



## FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK UPDATE : WINTER 2017: VOLUME 99

### CEO Update

Welcome to the FAN winter newsletter. Needless to say for those without the security of a home to call their own, winter can be a very challenging time and I was struck with this in particular recently when advised that Victoria Park rangers in the outlying areas of the Eastern Region are finding people camping in national parks, who have nowhere else to go. It is a reality check when I find myself complaining about being cold.

I draw your attention to the program updates within the newsletter for up to date information on Family Access Network, programs and activities. Ronda Jacobs has also prepared an article on behalf of the Board, a very interesting read.

May 8 – 14 was National Volunteer Week; I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who contribute their time to Family Access Network in a variety of ways, as board members, lead tenants, mentors, supporters to groups and activities, maintenance and not least Santa. Please refer to the link below for the positive benefits that volunteering contributes to the community and the benefits felt by those who volunteer – true to the theme “Give Happy, Live Happy”

<https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/Fact-posters-NVW2017.pdf>



It's been quite a while since I have made reference to any staff changes, close to three years, there are quite a few to note since the last newsletter: Oriana is on maternity leave and we extend our warm congratulations to her and partner on the safe arrival of their baby boy, Carly Witte has been appointed to the role of locum in the Private Rental Brokerage Program.

After five years at Family Access Network Katie Horner-Matthews has taken up a role at the Department of Justice and Adelle Sansom after almost three years, has joined the Victoria Police – we wish them well for their future careers and thank them for the contribution they have made. Clinton McDonald and Jess Prior have both recently commenced in the Homeless Support Services team, we are happy to welcome them to FAN and you will find out more about them within the newsletter.

In 2016 a band fundraiser was held, drawing on the musical talents of two members of the Board, the Chair David Burlew and his band Max Zero, and Treasurer Brett Philipp and his band, Five Shades of Grey, which was successfully repeated on 20 May, at the Knox Club. If you missed out on what was a great night, then you will get another chance in 2018.

I conclude by thanking the following for their assistance to FAN during the past three months:

- Impact for Women for donation of bags full of supplies for the young mums
- Save the dignity
- St Peters Mothers Union of Box Hill for providing a Mother's Day luncheon for our young mums

Regards  
Sue



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### From the Board

I write this article on the Monday after Mother's Day, which seems an appropriate reflection for a Family Access Network newsletter. I am one of the lucky ones, who spent the day with my daughters and granddaughters, having celebrated with my own Mum the week before. We have our hurdles and challenges, as any family does, but we are all healthy, able to care for ourselves and each other, and provide generations of support for family life. In the photo, you can see me, one daughter, and 2 granddaughters typifying how lucky and happy we are.

I am acutely aware that this is not the case for everyone, and that very fact is what drew me to contribute to Family Access Network in the first place. Many of the young people we support are mothers themselves, and I imagine some are out of contact, or have lost their own mothers. I was a single parent with a one year old myself, so I have experienced the daily joys and struggles that this brings. As we all know, mothering is a 24/7 job – and then some! It is trying and stressful and exhausting, no matter how much help and support you receive. Bad days range from everyone being tired and grumpy, to not having enough money to go out or create an interesting meal, through to dark days when children are unwell or troubled; and dealing with these days alone is harrowing. It is also sad not to have anyone to share the sheer joy and happiness you can experience on good days.

However, I was one of the lucky ones, and was able to move into my parents' home, and receive all the love and assistance I needed. I cannot even imagine the

difficulties that some mothers go through to bring up children without this support. In my job as CEO of a Community Health Centre, we see mothers also struggling with family violence, alcohol and drug dependencies, depression and anxiety, financial difficulties, poor health, homelessness and many other complications to the already complex life of a parent.

I am proud that Family Access Network plays a strong role in providing support to young people who are homeless and those at risk of homelessness, and particularly that this extends to young mothers. I so admire the courage, strength and determination of these young mums; and if our accommodation, resources and social development can provide a helpful and supportive environment, then we are doing a worthwhile job that will pay off in spades for the mums, their children and the broader community.



Regards  
Ronda Jacobs

### Welcoming Carly Witte to the Creating Connections Private Rental Brokerage Program



I'm pleased to introduce myself as the locum for the Private Rental Brokerage Support Worker role while Oriana is on maternity leave and am excited to be part of this fantastic program. I've been warmly welcomed into the FAN family and as I learn my new role I look forward to being part of the great work done by FAN.

The Private Rental Brokerage Program, which aims to enable young people who are or are at risk of homelessness into the private rental market, has never been more needed as the cost of renting becomes more exclusionary to young people. Anglicare's latest report on rental affordability shows that entering the private rental market has never been so difficult or expensive for low income earners, particularly for those receiving youth allowance. Programs such as the PRBP are crucial to enabling young people to access their right to shelter, a safe space and a home.

If anyone has any enquires in regards to the Creating Connections Private Rental Brokerage Program please contact Carly on 9890 2673.



Congratulations to  
Oriana & Gary on the  
safe arrival of baby Zion



CEO Sue Carlile with baby Zion

# AGM

Annual General Meeting



Our AGM is being  
held on 4 October  
from 3.30pm at  
Box Hill Town  
Hall....We hope to  
see you there!  
More details to  
come in the next  
newsletter!!

### Homeless Support Services

Since the Autumn Edition, Family Access Network has said good-bye to both Adelle and Katie of the Homeless Support Services (HSS) Team. Adelle was with FAN for almost 3 years and Katie 5. FAN welcomes our two new additions to the team in who will bring with them a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm.



## Welcome to Homeless Support Services



I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Clinton and I've recently started as one of the new Youth Support Workers as part of HSS. I might be familiar to some people at FAN as I completed my 3<sup>rd</sup> year placement here back in 2015, working mainly with EDG and conducting a research project called "Are We There Yet? – meeting the needs of transgender and gender diverse young people".

This role is my first Youth Work position since graduating in 2016 and I am excited to begin my career in such a supportive and positive environment.



Hi everyone,

My name is Jess and I have just joined FAN : ) I am so grateful and happy to be a part of this extremely talented, professional and wonderful team!!

I have previously worked at Moira in Moorabbin and Dandenong for 4 years in Transitional Housing, assisting homeless youth. I also ran a Family Reconciliation Mediation Program for young people who were experiencing conflict with a family member/s. This was very rewarding to assist all family members in opening communication and allowing young people to have their voice heard.

My passion is working with young people and being a support to them on their journey, whilst guiding them as they chase their dreams and watching their self-confidence grow.

I look forward to meeting all people who come through FAN's door : )

## Childrens Program



### Promoting home safety for your child

In winter children and babies tend to spend a lot more time indoors. This is a good time to think about safety issues. Here is a tip from the Raising Children Network!

"Your adult-friendly home has lots of potential hazards for a child. But you can keep your child safe by finding out what the risks are, and then preventing or removing them.

But even when you think you've removed all the home safety hazards, the reality is that children can still have tumbles and falls. That's why supervision is one of the keys to home safety for kids.

Also, as your child grows and learns to climb and open things, you need to be alert for new hazards. You'll probably need to change the environment to make sure your home is still a safe and creative place to play and explore.

And along with supervision and a safe environment, you can also improve home safety by teaching your child about what's safe and what's not."

If children have a creative place to play and explore, with lots of interesting things to do and look at, they'll be less likely to seek their own stimulation by exploring areas you might not want them to get into.

(Raising Children's Network) see their website for more tips <http://raisingchildren.net.au>

## Life Skills Program

### National Youth Week Celebration!

The Life Skills Program hosted a Client/Staff BBQ in celebration of National Youth Week on April the 12<sup>th</sup> at Surry Park in Box Hill. We invited all clients to come and celebrate with us and enjoy a delicious free BBQ, games and even an Easter Egg Hunt! It was a wonderful day and it was great for staff, volunteers and clients to get to know one another.



### Young Mums Group (YMG)

We have had a busy couple of months in mums group with arts and crafts, educational sessions and even a special Mother's Day Luncheon provided by the women of St Peters Mothers Union, thank you once again for all the effort and love put into this event, the mothers are truly grateful for such a lovely afternoon.



### Eastern Diversity Group (EDG)

EDG is continuing to provide a safe space for young people to meet and get to know one another while doing some fun activities along the way. We participated in a Private Rental Readiness workshop thanks to Oriana from our Private Rental Brokerage Program and even a fitness class at Bounce in Blackburn.

Members of EDG also volunteered on May 17<sup>th</sup> IDAHOBIT DAY (The international day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia) held in conjunction with City of Whitehorse and various agencies in the east.

It was a long day with set up starting at 12 and finishing after 5 but our youth Volunteers were there until the end. We couldn't have done it without you, a special thank you to all the EDG crew that were involved on the day.



## Volunteer Opportunities



HUGE congratulations to Stephanie who had been a Lead Tenant for over two years, it was mixed emotions, on one hand we were saying goodbye but on another she was starting a new adventure marrying her partner Noel. We wish you all the very best Steph. You truly are a caring and thoughtful soul and we thank you for all your incredible work over the last two and half years. You made a big difference for so many young people you came in contact with and I'm grateful they got that experience.

**This means we have a vacancy for a Lead Tenant, so if you or anybody you know may be interested please let me know. See Lead Tenant below**

I would also like to thank Sasha and Jaqueline for continuing to support our clients in a Lead Tenant capacity, it's incredible the work you do and we are very fortunate to have you in our organisation.

Dimi will be celebrating 10 years of service as a Volunteer at FAN this year! What an absolute legend, we can't wait to celebrate this milestone with you.

You never know who might be interested in giving back to their community so it's worth spreading the word; we would like to bring to your attention the current Volunteer Vacancies;

### CHILD PLAY SUPERVISORS

Child Play Supervisors engage in a range of child friendly, age appropriate activities with children while their parents attend appointments, meet with Support Workers or participate in workshops attached to various FAN Programs.

### VOLUNTEER MENTORS

The aim of the Volunteer Mentor is to act as a neutral and consistent role model and provide friendship and support (on a one to one basis) to a young person between the ages of 15-25 years. Mentors and young people meet on a weekly basis – at a time and place that is mutually agreed - and engage in a range of low cost activities that build positive adult relationships and community connection.

### LEAD TENANT

FAN is currently seeking to engage a Lead Tenants aged 21 or over to assist us to support three young people in a shared living house. This is a voluntary live-in position that involves a 12 month commitment in exchange for rent free accommodation. You will have your own bedroom and bathroom.

The Lead Tenant is required, in liaison with the agency, to ensure that house rules are maintained. The Lead Tenant is not a professional support role but rather a positive role model living in a shared property. The Lead Tenant would pay for their own food and cleaning products, utility bills are approx. \$27.00 per week.

Ideally suited to someone who is interested in, or actively studying, in the Human Services Field. This position offers ongoing training and support. The purpose of the position is to act as a role model for young people to help them to live and share in independent accommodation.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Volunteer at Family Access Network please call Beck on 9890 2673 or alternatively you can email [rgranata@fan.org.au](mailto:rgranata@fan.org.au)

## Thankyou to our supporters

*Thank you all on behalf of all FAN's young people and accompanying children*

Adeal Pty Ltd

Allan Rogerson

Anglican Parish of Box Hill

Alan Nield

Austbrokers Countrywide (Staff)

Brett Philipp and Band (5 Shades of Grey)

Australian Government DHS (Staff)

Carmel, Georgia and Christina Theodoris

Canterbury Council of Churches

Caroline Symington

City of Whitehorse

Colin Bellis

Department of Health and Human Services

David Burlew and Band (Max Zero)

Eastern Relief

David MacKenzie

Eastlink Flowers

Debby Blakey

Gandel Philanthropy

Grace West-Thompson

Harcourts Foundation

Genevieve Allan

Kevcom

Jasmine Nilon

Kogo

Jen Briscoe

Lions Club of Box Hill

Jose Abalo

Melbourne Women's Fund

Kelly Rafferty

Orcadia foundation - Caroline and Derek Young

Luke Kowald

PostNet Hawthorn

Margaret Ogilvie

RACV Foundation

Natalie Falzon

Ringwood Magistrates Court

Paul Linossier

Salvocare Eastern

Richard Drennan in Memory of Leo Clareborough

Save the Dignity

Ronda Jacobs

St Dominic's Parish, East Camberwell

Rose West-Thompson

St Kilda Mums

S Fong

St Peter's Mothers Union, Box Hill

Telstra Kids Fund

The Allanah and Madeline Foundation

The Jack Brockoff Foundation Ltd

The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

Westpac Foundation

Youth ConneXions—Whitehorse City Council



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## Useful Contact Numbers



WHITEHORSE  
BUSINESS GROUP  
INCORPORATED

Community Award  
FINALIST 2014

Housing Assistance		
Eastern Region Opening Doors		1800 825 955
Melbourne City Mission Youth Support		9614 3688
Crisis Counselling		
Lifeline – 24hrs		13 11 14
Suicide Helpline- 24hrs		1300 651 251
Kids Help Line – 24hrs		1800 551 800
Mens Line		1300 789 978
Parentline		13 22 89
Sexual Assault		
Eastern CASA		9895 3281
Sexual Assault Crisis Line		1800 806 292
Health		
Family Planning Victoria		9257 0100
Maternal & Child Health line		13 22 29
Nurse On Call – 24hrs		1300 60 60 24
Domestic Violence		
Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre		1800 015 188
Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS)		9259 4200
Child Abuse		
Child Protection Crisis Line		13 12 78
Child Abuse Prevention Services		1800 688 009
Legal Aid		
Eastern Community Legal Centre	Box Hill	9285 4822
	Boronia	9762 6235
Alcohol & Drugs		
Direct Line 24hrs		1800 888 236
Youth Substance Abuse Services – 24hrs		1800 458 685
Eastern Drug & Alcohol Services		1300 650 705
Sexuality & Gender Identity		
Gay and Lesbian Switchboard		9663 2939
Transgender Victoria		9517 6613