

FACT UPDATE

From Families and Children Tasmania (FACT)

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Training and Events

FACT AGM 10th October 2019 from 11am to 12pm in the Murphy Room of CatholicCare, 35 Towers Road, New Town. All FACT Members are encouraged to attend.

Love Bites— Facilitator Training, Respectful Relationships, NAPCAN, 29th, 30th and 31st October, Kingsborough Community Hub. 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.

Child Friendly Island Logo Design

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the design options for the Child Friendly Island. The logo design featured below received the most support and can appear either as a multi-coloured version or in the single colours of green, orange, pink or blue. The Child Friendly Island Initiative is a community led campaign reminding us all that as an island we all play a part in ensuring that children and young people have a voice, are provided with opportunity, feel valued and welcome, and are connected to their community. It encourages people and organisations to spread the child friendly message and to develop and deliver initiatives that benefit children and young people. It is envisaged that Tasmania will have ambassadors across our island state, all of whom are proud to be making a contribution to child wellbeing. This may be as simple as consulting with children when developing a kids menu, encouraging children to have a say in what happens in their local community, inviting children and families in our street to get together, acknowledging children and young people when you walk past them, and becoming a community that proudly displays the child friend island logo. We are in the process of applying for two grants so watch this space.



Out and About

This week is child protection week in Australia, and it was a privilege for FACT to be in attendance at the NAPCAN breakfast to hear a great line up of speakers including Nat Kendall – Taylor discuss the importance of communication in driving social change for children, young people and families. The power of what we say didn't go unnoticed by my 11 year old daughter who I took with me to the event. She commented that the words we use set the scene for what is to come. When I asked her for an example she stated "when we have relief teachers and they start the day by saying good morning, now we are not going to have any bad behavior today, it triggers exactly that. Instead teachers who say good morning class, we are going to have a great day together end up achieving a much better result." So there you go, a great example from an 11 year old. Let's hope that as adults we can just as quickly identify ways to change our communication so that we can achieve the best results.



FACT out to dinner with Dr Lucy Peake and the valued kinship carers from Kin Raising Kids.

Last month, FACT hosted Dr Lucy Peake, the CEO from Grandparents plus in the UK. Lucy spoke to FACT Members and Associates about how we can better support informal kinship carers. Together we identified a number of Tasmanian initiatives that need to progress. A copy of the presentation and discussion points has been circulated to those that were in attendance and can certainly be made available to anyone else who is interested. Lucy has also written a blog on her time spent in Tasmania with FACT and it can be accessed here <https://www.grandparentsplus.org.uk/news/time-is-running-out> Next week is foster and kinship week which means it was only fitting that last week's CAFWAA Board Meeting focused on the need to instigate a national peak body focusing on kinship carers. There is a great deal of discussion occurring around Australia and it is important to ensure these conversations are collectively heard and there continues to be growing momentum to ensure kinship carers are recognized both financially and via other support services.

Now for an update on Families and Children Tasmania (FACT). Unfortunately we were unsuccessful with our budget submission for this financial year, which of course has placed our peak body in jeopardy. We feel that we have made a great contribution to the discussion on child and family wellbeing over the last two years, and so we are now charting a new course for the immediate future. Firstly with the resignation of Daryl Lamb as Chairperson due to his partner's appointment to the role of Deputy Secretary, as well as Justin Cooper's resignation due to relocation to Melbourne, we are pleased to announce that Noel Mundy and Andrea Senior have joined the FACT Board. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Daryl for the significant contribution he has made to FACT for a large number of years, as well as the advocacy he performed that resulted in Tasmania being the first state to address the need to support children exiting out-of-home care from 18 through to 21.

As a result of FACT not receiving funding, I will also be making a change and will be commencing in the role of Child Advocate with CatholicCare representing children in residential care. This is an area that I am extremely passionate about which means I look forward to putting my energy and determination to good use. It has been an absolute privilege to fly the flag for FACT over the last two years, and I will certainly look to remain engaged with FACT and the Child Friendly Island in one way or another.

Recently there have been a number of changes at the Department of Communities, and we would like to thank Ginna Webster and Gail Eaton-Briggs for their commitment to the many initiatives that we have had the pleasure to provide extensive input on. The FACT Board and our members would also like to congratulate the new Secretary Michael Pervan, and Deputy Secretary Mandy Clarke of Communities Tasmania, and we very much look forward to working with you.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to an article which appeared in the Mercury. The article features one of our Board Members, Caroline Brown who reminds us that the community all needs to spare a thought for workers, that are working in the child protection system. **"There is nothing more serious than a child being abused by their family — yet there is nothing more serious than removing a child from their family."** You can access the article on the FACT website at <https://www.fact.asn.au/get-the-facts>

In closing, I would like to wish you all the best and I look forward to our continuing connection. Kind regards Geraldine Ellis-Maguire.