

# THE WRAP - Carer Reference Groups News

April 2017



## Fostering to adopt study

The Institute of Open Adoption Studies, University of Sydney is an independent research centre that is currently looking for voluntary carer participants for a focus group study on carers' perspectives on open adoption.

The study will inform future approaches and support for carers who take the journey from fostering to adoption.

For more information:

Email: [esw.ioas@sydney.edu.au](mailto:esw.ioas@sydney.edu.au)

Call: 9351 7015

Visit:

[sydney.edu.au/education\\_social\\_work/ioas](http://sydney.edu.au/education_social_work/ioas)

## Round the table topics

**Carer self assessment**- is a FACS Safe Home for Life reform to be implemented in 2017. It only applies to relative/kin carers that have full parental responsibility (PR) for children in their care. This is a short questionnaire about how the placement is going and whether any support is needed from FACS. The assessment replaces the FACS annual carer review making the process simpler, faster and less intrusive for these carers.

**Guardianship** – Since February FACS has been presenting to carers across NSW on Guardianship Orders. Topics include legislative reforms, supports available and the assessment process. For more information on the Guardianship information workshops: <http://connectingcarersnsw.com.au/>.

Other resources available for Guardianship and Adoptions include:

	<p><b>FACS Guardianship Information Line</b>  <b>1300 956 416</b>            9am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday</p>
	<p><b>FACS Adoption Hotline</b>  <b>1800 003 227</b>            9am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday OR            submit an enquiry to the Open Adoption Hotline through the <a href="#">online enquiry</a> form</p>
	<p><b><a href="#">Resources and Frequently Asked Questions</a> regarding Guardianship and Adoptions</b></p>
	<p>Please send any email enquiries to <a href="mailto:SafeHomeForLifeReform@facs.nsw.gov.au">SafeHomeForLifeReform@facs.nsw.gov.au</a></p>

## Shared Stories Shared Lives training

The mandatory pre-authorisation training for applicant carers is currently being reviewed and updated to ensure it continually meets the needs of carers. The Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA) is leading this review and is consulting with FACS, NGOs and some carers who are on the CRG.

The Wrap is a summary only.

You can read more about CRG and other news in Fostering Our Future newsletter each quarter

<http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/fostering-our-future/home>



## 2017 CRG meeting dates

*Hunter Central Coast* 1 June, 10 August, 12 Oct, 14 Dec

*Illawarra Shoalhaven* 22 May, 26 June, 24 July, 28 Aug, 23 Oct, 27 Nov

*Northern NSW* 2 May, 25 July, 5 Sept, 7 Nov

*Sydney Metro* 11 May, 10 Aug, 9 Nov

*Western Wagga* 16 June, 17 Aug, 16 Nov

*Southern NSW* 22 May, 26 June, 24 July, 28 Aug, 23 Oct, 27 Nov

*Western Dubbo* 5 June, 24 July, 4 Sept, 16 Oct, 27 Nov

**Note:** Dates may change so please contact your CRG directly for dates and venues.

### CRG Planning Day

*“It was lovely to be in a room of people with the same goals and aspirations on support and growth of carers. The day added to my motivation, passion and enthusiasm.” – caseworker*

*“So happy to participate and it’s a privilege to be there.” – carer*

More than 30 carers, staff from FACS & NGOs and carer organisations gathered in Sydney for the CRG Planning Day on 22 February. The aim of the day was to strengthen and support the seven CRGs and assist with operation and momentum.

## Understanding trauma and its impact on kids

A more flexible training package has been developed by FACS Psychological Services in collaboration with OOHC Initiatives and Connecting Carers to assist carers to better understand and respond to behaviours that may stem from trauma and the experiences of kids in care. Upcoming training will be held across NSW this year:

17 May Penrith  
 24 May Ballina  
 26 May Edgeworth  
 14 June Griffith  
 19 July Dubbo  
 31 July Chatswood  
 10 Aug Bankstown  
 10 Oct Wollongong

For more information:

<http://connectingcarersnsw.com.au/> .

## Great websites

[www.raisingchildren.net.au](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au)

[www.caring.childstory.nsw.gov.au](http://www.caring.childstory.nsw.gov.au)

great information on day-to-day caring plus a contact directory of more than 100 organisations.

[Raising teens and tweens](#) - A guide for carers and caseworkers

A valuable resource for foster and kinship carers of pre-teens and teenagers in out-of-home care.

## Howard Bath trauma videos

### Safety

<https://youtu.be/v9bDYefdnUA>

### Connections

<https://youtu.be/cQZXR2gfGZw>

### Coping

<https://youtu.be/EACYmoDKOW>

## Ideas for discussion?

Email [carerreferencegroupsnsw@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:carerreferencegroupsnsw@facs.nsw.gov.au)



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