



*fka*CS eNews

Term 4 | 12 December 2018

Welcome to the *fka* Children's Services eNewsletter for Term 4, 2018.

Welcome to the *fka* Children's Services eNewsletter for Term 4, 2018. Plenty has been happening within the sector over the past few months, in particular the launch of the Department's School Readiness Program in which *fka*CS is excited to be included on the Menu of Evidence.

Featured is a wonderful piece by Community Kids Berwick, sharing their experience working alongside *fka*CS as part of our Cultural Inclusion Support program, as well as an article of interest by ARACY regarding the importance of supporting children in the six interlocking areas of wellbeing, coinciding with the VEYLDF.

Also included in this newsletter is a recap of our Annual General Meeting, membership fees for 2019-20 - including a new addition to our member benefits! - and information regarding the Peter Williams Trust 2019 grants. Finally, some exciting multicultural events coming up in Melbourne, and from our Multicultural Resource Centre, new bilingual editions of Irena Kobald's My Two Blankets.

We hope you enjoy!

The *fka*CS Team

Sector Updates

School Readiness Program

In recognition of the importance of Cultural Inclusion in responding to and celebrating the diverse needs of the Victorian Community, *fkaCS* is privileged to be included on the menu of evidence as part of the Victorian Governments School Readiness initiative.

Our new School Readiness Program of support sits alongside the Victorian Kindergarten Cultural Inclusion Program and affords us the opportunity to work alongside Kindergartens to design a program of work that will support their needs and those of the children and families in their community. Services in tranche 1 are able to access this support via the Departments Menu of Evidence.

- > Menu of Evidence: www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/SRFmenu.aspx
- > Search *school readiness funding menu* on the DET website: www.education.vic.gov.au

For services who have not yet received School Readiness funding, *fkaCS* can still support you in your pedagogy, practice and active participation of multilingual and newly arrived families under the DET Cultural Inclusion Support program. Contact *fkaCS* on 03 9428 4471 for more information.

For those services who have already included Cultural Inclusion Support in their Ready for School Annual Plan, please contact *fkaCS* so we can plan resources and ensure our support is timely and available when you need it. For more information about *fkaCS* support under the School Readiness Program, visit www.fka.org.au.

2019-20 *fkaCS* Membership Fees

***fkaCS* would like to advise of changes to membership fees for our 2019-20 Membership Year, and also share an exciting new addition to our list of member benefits!**

We are also incredibly excited to announce our new Outreach Program as an additional benefit available to Early and Middle Childhood Education and Care Service members and Other Organisation members from 1 March 2019.

For an additional \$200 per membership year, the Multicultural Resource Centre Outreach Program will deliver collections of books and resources to your service once a term via our Mobile Resource Service. With over 70 languages available and 1,000+ resources to choose from, our specialist Pedagogy and Practice Consultants will select resources based on the individual needs of children within your service to use during the term.

That's 4 uniquely tailored packages delivered to your service door (and returned to us) per year!

New membership fees for the year of 1 March 2019 - 28 February 2020 will apply from today. Those who join now will have their membership activated immediately, which means you receive the next 3 months FREE, on us.

Find out more about *fkaCS* membership, or sign up today at www.fka.org.au/membership/information.



Students	\$50
Individuals	\$70
E&C Service	\$220
Multi-Site Operator*	\$825
Each Additional Site	\$110
Other Organisations	\$825

*Fee inclusive of first 6 services - each additional site \$100.

Sector Updates

Peter Williams Trust 2019 Grant Applications Open!

Do you have a great idea, project or initiative designed to help children and families experiencing financial and social disadvantage? If so, apply now for the 2019 Peter Williams Trust Grant!

The Peter Williams Trust was established with a focus on the early childhood years and an acknowledgement of the critical significance of appropriate developmental experiences to later life outcomes. The Trust Fund supports children and families experiencing financial and social disadvantage.

Applications are open until February 2019, with funds available in early May 2019.

For enquiries and applications, please contact Lesley Oakley.

Em: lesley.oakley@optusnet.com.au | Ph: 5952 5270 / 0432 163 694 | Mail: PO Box 9023, Cowes VIC 3922

Please note email applications are preferred. For more information, including complete application criteria, visit the Peter Williams Trust website at www.peterwilliamstrust.wordpress.com.

Voices from the Field: Featuring Community Kids Berwick Early Education Centre

We asked Justine Mckinnon, Centre Manager at Community Kids Berwick Early Education Centre, to tell us about her experience working alongside *fkaCS* as part of our Cultural Inclusion Support program...

Community Kids Berwick, through discussion and critical reflection as part of our UNITY project, sought support to ensure that the cultural proficiency and inclusive practices we utilise were meaningful and responsive to the children and families participating in our programs. In recognising our need for further support we contacted *fkaCS* to support our pedagogy and practice in ensuring children experienced a sense of safety, a sense of belonging and a sense of connection within our environment.

An *fkaCS* Pedagogy and Practice Consultant met with the key change agents at Community Kids Berwick. We were so grateful to have the support, suggestions and strategies to support multilingual children in our care. Focussing on pedagogy, practice and shared communication, the difference that *fkaCS* Cultural Inclusion Support has made to individual children and their educators is incredible. The outcomes we have observed include; families experiencing less stress, decreased anxiety in children and, the most wonderful end result; seeing children come out of their shell, gain confidence within the environment, and build strong relationships with their peers and educators.

Community Kids Berwick accessed funding for *fkaCS* Cultural Inclusion Support through the Inclusion Support Program (ISP) via our local Inclusion Agency, Yooralla. It is a valuable program making such an impact. This program is the key to centres moving their focus toward their inclusive practice and establishing a safe haven for families that may be feeling quite isolated. We hope that our story will inspire other centres in moving their focus to a higher level of support for multilingual families and children in their care.

Read more about *fkaCS* Cultural Inclusion Support at www.fka.org.au/cultural-inclusion-support/about.



Justine Mckinnon, Centre Manager

 **Sector Updates**

Article: When you urge kids to learn how democracy is supposed to work you have an obligation to listen to what they have to say

By the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)

In our early education and care environments we are guided by the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework to empower, strengthen and respond to a child's sense of agency, identity and wellbeing. "Research shows that the wellbeing of young Australians is contingent upon their needs being met in six key interlocking areas. These are: being loved and safe; having material basics; being healthy; learning; having a positive sense of identity and culture; and, participating. Participating means that young people can express their views, that their views are considered, and they are involved in decision-making processes that affect them. Where any of these six needs is not adequately met, Australian children cannot be said to be thriving" (ARACY 2018).

This article speaks on the current dialogue between Australian students and the Australian Government whilst highlighting the importance of supporting children in the six interlocking areas of wellbeing (ARACY 2018) and responding actively and purposefully to children when they are participating within programs.

Further research conducted by ARACY for The Nest Action Agenda (2014) suggests that "we need to shift our thinking to see every child as a holder, in their own right, of an entitlement to services that will promote and maintain their wellbeing", so, consider how children are participating in your programs:

- What are children telling you?
- What are their non-verbal interactions telling you?
- How do you respond to children's world views?
- How does responsive practice support a child's sense of wellbeing, identity and connectedness?

If this is an area you would like further information on and support in, contact us on 03 9428 4471 to speak with an *fkaCS* Pedagogy and Practice Consultant.

View the full article at www.aracy.org.au/news/when-you-urge-kids-to-learn-how-democracy-is-supposed-to-work-you-have-an-obligation-to-listen-to-what-they-have-to-say.

Scanlon Foundation: Mapping Social Cohesion

***fkaCS* recently attended the launch of the Scanlon Foundation survey of social cohesion and attitudes to multiculturalism in Australia.**

The report found that the high levels of support for the benefits of multiculturalism continue, despite political and media attempts to link immigration to congestion, conflict and crime.

Guest speaker, social analyst Hugh McKay, spoke about how children build social cohesion by forming friendships that bring families together who may not otherwise meet. This prompted us to think about the enormous power Early Childhood Education and Care services that are skilled in supporting children and families cultural and linguistic rights have to facilitate these connections between families, and how we can acknowledge and share some of the great work you do.

We would like to invite you to submit your stories of social inclusion to us at fkacommunications@fka.org.au.

Sector Updates

Mural celebrating diversity and community through art unveiled in Collingwood



If you've stopped by *fkaCS* recently you may have felt vibrancy in the air thanks to a colourful mural gracing the side of one of Melbourne's largest housing estates. The 'tallest mural in the Southern Hemisphere' features four tenants - five-year-old Ni Na Nguyen, grandmother Badria Abdo from Ethiopia, six-year-old Arden Watson-Cropley and Yulius Antares Taime from West Papua - and was unveiled earlier last month to celebrate the incredible diversity and sense of community within the suburb of Collingwood. At *fkaCS* we feel honoured to be able to enjoy the beauty of this mural each day as a reminder of the work we do and the people we impact. We hope that when you next stop by you will appreciate it too!

Read more at www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/12/tallest-mural-in-the-southern-hemisphere-unveiled-in-melbourne. Photograph by Luke Henriques-Gomes for the Guardian.

Victorian Early Childhood Languages Program

Giving preschool children the opportunity to learn in another language.

In recognition that learning in languages other than English helps children to improve their overall literacy and understanding of how language in general works, the Victorian Government will fund the following Language programs in Victorian Kindergartens in 2019:

Learn languages at kindergarten

- children will learn in another language for up to three hours per week
- this will be offered across 120 kindergarten services

Bilingual kindergartens

- children will learn in another language for up to seven and a half hours per week
- 10 kindergarten services will receive funding to transition to this model

We welcome the Victorian Government's commitment to valuing and recognising the importance learning languages in preschools, and congratulate the Victorian Kindergartens who have been selected to provide the program within their services.

Events & Professional Learning Opportunities



fkaCS Annual General Meeting 2018

Our 2018 Annual General Meeting was held on 14 November at the Bargoonga Nganjin (North Fitzroy Library) Bagung Magali Community Room; a wonderfully modern space full of light that no doubt set the uplifting tone for the meeting along with food from ASRC Catering.

The evening began with a presentation by outgoing *fkaCS* President Denise Rundle (on behalf of Dr Sue Atkinson Lopez), who provided insight into the development of the AAPEC Possum Skin Pedagogy Professional Learning Project. We then welcomed the following new members to the *fkaCS* Board:

Barbara Romeril	President	Dr Sue Atkinson Lopez	Board Member
Heidi De Paoli	Vice President	Carolina Cabezas	Board Member
Karla Coombes	Secretary	Helen Walker Cook	Board Member
Julie Brooks	Treasurer	Deon Gill	Board Member
Melinda Ackerman	Board Member		

fkaCS Life Memberships Awarded

Outgoing Board Members Denise Rundle and Bruna Pasqua were awarded with life memberships at our AGM as a thank you for their immense work and continuous efforts advocating for high quality education for all Victorian children and their families. We wish Denise and Bruna all the best for the future and are honoured to have them as life members of *fkaCS*.



Events & Professional Learning Opportunities

Exhibition: Identity: Yours, Mind, Ours

Oct 2018 - Apr 2019 | Immigration Museum

What does it mean to belong and not belong in Australia? This exhibition explores how our cultural heritage, languages, beliefs, and family connections influence our self-perceptions and our perceptions of other people – perceptions that can lead to discovery, confusion, prejudice and understanding.

Engaging personal stories, intriguing objects, compelling images and interactive multimedia experiences invite visitors to find connections with others, as well as challenge the assumptions we make about each other every day. Visitors are encouraged to share their stories, affirm their identities and celebrate diversity in our community.

If you are unable to participate in this exhibition, the Immigration Museum provides various other learning tools, available on their website www.museumsvictoria.com.au/website/immigrationmuseum. Perhaps a visit to this site could inspire meaningful conversation within your team and encourage exploration of what belonging means to us as individuals.

If you have visited the exhibition we would love to hear about your experience! Please phone us on 03 9428 4471 or email fkacommunications@fka.org.au.

Local Events

Christmas Projections | 30 Nov - 25 Dec | Federation Square

Melbourne's famous Christmas projections are back with free animated shows illuminated on iconic city locations.

Nepal Festival | 15 Dec | Federation Square

Despite being a small land-locked country, Nepal has incredible diversity. From breathtaking scenery to friendly people, from holy temples to majestic monasteries, from rich cultural heritage to delicious food, from amazing traditions to vibrant festivals, Nepal ought to be celebrated.

Indian Summer Festival | 23 - 27 Dec | Yarra Park

Experience the cultural pillars that unite modern India and modern Melbourne - from scrumptious food, enchanting music, fine art, memorable film and show-stopping cricket, there is something everyone.

Vida - Melbourne Latin Summer Festival | 11 - 13 Jan 2019 | Royal Botanic Gardens

Enjoy authentic cuisine, music, performances, art and more at this free multicultural-themed festival that focuses on Latin America's environmental, economic and social issues that impact Australia and the world.

Chinese New Year Celebration | 2 - 17 Feb 2019 | Queensbridge Square

The 2019 Melbourne Chinese New Year will once again showcase 'the best of everything' for the festive celebration, including community group performances, light installations, cooking demonstrations and traditional ceremonies.

For more information about these events visit www.whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au.



From the Multicultural Resource Centre



My Two Blankets by Irena Kobald

Cartwheel has a strong sense of belonging and connectedness to her home country, however, when war breaks out she is forced to flee with her Aunty. Suddenly she finds herself in a strange new place where everything is unfamiliar and confronting. Cartwheel no longer feels connected and finds herself wondering whether she knows herself at all.

The much loved children's book *My Two Blankets*, written by Irena Kobald and illustrated by Freya Blackwood, was launched last month in three new bilingual editions - Farsi/English, Dari/English and Arabic/English - as part of a collaboration with the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC). *fkaCS* attended the launch at Readings Carlton on October 25, and we are pleased to announce these editions of *My Two Blankets* are now available for members to borrow via the Multicultural Resource Centre!

Using *My Two Blankets* within your practice, along with a tailored list of intentional teaching ideas provided by *fkaCS*, will provoke your thoughts and understandings of the migration experience. It can also be used as a resource for educators who work with newly arrived families to critically reflect on their current practice.

Member? Browse online: www.library.fka.com.au or download resources: www.fka.org.au/resources

Not a member? Visit www.fka.org.au and join now!

Enjoy a range of benefits and play a vital role in supporting *fkaCS* to achieve our vision and purpose, enabling us to:

- Advocate for children's cultural and linguistic rights.
- Maintain the Multicultural Resource (MRC) collection – ensuring hard-to-find multicultural/bilingual resources are accessible to Victorian education and care services.
- Design and implement new programs and resources to support all children's active participation, learning and belonging in their service.



Additional Notices

Days of Significance Calendar

Have you downloaded the *fkaCS* Days of Significance Calendar? There are multiple events coming up throughout December and January. This exclusive members-only resource is available for download on our website.

Visit www.fka.org.au/resources/educator-resources to download your copy.

Follow us on LinkedIn!

fkaCS is now on LinkedIn, so be sure to follow our page for sector updates, news and current events happening within Victoria. Search *fka* Children's Services via LinkedIn, or go to www.linkedin.com/company/fkacs.



***fkaCS* will be closed for the holiday period from Friday 21 December 2018, reopening on Monday 7 January 2019.**

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to working with you again in the New Year!