2019, we welcomed an additional partner in Swinburne University, joining La Trobe University and Federation University in the program.

The Centre continues to broaden its expertise and influence across policy domains, including mental health, health, education, justice and higher education.

Finally, June 2019 saw our largest ever Resi ROCKS conference at the MCG, with over 410 residential care workers, CEOs, supervisors, senior managers and DHHS representatives from across Victoria attending.

I would like to extend my gratitude to my Board Chair Paul McDonald and all our board members for their support and expertise, and the staff at the Centre for their fantastic work.

To our member organisations: we are here because of you. Thank you for dedicating your time to supporting the young people and families who need it most in Victoria. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work alongside you and see the impact of your amazing work.

We look forward to a collaborative, innovative, challenging and creative year ahead, as we continue to advocate alongside children, young people, carers, families, and the organisations that work with them.



A handwritten signature in white ink that reads 'Deb Tsorbaris'.

Deb Tsorbaris CEO



Advocating For and With the Sector

Our members are at the centre of all the work we do. Over the last year, we've seen the impact of our work grow to benefit the children, young people and families we represent.



Event Spotlight **100 Years of Child Welfare Advocacy**

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of the Australasian Child-Welfare Conference run by the Centre's precursor, the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria. In recognition, the Centre held an event at the University of Melbourne to celebrate a century of child welfare advocacy in Victoria.

We honoured contemporary and past creative leadership across the sector, and showcased current and historic agitators – those who changed how Victorians care for the most vulnerable, who perceived new ways of working, and who challenged the habits and dogmas of the past.

Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott AM delivered a special keynote on transformational reform, and Centre Young Leader Aedan Brittain presented on his journey through the care system and the importance of empathy, trauma-informed practice, and cultural change in the sector. A panel featuring Berry Street CEO Michael Perusco, Kirsty Allen from the Sidney Myer Fund, OzChild CEO Lisa Griffiths, and Reverend Canon Dr Ray Cleary, former CEO of Anglicare, explored current challenges and opportunities, and learnings from the past.

The event also paid tribute to the late Neale Molloy, a pioneer of children's welfare policy and practice who was instrumental in the de-institutionalisation of children in care.

Image:
Professor Dorothy Scott AM

State Election

Campaigning and Advocacy

In 2018, the Centre proactively launched our Victorian election campaign to call on the state government to place children and families at the centre of its policies and plans for Victoria.

We spoke to member organisations in regional and metropolitan Victoria about the needs of children, young people, and families and petitioned these to an incoming government.

The Centre's **#voteforchildren** election campaign gained significant media coverage, particularly in regional and rural Victoria in the areas corresponding with the Centre's election launch events.

Our demand was for a \$400 million investment in integrated family services.

Each regional launch also focused on issues particular to those areas, and these were specifically called in our media work alongside our members.

In the Latrobe Valley, the Centre and Quantum Support Services highlighted the statistic that fifty per cent of children in Morwell are developmentally vulnerable.

With an Orange Door facility under construction close to the Quantum Support Services' building, we highlighted the need for appropriate funding to respond to people coming through The Orange Door.

In Ballarat, the Centre joined with Child and Family Services Ballarat (CAFS) to draw attention to the waiting list for integrated family services in the

Ballarat region. CAFS works with 7000 people in the community; Ballarat's lack of emergency housing meant a high number of vulnerable young people were forced to live in motels and hotels.

In Mildura, the Centre and Mallee Family Care addressed the issue of difficulties in education outcomes for young people in the Mallee, with more than 25 percent of 17 to 24-year-olds not completing VCE or undertaking further education compared to a State-wide average of 11.6 percent.

The Centre also drew on the need for early prevention and a need to invest in integrated family services to prevent families going into crisis.

In Bendigo, the Centre was at Anglicare's regional office drawing attention to how drug and alcohol issues, along with rising mental health concerns in some parts of Bendigo's population, put some children at greater risk.

And the Centre was alongside Berry Street in Shepparton at the Education First Youth Foyer, drawing attention to the difference between NSW carer compensation and that in Victoria.

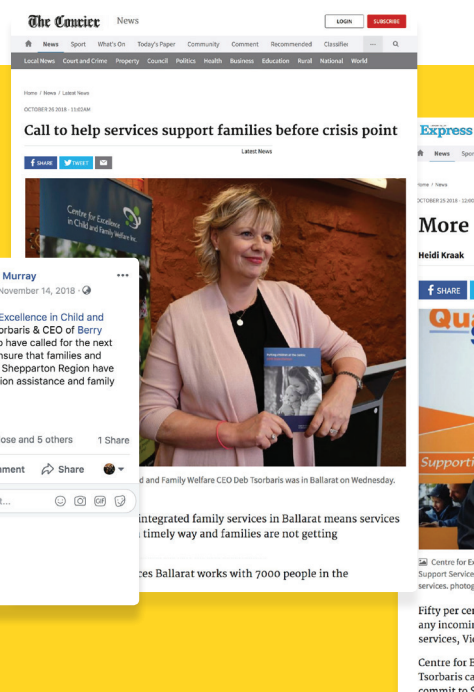
Our CEO Deb was quoted in local news saying "across the border in NSW every child gets an allocation of \$5000 when they come into care so that the carer and the agency can be responsive to the needs of that child. We don't do that here — and we need to."

"Children aren't getting what they need. The level of investment in this is very minor compared to roads, hospitals and schools, and it's time for that to change."

In the media

The Centre achieved significant media coverage throughout our election campaign, including stories in:

- ABC Mildura-Swan Hill
- ABC Goulburn Murray
- ABC Central Victoria
- The Age
- Bendigo Advertiser
- La Trobe Valley Express
- The Courier
- Mildura Weekly
- Sunraysia Daily
- Shepparton News



Creating Change Together

Our advocacy work with member organisations saw the re-elected Andrews government commit to a number of the Centre's election asks in its 2019 Budget, namely:

- ✓ \$11.6 million over five years to roll out a Home Stretch trial, starting in the first half of 2019, which will give 250 young care leavers the option of remaining in care until the age of 21
- ✓ Free dental care for all primary and secondary school students in all Victorian government schools
- ✓ A \$232 million parenting package to support new parents and the early years, that will see seven new early parenting centres built across regional and metropolitan Victoria, a refurbishment of the Queen Elizabeth Centre and Tweddle Australia's facilities, and baby bundles equipped with essential items delivered to all first-time parents in Victoria
- ✓ \$5 billion in the next decade to deliver 15 hours per week of subsidised three-year-old kinder
- ✓ A \$3.4 million expansion of the LOOKOUT program to help children in out-of-home care access kinder programs and transition to school
- ✓ \$4 million to Neighbourhood Houses and community organisations across Victoria to run child car seat fitting and safety checks
- ✓ \$49.5 million to fund an extra 100,000 hours of respite care each year, plus carers will receive half price travel on public transport, with free travel during Carers Week
- ✓ A Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System
- ✓ \$209 million to build 1000 community and public housing properties
- ✓ The Government's new model of kinship care received ongoing funding for the first time, \$106.1 million over 4 years. This initiative will provide dedicated kinship care workers, help identify kinship networks earlier, reunite more children safely with their families and improve placement stability.
- ✓ \$23 million in funding over the next 2 years will be provided to continue the reform of the Children and Families sector, moving it from a crisis response to early intervention and prevention. The Better Futures initiative will continue to support young people leaving the care system. Trials of three innovative new models of out of home care – Treatment Foster Care Oregon, Keep Embracing Your Success (KEYS) and Sibling Support and Placement Service, will be maintained to build the evidence base for initiatives that support children to reach their potential.
- ✓ \$26.9 million was announced to meet demand for care of children who are unable to live with their families, including support for children with significant disability needs, who require residential care or a facility-based shared care placement, which is not currently provided under the NDIS.

These were incredibly important commitments for the wellbeing of all Victorians, and we will continue to support the implementation of these policies.

While this was a great start, there is still more that can be done to ensure that all children and young people in Victoria grow up safe, supported, and connected to community and culture and we will continue to work towards this as a sector.

The Centre will now focus on preparing a campaign for dedicated needs-based, demand-driven funding for child and family services, building on the momentum of our work with our members.



Influencing Policy and Practice

Treating Families Fairly

Treating Families Fairly is an informal alliance of community service organisations, peak bodies and academics united in fighting against punitive welfare policies. The network comes together semi regularly at the Centre to challenge and lobby against policies and programs that increase hardship for children and families. David Tennant, CEO of FamilyCare, facilitates the meetings in partnership with the Centre. The network provides opportunities for information sharing, scrutiny of government-commissioned evaluations, gathering evidence of policy impacts on children and families, and for collective advocacy on behalf of the child and family services workforce.

In Anti-Poverty Week 2018, the network released its Statement of Principles, urging the government to commit to principles-driven and evidence-informed solutions to ending poverty in Australia and to treating recipients of welfare with dignity and fairness. In April 2019, we met with National Children's Commissioner Megan Mitchell to hear about her priority areas and explore how we could work together to advocate for the rights and wellbeing of children. We would like to thank all members of the network who give up their time to advocate with, and for, families and to David Tennant for his leadership.

Working Alongside Aboriginal Organisations and Colleagues

In 2018-19, the Centre continued to work alongside our Aboriginal colleagues to help embed the principles of self-determination across Victorian government reforms. As a signatory to Wungurwilwil Gapgapduir, we sit on the Implementation Working Group and contribute to delivery of priorities and actions. We attended each of the Aboriginal Children's Forums held during 2018-19, making the most of caucus opportunities to plan community service organisation responses and actions in support of Aboriginal self-determination. We are also members of key working groups and steering committees designed to facilitate the transition of Aboriginal children into Aboriginal care and the development of Cultural Support Plans for all Aboriginal children in care. Consistent with the Centre's commitment to evidence-informed practice, we were also a member of the evaluation panel assessing Round 1 and 2 Innovation and Learning fund applications from Aboriginal and Community Controlled Organisations.



Tri Peaks Initiative Launches

The Centre is thrilled to be partnering with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and fellow peak organisations the Victorian Healthcare Association and Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association for the Tri Peaks initiative. Over three years, we will undertake a cross-sector collaborative project harnessing our collective capability, insights and influence to address systemic health and human services issues to benefit children, young people and families.

This innovative project is the first of its kind and will deliver a transformative, cross-sector model of collaboration between the three peaks in a universal service setting to help break the cycle for vulnerable families and children. Tri Peaks will improve the quality and safety of services delivered to shared clients with a focus on more timely access to appropriate service interventions.

The Centre thanks DHHS for its significant investment in this initiative and looks forward to sharing further updates and milestones.



Submissions and Reports

Our submissions in 2018-19 included:

- State Budget 2019-20
- ParentsNext, including its trial and subsequent broader rollout
- The Centre was invited to present at the Senate Committee's public hearing alongside our colleagues from the Council of Single Mothers and their Children, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand and the National Council of Single Mothers and their Children.
- In the Centre's opening statement, we recommended that the ParentsNext program be suspended and called for an investigation into the harmful impacts of the program on children and their families.
- Review of the Social Security Commission Bill 2018
- Review of the Victorian Child Safe Standards
- Productivity Commission Inquiry into Mental Health
- Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management and Cashless Welfare) Bill 2019
- Legislated Spent Convictions Scheme
- Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System
- Adequacy of Newstart and related payments and alternative mechanisms to determine the level of income support payments in Australia
- Victorian Ombudsman investigation into solitary confinement



Walking Alongside Children and Young People

Children and young people are the force behind the movements bringing millions of people together from all over the globe, rallying around the causes and issues that matter most.

Young Leader's Program

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare's inaugural Young Leaders Program ran from July 2018 to June 2019. It was designed and run in response to an identified need in both the Centre and the sector for young people with lived experience of out-of-home care to be meaningfully included in projects, events, policy discussions, consultations and day-to-day work.

The first iteration of the program began in July 2018, with five young people aged 18-25 hired by the Centre as consultants. The participants were provided with contracts and worked with the facilitator to set educational and career goals and to develop a work plan. Participants engaged in group workshops with a focus on advocacy and building critical professional skills, and received individual mentoring and supervision sessions throughout the year-long program. Individual work was tailored to the interests and needs of each participant.

The pilot program was a significant step in ensuring that the voices and expertise of young people with lived experience of the out-of-home care system were given weight. In the first year of the program, participants were integral to the success of the Home Stretch campaign, spoke at all major Centre events and forums, engaged in vital strategy and content work for several Centre projects including Raising Expectations and OPEN, and supported Centre staff and our member organisation colleagues in putting participation into practice.

An evaluation was undertaken, with reviews of each participant's personal development plans throughout the program, supervision and goal-setting sessions, and individual anonymous interviews at the conclusion of the program managed by the Centre's OPEN Manager.

The feedback from participants in the final interviews was incredibly positive:

"The Centre saw beyond my lived experience and helped me focus on my professional goals. I've done this work with a bunch of organisations."

"It's different than doing advocacy with other organisations, with them it has been one sided- I have promoted their org but they are not helping me progress – but with the Centre it's different, I can take a lot into the future."

"I liked everyone being able to have their say without being judged. We all had similar life experiences, so we understood each other."

Participants also provided advice on ways to improve the program in the future, which the Centre will utilise when designing the next version of the Young Leaders Program. The Centre looks forward to continuing this important program for years to come.

Ethical youth participation looks like:

- ✓ Young people meaningfully engaged with organisations as experts and colleagues
- ✓ Appropriate training, feedback and support is provided to young people
- ✓ Young people receive fair payment for their time and expertise
- ✓ Opportunities are meaningful, inclusive and accessible
- ✓ Young people have the space to be and provide more than just their stories and backgrounds, and are supported to tell their stories safely
- ✓ The physical, emotional, religious and cultural safety of young people is prioritised
- ✓ Young people receive feedback on the outcomes of projects or events that they participate in
- ✓ Organisations seek feedback from young people on process, outcomes and best practice.



Raising Expectations

Over 240 care leaver students are studying at Federation University Australia, La Trobe University and Swinburne University of Technology

The Raising Expectations program continued its success in 2018-19, with care leaver student enrolments across partner universities increasing fivefold since 2016. The program welcomed Swinburne University of Technology to the collaboration in late 2018. Swinburne is now providing dedicated personalised support, services, scholarships, and grants to care leaver students accessing both their vocational and university courses across all three campuses.

We are delighted to say that in late June 2018, the Hon. Gayle Tierney Minister for Training, Skills and higher Education, formally announced multi-year funding for Raising Expectations. The Centre looks forward to being able to scale up the program to share its ongoing successes more widely. The funding, to be used over three

years, will help the program reach more care leavers, more education institutions, provide further support to the sector, and encourage a more integrated approach with DET education initiatives, including the Skills First Youth Access Initiative.

The Centre will continue to work in partnership with Federation University Australia, La Trobe University and Swinburne University to support more care leavers to go onto study in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education. We will expand our work more broadly into TAFE and higher education to encourage and support more young people in care and care leavers to go on to study.

Building on the positive impacts identified in our program evaluation in July 2018, Raising Expectations is now supporting increasing numbers of vocational, higher education and university students. We are expanding our reach across and within workforce groups in the community, education and higher education sectors, government and carers to better inform and support them about the supports available in post school pathways for young care leavers.



Victorian Protecting Children Awards Winner

Raising Expectations was honoured to receive the Education Initiative Award at the 2018 Victorian Protecting Children Awards. The Centre, Federation University Australia and La Trobe University were recognised for their work in supporting young people in out-of-home care to go on to higher education at an award ceremony in September 2018.



Young People in the Media

In 2018-19, the Raising Expectations program received significant media coverage across state and national publications. One of the highlights was a story in The Age with Centre Young Leader Brittany Witnish, who is finishing her Masters of Social Work at Monash University.

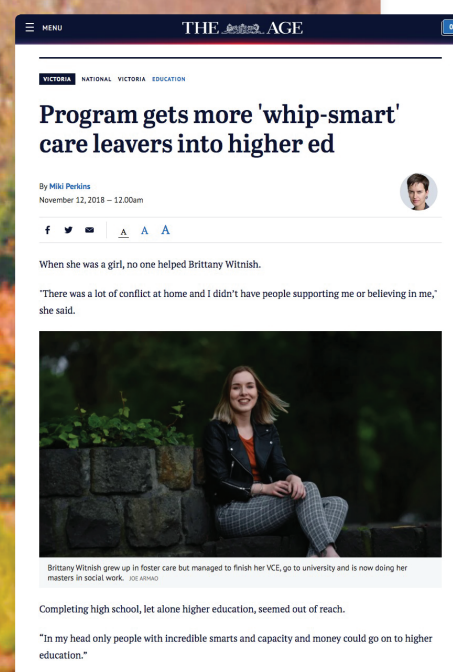
"In my head only people with incredible smarts and capacity and money could go on to higher education," she told The Age.

La Trobe University student Nicola Berry, who now works directly with the Raising Expectations program, penned a fantastic piece for The Australian on the stigma and 'soft bigotry' that young people who go through the care system often face.

"I will admit that I have defied odds when faced with these statistics, but I do not want my case to be celebrated. I want it to be normalised."

The project was also featured in the Bendigo Advertiser prior to the REACH for La Trobe event, held at La Trobe's Bendigo campus. The event invited young people in care, carers and families, workers, and teachers to discover the pathways and opportunities available to care leavers at La Trobe University.

In October 2018, Raising Expectations and the Centre launched a video featuring Ashten, a second-year nursing student at Federation University. Ashten spoke about her experience, "I think I would have signed up to uni a lot earlier had I known that there was an option of higher education for me."

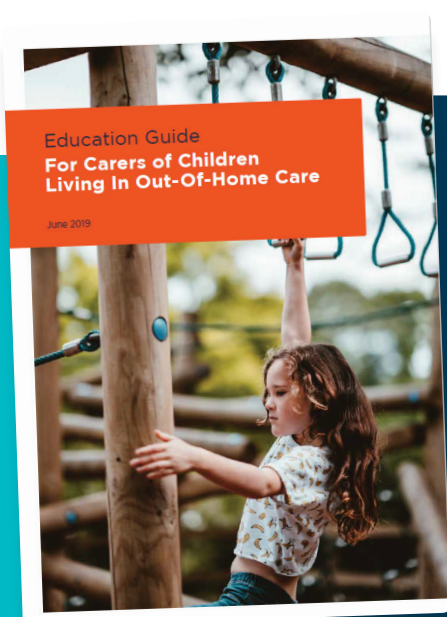


Raising Expectations

Raising Expectations Contributes to Evaluation, Policy and Practice in Education

The Raising Expectations collaboration contributes to evidence and evaluation, policy, program and practice across the education space. In 2018-19, this included:

- Extensive promotion of the Education Partnering Agreements to carers and workers including flyers on 'Understanding the Education Partnering Agreements for Children and Young People in Out of Home Care'.
- A Higher Education Roundtable run in collaboration with DET to identify opportunities to collaborate and improve transitions to higher education for young people in care. Senior representatives from the Department, community and higher education sectors were in attendance.
- Submission to and participation in the Parliamentary Inquiry into Career Advice Activities in Victorian schools advocating for improvements in support for young people in care. Report tabled August 2018.
- Active participation and advocacy for children and young people in care at state and sector-wide decision-making groups including the DHHS State-wide Leaving Care Reform Reference Group, DET-Victorian Community Sector Governance Group, LOOKOUT Experts Insight Group, Legal Pod Program Reference Group, and Home Stretch Expert Advisory Group.
- A presentation to the Victorian Equity Practitioners Network comprising RMIT, Swinburne, Deakin, Federation and La Trobe Universities. RMIT and Deakin are exploring opportunities to provide support to care leavers.



Education Guide for Carers of Children in Out-of-Home Care

In June 2019, the Centre and Raising Expectations launched an Education Guide for Carers, with the support of the Department of Education and Training. The guide was released online, with information, resources and links for carers. The Education Guide is inclusive of the early years of a child's life, all the way through to life and education beyond school, and also provides advice on mental health and support for carers.

The Power of Young People

**“We have powerful stories to share.
Stories of strength and resilience.
Stories that are often invisible.
This is our call.”**

Our Call

In August 2018, the Centre ran Our Call: an event for young people to take their stories back. Working across child and family services, we know that many young people who experience disadvantage have their stories twisted and played with by politicians, and their images reshaped and splashed across the front page of newspapers.

Our Call took an important step in breaking down stigma and supporting young people to have power over their own stories and lives. It supported young people who have had contact with different service systems to tell the world what worked, what didn't and how we can create change together.

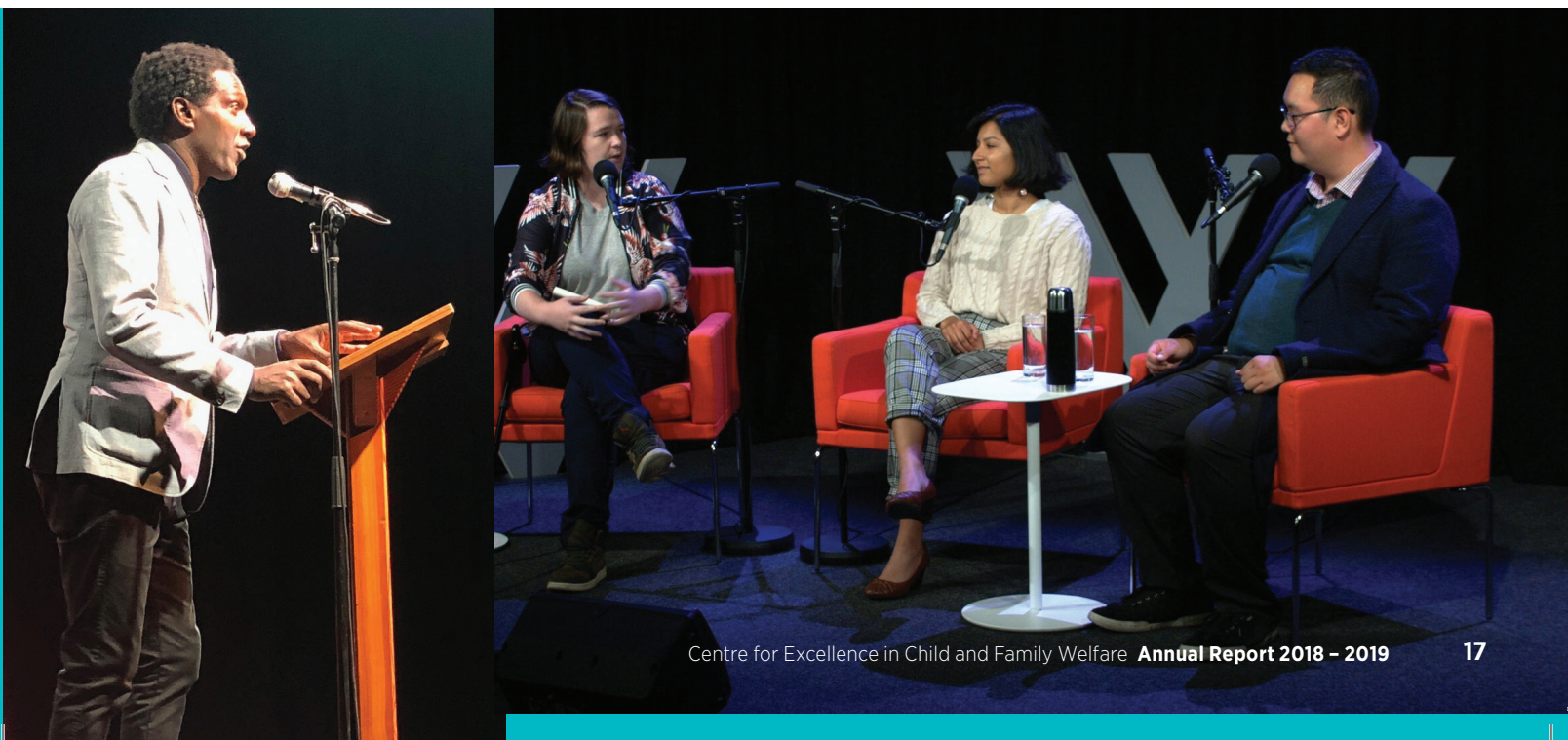
We were incredibly excited to welcome keynote speaker and slam poet Lemn Sissay from the UK to kick off the event, and many of our young speakers had the chance to chat with him during the day. Young people and practitioners from Melbourne City Mission, Koorie Youth Council, CREATE, and the Centre's Young Leaders program spoke on panels and presented their stories and calls-to-action.

Award-winning author Eleni Hale chaired a panel featuring young people who had spent time in out-of-home care, and Australia's first school lawyer Vincent Shin presented on his extraordinary story and work. The sold-out event was sponsored by the Home Stretch campaign.

Beyond Your Command: Youth Activism Today

In April 2019, the Centre ran an event in partnership with The Wheeler Centre platforming the voices of young Australian activists and advocates. Beyond Your Command featured Lawrence Chang, Paige Burton and Maiysha Moin, young advocates working across intersecting political and social movements. The sold-out event discussed the sweeping tide of youth activism now reaching all corners of the globe: from the climate crisis, to the rights of First Nations people, to the hidden stories of young people in out-of-home care, and queer rights.

The conversation investigated what advocacy looks like for young people whose voices haven't traditionally been sought, and who are often criticised in the media or by politicians. It was a fantastic evening, with each young person bringing elements of their personal stories and their activism work to the table. The Centre will continue to platform the voices of children and young people, and to support young activists. Together, we are powerful.



A Spotlight on Youth Justice



Following the 2017 Ogloff and Armytage review into Victoria's youth justice system, the Centre increased its advocacy to make sure that a reformed youth justice system is person-centred, therapeutically informed and based on the best available evidence.

The Centre has built working relationships with a range of key stakeholders, including the Department of Justice and Community Safety, and member organisations delivering services to young people and children who are involved in the youth justice system.

As part of our enhanced advocacy role, the Centre hosted a 'Young people involved in youth justice' meeting of sector members in June 2019. The purpose of this group will be to harness our collective expertise to advocate for evidence-informed solutions to address the over representation of disadvantaged young people in the youth justice system. Members who attended the meeting highlighted a range of issues which the Centre has consistently raised in meetings with government representatives.



Home Stretch Campaign Win



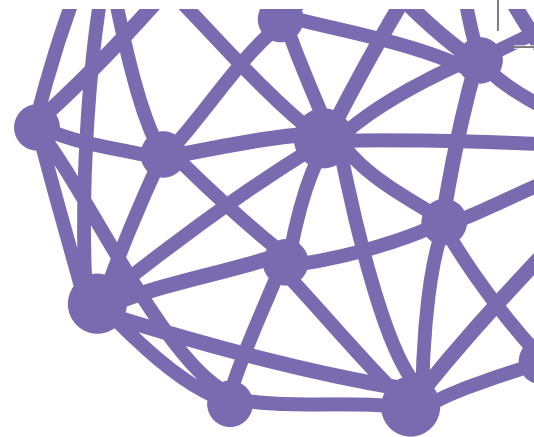
In April 2019, the Victorian government launched a \$11.6 million trial to provide support for 250 young people over five years, giving those in foster or kinship care the choice to remain after their 18th birthday, and supporting young people in residential care to find alternative housing.

This trial is a significant step in the campaign to change Victoria's legislation and service delivery so that all children and young people living in out-of-home care have the support they need beyond the age of 18. The Centre is a member of the Home Stretch advisory group that continues to push for care to be universally extended to 21 years of age.



Strengthening Sector Capability

Strategic Networking at the Centre



The Centre's practitioner and sector networks are vital to our member organisations and stakeholders, and represent a chance for the sector to consult, network, and drive advocacy initiatives together. Representatives from member and sector organisations, as well as government and universities, join us from regional and metro areas to discuss strategy, influence policy and legislative change, and identify best practice.

Foster Care Network

The Centre facilitated four Foster Care Network Meetings as a forum for consultation, collaboration, discussion of common issues and challenges and information sharing between foster care agencies, DHHS, Foster Care Association of Victoria and other related bodies and organisations.

Throughout 2018-19, the group discussed and provided feedback on the implementation of Client Incident Management, expansion of mandatory reporting to out-of-home care workers, practice improvement strategies, changes in the foster care training and assessment packages and the Productivity Commission's inquiry into mental health.

Orange Door, Child FIRST and Integrated Family Services Network

The Orange Door, Child FIRST and Integrated Practice Network meetings have continued to attract high numbers of attendees with a variety of presentations at each meeting. The group has been particularly interested in tracking progress of the Orange Door roll out. Family Safety Victoria has provided regular updates and network members have shared their own challenges and solutions.

Leaving Care and Post Care Network

Over 2018-19, the Centre delivered four Leaving Care and Post Care Network Forums to workers and practitioners from across Victoria. A growing number of participants attended from regional and rural Victoria, with approximately 145 participants in the network.

The network covered a wide range of topics. Standout presentations and sessions included NDIS Readiness and Navigating the NDIS, Skills and Jobs Centres, Springboard Indigenous Program, and a conversation with young care leaver and advocate Brittany Witnish. The network received regular updates from DHHS on leaving care reform.

Rainbow Tick Discussion Group

Rainbow Tick accreditation demonstrates that an organisation is committed to safe and inclusive practice and service delivery for LGBTIQ+ people. The Rainbow Tick Discussion Group network meets on a quarterly basis with approximately 40 people attending throughout the year. Members are highly collaborative and generously share ideas, resources and learnings to assist other organisations in gaining accreditation.

Quality Learning Circles

Quarterly meetings of the Quality Learning Circle were held, with over 120 people in attendance throughout 2018-19. Members were provided with regular updates from DHHS regarding the rollout of the Community Services Quality Governance Framework, Client Incident Management System (CIMS), and reports on Out-of-Home Care Audits. The meeting also gave members the chance to share practical strategies, innovative ideas and tools to support quality assurance and embed changes coming from the reforms. Special interest working groups have been created in response to areas of concern to provide additional opportunities to share experiences and identify system improvements.

Placement Prevention and Reunification Network

A small group of around 12 sector representatives attended each of the quarterly meetings held in 2018-19. The main topics discussed on a regular basis were Families First, Stronger Families, service modelling, pre-unification and unification casework, Early Parenting Centres, and updates from the Department.



Kinship Care Network

The Kinship Care Network Group met four times over 2018-19 to discuss challenges experienced by kinship carers but also to share good practice examples from the sector. A strong feature of these meetings is the willingness to share practice experiences, including challenges and what is working well. Regular topics included updates from Kinship Carers Victoria, department updates and updates from the researchers who attend the meetings.

Out-of-Home Care Funders Group

The Out-of-Home Care Funders Group is a collaborative network connecting philanthropists with a shared interest in improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people who are at risk of entering, in, or have an experience of out-of-home care. The group is facilitated by the Centre and supported by Equity Trustees. The Centre would like to acknowledge Emily Cormack for her continued support of the group. Members of the group granted a round of funding for a transformative program for care leavers in 2018-19. We thank our outgoing Project Manager Jo McMahon for her significant contribution to the network.

The Brighter Futures Transformation Pilot: Learning for Life through Community Connection was funded through six philanthropic members of the Out of Home Care Funders Network. It is a collective impact initiative in Outer Eastern Melbourne that works to identify young people's strengths, passions and goals and connect them to community members who can support the aspirations they have for their lives. Brighter Futures has helped create an enabling environment for innovation and systems change, exploring how young people and community members achieve improved outcomes for young people with an out of home care experience.

Strengthening and Supporting our Workforce

Workforce Initiatives

In 2018, the Centre was funded by DHHS to implement several workforce initiatives from the Child and Family Services Industry Plan 2018-21. Specifically, the Centre has been funded to undertake the following in response to the need for an appropriately skilled and trained workforce:

- research best practice approaches to leadership support and make recommendations for establishing a sector Leadership Academy
- attract new workers to the sector by developing a paid internship program

Leadership Academy

The Learning Evidence Adaptive Dynamic (LEAD): The future of leadership in Child, Youth & Family Services model was developed following a review of research, CEO and senior leader consultations, and consultations with Victorian and national leadership entities. LEAD offers a variety of programs to meet the development needs of existing and emerging leaders across the child and family services sector. The model incorporates the Adaptive Leadership approach, recognising the complexities of the issues and multiple stakeholders that our leaders need to successfully navigate. Some examples of planned LEAD activities include: Study Tour 2020, Masterclasses, CEO for the Day, and CEO/Board Breakfasts.

Paid Internship

Student field education provides a valuable construct for work-integrated learning and has reciprocal benefits for students and employers, including workforce readiness. Sector consultations indicated that current field education models were not meeting needs and competition for skilled graduates was increasing, creating recruitment challenges. The Centre explored more flexible and innovative approaches to work-integrated opportunities that would also contribute to attracting high quality and workforce ready graduates. Expressions of interest are still open for other CSOs to be involved.

Building our Evidence Base

OPEN (Outcomes, Practice and Evidence Network)

In 2018-19, the Centre continued to work with the Department of Health and Human Services, researchers and practitioners in child and family services to build the scope, reach and impact of the Outcomes, Practice and Evidence Network (OPEN).

OPEN hosted a range of events and opportunities for knowledge building, including several events with Deborah Rubien from the New York City Administration for Children's Services and several forums showcasing progress and achievements by Learning System Grant recipients.

2018 OPEN Symposium

In October, the Centre hosted our 2018 OPEN Symposium at the Arts Centre. The sold-out event was incredibly successful, with over 250 delegates from across the sector coming together to hear from international, national and local speakers. The theme was Connecting the Dots: Better Outcomes for Children and Families.

OPEN Portal Launch

In May 2019, we officially launched our OPEN Portal with Minister Luke Donnellan. The OPEN Portal exists for the child and family services sector, to connect practice experience with research and evaluation expertise across Victoria. It supports practitioners, managers and leaders to learn, explore and discover new ways of working and collaborating. It features case studies from member organisations, resources for those new to the evidence journey, and lots of events and support from our OPEN team.

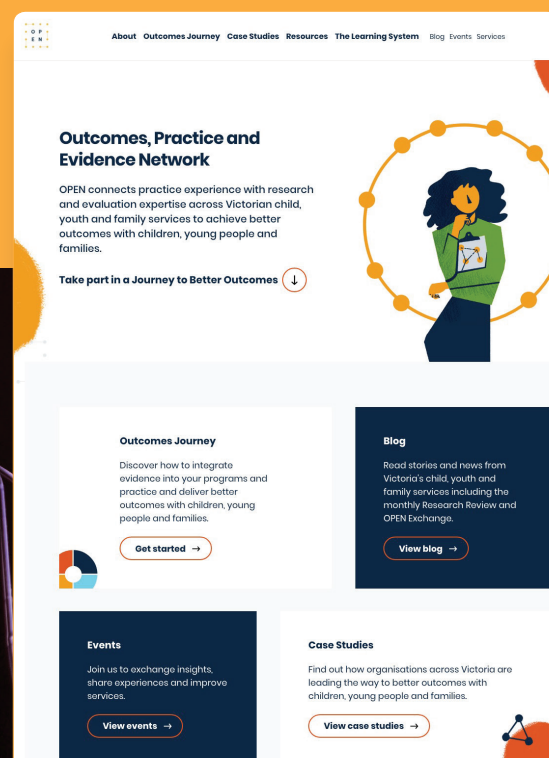
Learning System Grants

The 2019 OPEN Portal launch was followed by a forum featuring the 2018 Learning System Grants recipients. Each organisation shared the learnings, successes and challenges they experienced when putting their Learning System Grant projects into practice. Organisations from across the sector partnered with researchers to develop innovative approaches, evaluate initiatives and improve practice through data and outcomes measurement.

Implementation Support

The Centre was funded by the DHHS during 2018-19 to participate in two projects aimed at building knowledge and skills in the child and family services sector. The Centre established three Practice Lead roles in Evidence-Based Program (EBP) Implementation Support, Common Elements Approach, and Knowledge Building.

As part of the EBP Implementation Support role, the Centre worked closely with a small number of organisations participating in a pilot of EBPs in a Victorian context. As part of the Common Elements Approach trial, the Centre participated in a series of workshops with community service organisations involved in the pilot. These sessions were designed to assist CSOs to select the relevant common elements to be coached in and the Centre helped monitor progress during implementation. The knowledge building role involved mapping the evidence-informed practices and programs being implemented by CSOs across the state. All work will be showcased through the OPEN portal.



Calendar and Customised Training

In 2018-19, the Centre delivered training to practitioners, managers and leaders from across the child and family services sector and beyond. We provided almost 100 calendar and customised training sessions, with more than 1,700 participants from member and non-member organisations. The Centre responded to the needs of the sector and engaged new trainers to develop innovative programs and workshops to meet sector needs.

Training Participation

Customised training	41 programs developed and delivered 976 participants in customised training
Standard training	56 programs delivered 786 participants in standard training
	97 total programs 1,762 total participants

Nationally Accredited Training

Diploma	134 participants 15 units/ courses (Each unit counted as 1 course)
Beginning Practice	126 participants 12 courses (Block of 4 units counted as 1 course)
Certificate IV	5 participants 1 course (12 units counted as 1 course)
	265 total participants 28 courses

Residential Care Learning and Development Strategy (RCLDS) Training

In 2018-19, the Centre continued to deliver government-funded training to the state's residential care workforce. We expanded the courses on offer, and consulted with the workforce to find out what was needed most. We will continue to tailor courses to the needs of residential care workers and managers across Victoria, with a focus on supporting the workforce to work with vulnerable children and young people.

Unit	Sessions	Participants
Advanced Effective Conflict Management	3 sessions	35
Advanced Youth Mental Health	2 sessions	18
Applied Suicide Skills Training (ASIST)	2 sessions	23
Culturally Competent Youth	2 sessions	5
Debriefing for Residential Care Workers	4 sessions	30
Effective Conflict Management	13 sessions	220
Engaging Young People in Education	1 sessions	5
Ethical Response Safety Training	1 sessions	15
Introduction to working with Aboriginal children families and workers	3 sessions	10
Professional Boundaries in Residential Care	3 sessions	20
Providing Emergency First Aid & CPR	11 sessions	130
Self-Care for Residential Care Workers	2 sessions	12
Sexual Exploitation Training	1 sessions	35
Skilled in Looking After Children	5 sessions	92
Supervision Training for Residential Workers	5 sessions	28
Supporting Young People with Medication	3 sessions	40
With Care	2 sessions	32
Foundations Youth Mental Health	4 sessions	40
Autism Training for Support Staff	1 sessions	17
Total	68	807



E-Learning at the Centre



Building on the successful launch of the e-learning initiative, the Centre has seen growth and expansion in both user base and courses delivered.

The Centre has expanded the scope of its training to deliver twelve courses through its online learning environment Moodle, as well as a suite of free training resources provided via the Centre website.

2018-2019 saw a **200% increase** in new users accessing the LMS for the first time with many more existing users electing to return and take a second or third course with the Centre.

The flexible online learning environment provided by the Centre allows users to upskill and undertake the learning required for employment almost immediately, often without interrupting their work schedule or having to navigate the issues faced by organisations in remote locations.

Our student cohort is ever-growing and the Learning and Development team are looking to continue developing the online environment to improve self-service support assets while developing new exciting and interactive courses, tailored towards the needs of our sector.

Child Safeguarding in Organisations



The Centre continued to support member organisations to cultivate child safe environments by promoting the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The Centre delivered information sessions on Child Safe Standards, provided advice on child safe policies to organisations, and continued to develop resources. With the support of the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP), the Centre created two eLearning modules on the Reportable Conduct Scheme for early years providers. These eLearning modules are intended to assist the early years sector to better respond to allegations of Reportable Conduct.

The Centre developed and delivered over 40 information sessions on Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme in 2018-19 to a range of member and non-member organisations. These include 10 sessions delivered on behalf of the CCYP on the Reportable Conduct scheme across metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria. The Centre continues to provide training to a diverse range of institutions including youth theatre groups, early childhood and kindergarten programs, local governments and public institutions.

The Centre offers child safeguarding consultancy services to a range of member and non-member organisations. The Centre assisted a large private hospital to develop child safety tools to support the hospital to be a child safe organisation, focusing on

continuous improvement processes.

The Centre continues to assist its members to create and promote child safe environments and has held a number of expert workshops. This included inviting Emeritus Professor Stephen Smallbone to present on child safeguarding risks in organisations and Professor Matthews on institutional child sexual abuse.

We thank Liana Buchanan, Victoria's Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People, for regularly attending feedback sessions and advising the sector on the Reportable Conduct Scheme and where improvements need to be made.

Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

The Centre has played an important role in advocating for a redress scheme for victim survivors of institutional child abuse. The Commonwealth Government introduced the Commonwealth Redress Scheme on 1 July 2018. The Centre provided advice and information to its members on the scope and impact of the scheme. We lobbied government to seek improvements to the practical operation of the scheme, consulted with the sector, and hosted forums and round tables with member CEOs and government representatives.

Resi Rocks 2019

The 13th Annual Resi ROCKS was held in June 2019, with 410 residential care workers, managers and staff from across our sector in attendance. This year we had 15 different organisations represented, with workers travelling from across the state to celebrate, learn and come together to network and share practice.

This year's theme was **'Your Power, Their Future'**.

The theme highlights the critical role that residential care workers play in the lives of young people, and the incredible work that they can do to support young people in achieving their dreams.

Those in attendance were inspired by keynote speaker Jules Allen, a strong advocate for young people and an experienced foster parent.

With comedian Corey White as MC and entertainment from rapper Philly, the day was a fantastic blend of entertainment and sharing practice.

Attendees told us that one of their biggest highlights for the day was hearing from young advocate Aedan Brittain, who spoke about his time in care and the importance of trauma-informed practice in the sector.

The highly anticipated Residential Care Awards were presented by Minister for Child Protection Luke Donnellan.

The winner of the Residential Worker Award was **Karen Debono** from Anglicare North Eastern.

The winner of the Residential Care Leadership Award was **Faialofa Vaiusu** from MacKillop Family Services.

MacKillop Family Services' Bailey Street team from Barwon won the Residential Care Team Award.

410+

attended our 2019
Resi Rocks
conference

"Maintain the variety – you nailed it!"

"This was the best Resi ROCKS ever!"

"Resi ROCKS is the Brownlow of our field. It's so humbling to be acknowledged for our work."



CARER IS A WAY
OF GIVING BACK
TO OUR
COMMUNITY.

- SUE-ANN
RESPITE CARER

Growing a Responsive and Sustainable Centre

Fostering Connections

Supporting agencies to attract more carers in Victoria

Launched in January 2016 as part of the Government's strategic policy for the child and family services sector as outlined in Roadmap to Reform, Fostering Connections is an innovative, industry-developed and sector-led solution to foster care attraction. As an integral part of the foster care system across the state, Fostering Connections delivers a state-wide sector-led foster carer awareness and recruitment campaign to attract more carers. It provides prospective carers first point of call and centralised information on the process of becoming a foster carer and acts as a referral pathway for enquiries to agencies across Victoria. A forum for collaboration between the state's 26 foster care agencies, Fostering Connections captures, collects and monitors data on enquirers and their journey to accreditation and provides insights back to the sector through reporting and works with agencies to continuously improve the enquiry and accreditation process.

In 2018-19, Fostering Connections...

- ✓ Delivered over 3000 new enquiries to agencies across the state
- ✓ Delivered a state-wide media and advertising campaign through TV, radio and digital advertising channels and through development of shared and co-created messaging and marketing products
- ✓ Continued to improve collaboration across the sector through regular working group meetings, alignment of processes and trialling approaches on behalf of the sector to ascertain what works, including trial and implementation of the re-engagement strategy, Foster Care Week space activation initiative and development of new newsletters
- ✓ Provided new insight into carers, their shared characteristics and demography through development of new and improved reports
- ✓ Developed and delivered Foster Care info sessions for members of LGBTIQ and the Muslim communities
- ✓ Researched and analysed carer Exit Survey practices across the sector and developed a best practice guide.



2019 Study Tour

In September 2019, the Centre's CEO Deb Tsorbaris stepped away from her desk to undertake a study tour across three countries, over 11 working days, visiting 15 different organisations.

The key areas of focus across the visit were ideas for the recruitment and retention of workforce, current experience of NGOs and Local Government Authorities in the UK, connecting with the What Works Movement in the UK, understanding which evidence based programs are demonstrating success, and learning about Common Elements and understanding.

Following the completion of the tour, it was noted how advanced Victorian models and operations are in a global context, often leading or setting an international benchmark against other countries. Another key takeaway was the importance of governance and how that will shape not just the future of the Centre, but our sector as a whole.

Sincere thanks to the Board for supporting the learning of the organisation through this endeavor.



Reconciliation Action Plan Update

In 2018-19, the Centre began work on its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Our Innovate RAP outlines actions that work towards achieving the Centre's unique vision for reconciliation. Our Innovate RAP focuses on developing and strengthening relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, engaging staff and stakeholders in reconciliation, and developing and piloting innovative strategies to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Continuing to spread the word and raise awareness

Spreading the word and raising awareness

In 2018-2019, the Centre continued its campaign advocacy work. Our website attracted 32,390 visitors, and community members were able to enrol in training, read sector news as it happened, and engage with the Centre's many projects.

We spread the word and raised awareness through our Facebook and Twitter pages, advocating for the rights of children, young people and families, and made sure that the best emerging research and practices were shared throughout our networks and the community.

Our regular newsletter, the Sector Buzz, kept subscribers up to date with frequent sector-wide updates and developments. Meanwhile, we tailored specific information to those who wanted to know more about OPEN, Fostering Connections, RCLDS and the Centre's many learning and development opportunities.

**Our advocacy is for a safe, equal society
for all children, families and young
people.**

601.2k
Twitter
Impressions
2018-2019

87.9%
Facebook like
increase

4,239
Sector Buzz
Newsletter
Subscribers

32,390
Unique website
visitors

Our Board and Staff Team

As of 30 June 2019

Board

Paul McDonald	Chairperson
Lisa Griffiths	Deputy Chair
Teresa Jayet	Treasurer
Andrew Brunn	Board Member
Silivia Alberti	Board Member
Graham Boal	Board Member
Allan Joy	Board Member
Michael Perusco	Board Member
Sue White	Board Member
Greg Levine OAM	Board Member

We thank our outgoing board members, Peter Mulholland, Aileen Ashford, Grant Boyd and Fran O'Toole.

Executive

Deb Tsorbaris	Chief Executive Officer
Sue Maddison	Executive Assistant

Operations and Finance

Radha Cumarasamy	Executive Manager, Operations and Finance
Grace Kasper	Bookkeeper
Emma Dawson	Office Manager
Sheena Lestock-Kay	Administration Assistant
Matthew Edwards	Business Administration Trainee

Learning and Development

Sharon Clerke	Learning and Development Manager
Natasha Lobo	Compliance Admissions Officer
Oliver Tsorbaris	RCLDS Project Officer
Tulay Bairam	Training Coordinator
Glenda Quinn	Shared Lives Coordinator
David Wang	Administration and Project Officer
Rijumayi Dempster	e-Learning Design Officer
Raelene Jones	RCLDS Project Manager

Policy, Research and Advocacy

Michele Lonsdale	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Director – Policy, Research and Advocacy
Joanna Humphries	Project Manager - Raising Expectations
Jo-Anne McMahon	Project Manager
Emily Mellon	Project Manager - OPEN
Kelly Bowey	Senior Research and Policy Officer
Jane Phillips	Business Development Manager
Judith Gray	Practice Lead – Early Years
Dakhina Mitra	Practice Lead – Knowledge Building
Sue Wilson	Advanced Practice Lead
Catherine Cooney	Practice Lead – Common Elements
Mark Ryan	Research to Practice Officer

Child and Family Reform Unit

Georgette Antonas	Manager – Child and Family Reform Unit
Rusalka Primrose	Policy and Legislative Reform Officer
Ondine Childs	Project Officer

Communications

Matthew Incerti	Executive Manager - Communications, Media and Engagement
Chloe Papas	Campaigns Coordinator
Eliza Herbert	Digital Communications Coordinator

Fostering Connections

Zena Hosseini	Project Manager – Fostering Connections
Dan Christie	Communications and Strategic Marketing Coordinator
Laura Cashman	Project Officer
Andrew DuLaney Shaw	Business Analyst

Our Member Organisations

Our members are at the forefront of supporting children, young people and families in Victoria.

Ability Assist, Allambi Care Ltd, Allah Muhammad Ali Fatima Hassan Hussain Federation, Anchor, Anglicare Victoria, Australian Childhood Foundation, Australian Childhood Trauma Group, Baptcare, Barwon Child, Youth & Family, Benalla Rural City Council, Bendigo Community Health Services, Berry Street, Bethany Community Support, Brophy Family & Youth Services – Warrnambool, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Bubup Wilam, Camcare, Care Choice (Aust) Ltd, Caroline Chisholm Society, CatholicCare Melbourne, CatholicCare Sandhurst, Catholic Social Services, Centacare Ballarat, Child and Family Services Ballarat, Christian Brethren Community Care Ltd T/A Temcare, City of Melbourne, City of Port Phillip – Family and Children’s Services, City of Yarra, Cobaw Community Health Service, Cohealth, Colac Area Health, Community Living and Respite Services, Concern Australia, Council of Single Mothers and their Children, Darebin Community Health, Doncare, Drummond Street Services, Eastern Access Community Health, Eastern Domestic Violence Service, Family Access Network, Family Life, FamilyCare, Federation of Community Legal Centres, Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative, Gippsland Lakes Community Health, Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand, Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative, Inner Eastern Local Learning & Employment Network, Improving and Promoting Community Health, Jesuit Social Services, Jewish Care, Junction Support Services, Kara House, Key Assets, Kids First, Kids Under Cover, Kyabram Community & Learning Centre, Life Without Barriers, Lifeworks Relationship Counselling and Education Services, Lighthouse Foundation, MacKillop Family Services, Make A Difference Dingley Village, Mallee Family Care, Mallee Track Health & Community Services, Melton City Council, Mirabel Foundation, Moira, Moonee Valley City Council – Family and Children’s Services, No to Violence, Odyssey House Victoria, ONCALL Personnel and Training, OzChild: Children Australia, Permanent Care and Adoptive Families, Playgroup Victoria, Quantum Support Services, Relationships Australia, Rumbalara Family Services, Safe Steps, Settlement Services International, Taskforce Community Agency, The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, The Pyjama Foundation, The Reach Foundation, The Queen Elizabeth Centre, The Salvation Army Crossroads – Coburg North, The Salvation Army SalvoCare Eastern, The Salvation Army Social Housing and Support Network, The Tipping Foundation / House with No Steps, Tweddle Child and Family Health Service, Uniting, Upper Murray Family Care, Victoria Legal Aid, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Victorian Adoption Network for Information and Self Help, Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, Victorian Co-operative on Children’s Services for Ethnic Groups, Windermere Child and Family Services, YMCA Victoria, Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, Youth Support and Advocacy Service.

Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report

After another year of significant activity at the Centre, the Board is pleased to present an operating surplus of \$1,046,389 for the financial year ended 30 June 2019. Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the Association is \$1,107,005.

Analysis of the financial reports shows the following movements:

- Revenue for the year decreased slightly by \$516,286 or 7% from 2017-18, with:
 - Government funding expended over the year decreasing by 13% from prior year
 - Income from investments increased by 43% over the year
 - And training and consulting revenue increased by 28% over the year
- Overall expenditure aligned with the slight decrease in revenue for the year and decreased by \$369,473 or 6% from 2017-18, with:
 - Employee benefits increasing by 24% includes staffing resources for funded projects
 - Operations expenses decreased by 32% while office expenses increased by 39%
- The current assets for the year increased by \$1,580,828 or 23%.
- Non-current assets for the year decreased by 1% with Depreciation for the year of \$57,910.
- Total liabilities for the year increased by \$463,946 or 12%, with;
- Other liabilities (unexpended project grants) decreased by \$108,489
- The Statement of Cash Flow shows a net decrease in cash and cash equivalents across the year of \$918,950. The cash flow currently represents cash and cash equivalents only. Prudent investment of funds is represented in Other Financial Assets in the balance sheet. Other financial assets have increased by \$2,363,144.

The Centre maintains a healthy level of reserves to ensure that the important work of the Centre continues to support our members and member organisations in their work with vulnerable children, young people and their families.

I would like to thank the members of the Finance committee during the 2018-19 financial year: Paul McDonald, Lisa Griffiths and Graham Boal. I would also like to acknowledge the Centre's finance team for their professional work during the year.

The following financial statements overview has been extracted from the Centre's Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2019. The financial statements have been prepared as General Purpose Financial Statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. The financial statements have been audited in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and Australian Auditing Standards by Crowe Horwath Melbourne. The full financial statements can be obtained from the Centre's website.



A stylized handwritten signature in black ink.

Teresa Jayet
Treasurer

Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Revenue	6,854,474	7,370,760
Investment income	175,324	122,603
Depreciation expense	(57,910)	(99,778)
Employee benefits expense	(2,979,951)	(2,399,643)
Operations expense	(2,324,446)	(3,394,211)
Office expense	(527,921)	(378,875)
Occupancy expense	(83,659)	(71,214)
Motor Vehicle expense	(9,522)	(9,162)
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	1,046,389	1,140,480
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Changes in fair value of assets classified as fair value through other comprehensive income	60,616	-
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the Association	1,107,005	1,140,480

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from customers	7,481,898	6,730,079
Payments to suppliers and employees	(6,225,611)	(6,850,927)
Interest received	175,324	122,603
Net cash generated from operating activities	1,431,611	1,755
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(48,033)	(16,977)
Proceeds from sale of property plant and equipment	-	-
Net Proceeds from sale of financial assets	(2,302,528)	(1,267,761)
Net cash used in investing activities	(2,350,561)	(1,284,738)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(918,950)	(1,282,983)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,957,775	4,240,758
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	2,038,825	2,957,775

Statement of Financial Position

At 30 June 2019

Assets	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Current Assets		
Cash and cash on hand	2,038,825	2,957,775
Other financial assets	6,015,239	3,652,095
Trade and other receivables	304,266	162,626
Other assets	17,434	22,440
Total current assets	8,375,764	6,794,936
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	930,555	940,432
Total non-current assets	930,555	940,432
Total assets	9,306,319	7,735,368
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	773,404	466,151
Deferred revenue	629,710	466,553
Provisions	273,016	195,797
Other liabilities	2,568,116	2,676,605
Total current liabilities	4,244,246	3,805,106
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	51,072	26,266
Total non-current liabilities	51,072	26,266
Total liabilities	4,295,318	3,831,372
Net Assets	5,011,001	3,903,996
Equity		
Accumulated Surplus	3,640,385	3,043,996
Reserves	1,310,000	860,000
Revaluation reserve	60,616	-
Total Equity	5,011,001	3,903,996



Centre for Excellence
in Child and Family Welfare Inc.

About the Centre

For over 100 years, the Centre has advanced the rights and wellbeing of children, young people and families in Victoria.

We advocate for the rights of children and young people to be heard, to be safe, to access education and to remain connected to family, community and culture.

We represent over 100 Victorian organisations working across the continuum of child and family services, from prevention and early intervention to the provision of out of home care.

Our members are at the forefront of supporting children, young people and families.

Contact

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Find us on Twitter @CFECFW
and Facebook



The Centre acknowledges
the support of the
Victorian Government



Health
and Human
Services

cfecfw.asn.au

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RTO: 3696