

FEBRUARY UPDATE

From Families and Children Tasmania (FACT)

Join the conversation:

Join the FACT online community and be part of the conversation. You can connect with FACT on LinkedIn and Twitter.



Training and Events

Inclusive Sports Days hosted by Reclink, early March. Golf Day, Tennis Day and Bowls Day.

Free Cyber Safety Workshop— Tasmanian Institute of Sport, 4th March, Launceston, 5th March, Hobart

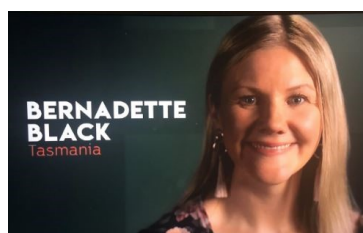
Creating Child Safe Organisations Workshop run by Childwise, 14th March, Hobart

Love Bites— Facilitator Training, Respectful Relationships, NAPCAN, 21-22 May, Launceston

Australian of the Year Awards

It was rewarding to see the theme of child wellbeing being highlighted in the 2019 Australian of the Year Awards. Dr Richard Harris OAM and Dr Craig Challen SC OAM, stated “life is short, get amongst it, and take your kids with you”. The Senior Australian of the Year, Dr Suzanne Packer AM, who has worked tirelessly to advocate for the rights of children stated “it is what we do with children that is important”, by taking the time to acknowledge and value them by all members of the community.

FACT congratulates our member, Bernadette Black for being named Tasmanian of the year and being recognised for her leadership of the Brave Foundation and her tireless work in supporting young mothers.



Out and About

The month of February saw a number of key achievements at the national level.

Firstly COAG has endorsed National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, forming a national benchmark for organisations working with children and young people across sectors, with a focus on maintaining a child safe culture. This is a great start, and in time FACT hopes that this will be extended to further include a child friendly culture. Secondly, the final four asylum seeking children were flown to the US with their families for resettlement. They are the last of the 200 children who had been held at the island's processing centre.



Our Voice Our Future Regional One Day Forum in Penguin.

After much planning as a Stakeholder, FACT was pleased to be able to participate in all three of the one day Our Voice Our Future regional forums, that were facilitated by the Department of Communities Tasmania. It was a pleasure to see many of our members taking the opportunity to participate in the forums and benefit from attendee led workshop discussions. FACT contributed to discussions focusing on kinship care, adoption, the impact of brain injury, maintaining a child's personal story, capturing the voices of children, supporting families through domestic violence, what it is like to be raised by a grandparent (facilitated very capably by two young attendees), therapeutic service requirements and placements, supporting foster and kinship carers, attracting new foster carers, and supporting new migrant families. The 3 regional forums each resulted in different themes and were all very capably facilitated by Celia Bray and team.

FACT also participated in the Launceston Family and Sexual Violence Roundtable Consultation hosted by the Department of Communities. FACT contributed to the Primary Prevention Discussion, which included how to develop awareness at schools?, (Ravenswood Primary Initiative - It's Never OK), domestic violence disclosure schemes, ongoing social media campaigns, and community resources such as those provided to hairdressers in Victoria.

In February, the Australian Digital Health Agency hosted Consumer and Community Education Consultation Workshops in Hobart. The participants (including FACT) provided input on the content and format of education materials relating to the My Health Record, and in particular what will be required by frequent users of the health system and vulnerable groups including parents and children. You can learn more here.

On Thursday 14th March, FACT will be holding a Strategic Planning Day which will be attended by the FACT Board and FACT Executive Officer. The focus of the day will be reviewing our current objectives at a local and national level, strategic initiatives that we are partnering alongside CAFWAA relating to kinship care, OOH and family support services, as well as updates on stakeholder feedback on the FACT lead “Child Friendly Island Initiative”. If there are any specific discussion points that you would like to have added to the agenda then please contact our executive officer either by telephone on 0459 022 122 or email geraldine@fact.asn.au.