

April 12, 2019

FACT UPDATE



From Families and Children Tasmania (FACT)

Join the conversation:

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Training and Events

FACT Luncheon 1st May at 1pm, Parliament House, Hobart. Keynote speaker: Dr Suzanne Packer AM and Senior Australian of the year.

Distinguished speakers, Hon Minister Jaensch MP, Tasmanian Children's Commissioner Leanne McLean, Deputy Secretary Department of Communities Gail Eaton-Briggs.

Creating Child Safety Champions

Hobart 14 – 15 May. Creating Child Safety Champions is an intensive 2-day program designed to help organisations implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. To find out more go to the Child Wise website

www.childwise.org.au/events

Childaware Conference

An initiative of Families Australia 16—17 May 2019, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
<https://childawareconference.org.au>

Love Bites— Facilitator Training,

Respectful Relationships, NAPCAN, 21-22 May, Launceston. An education program for adolescents. Two interactive workshops: one on Relationship Violence and one on Sex and Relationships followed by creative workshops and community campaigns.

National Child Protection

Conference — hosted by CAFWAA, QATSICPP and PeakCare 24—25 June, Rydges Southbank. Registrations are now open.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/>



Dept of Communities, Our Voice Our Future Conference comes to a close.

Out and About

The recent Our Voice Our Future

conference highlighted that as individuals we have the need to show leadership to implement change.

Leadership is not a specific job title, but instead the desire to make something happen and to initiate and act upon a plan to effect change. There were many

great initiatives that were focused on, and FACT took the opportunity to be involved in discussions on the need for bipartisan support at federal and state levels in reducing child poverty and increasing child wellbeing. The discussion focused on the need to build enduring political accountability, consensus, and action to address the issue of poverty for families and their children. A bipartisan approach at both the state and federal levels would enable Australia to set targets, with agreed measurements, and ultimately a strategy that all sides of politics agree that we should be working towards. With our neighbours in New Zealand committing to a Child Reduction Poverty Bill, perhaps it is now time for Australia and our states to commence the conversation.



An example of increased trends being discussed at the Our Voice Our Future Conference

Recently FACT attended the discussion on “Next Steps for National Policy on Child and Family Wellbeing” that was facilitated by Families Australia. This discussion provided us with an opportunity to be briefed by Gail Eaton-Briggs from the Department of Communities on the number of key initiatives that Tasmania has underway, as well as reflect on the issues that the national framework needed to address including:

- * A three-fold increase across Australia in the number of children in out-of-home care in the past two decades from 14,470 to 45,756
- * The rate at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children are in out-of-home care (58.7 per 1000) is 10 times the rate for non-indigenous children.
- * An 11% increase in the number of children receiving child protection services in the past five years (143,000 to 157,000).
- * Last year, the total national spend on child protection & related family supports was \$5.8 billion (10% real increase from 2016-17), of which out-of-home care services were 59 per cent, or \$3.4 billion.
- * The large number of children in informal kinship care arrangements across Australia who have inadequate access to financial resources, therapeutic services and carer support including training.

In other news, The Department of Communities has released a draft Companion Document to compliment the OOHC Outcomes Framework that was released by the Minister late last year. The purpose of this Companion Document is to identify and implement measurements in relation to achieving the outcomes identified in the framework. FACT has been asked to provide feedback on the Companion Document by the end of April. If you have not received an email directly from the Department and you are interested in learning more, then please email our Executive Officer geraldine@fact.asn.au to receive a copy.

Happy Easter to all of our Members and Associates.