



National Foster Care Conference 2008

31 October to 2 November 2008

Novotel Brighton Beach

better outcomes



R e g i s t r a t i o n

www.fostercare.org.au

W e l c o m e



I am pleased to welcome you to the 2008 National Foster Care Conference in Sydney. This conference is a unique opportunity for all of those working for the care and protection of children and young people – from foster and kinship carers, to government and community sector workers, policy makers and researchers – to come together to share their experiences and strive for “better outcomes” for children and young people in care.

The NSW Department of Community Services works in partnership with the non-government sector to support foster care families.

We are delighted to be able to support networking, learning and development opportunities such as this conference.

The variety of speakers, delegates and activities over the course of this event will inspire, challenge, and enrich your experiences of foster care.

It is an important way to renew and maintain the energy, enthusiasm and determination that is the hallmark of the remarkable and committed individuals who care.

I hope you will find it a rewarding experience.

Jennifer Mason
Director-General
NSW Department of Community Services

Keynote presenters include:



Dr Suzanne Packer

Suzanne Packer has been a paediatrician since 1972 and has worked in the ACT as a Community Paediatrician and Paediatrician to the Child-at-Risk Health Unit since 1990. Dr Packer has seen many children because of abuse and neglect and has now followed some children into adulthood. In 1999 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia for her “services to child welfare, Paediatrics and the Community”.



Mary Anderson

Mary Anderson is a Clinical Psychologist (University of Sydney), with over thirty years experience with children in out of home care. She worked for many years in the Tasmanian and New South Wales State departments, dealing with Juvenile Justice and Care matters, children in group homes, children with intellectual and physical disabilities, and offered a visiting service to foster families. Mary later worked in the Child and Family section of Community Health, offering behavioural interventions, play therapy and a learning difficulties clinic. She went to set up and manage an intervention service for families where children had experienced abuse. She has presented a wide range of training workshops, including the therapeutic use of play, issues of attachment and behaviour management. She has supervised Clinical Masters students at Macquarie University, and more recently has offered supervision and training to Parent Line counsellors. Mary has been in private practice for the past twelve years, specialising in children’s court matters, placement issues and child behaviour management. She has regularly appeared as an Expert witness in the area of children’s attachment issues. She is also involved in Juvenile Justice matters and Adult Criminal proceedings for Legal Aid and the Aboriginal Legal Service.

Organising Committee

Bev Orr (Chair)	Australian Foster Care Association
Helen Falconer	Australian Foster Care Association
Paulette McFarland	Australian Foster Care Association
Sylvia Davey	Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV)
Andrew McCallum	Association of Childrens Welfare Agencies (ACWA)
Sylvia Ghaly	Association of Childrens Welfare Agencies (ACWA)
Christine Howlett	NSW Department of Community Services

Finance Committee

Vittoria Borazio (Chair)	Youth off the Streets
Bev Orr	Australian Foster Care Association
Helen Falconer	Australian Foster Care Association
Paulette McFarland	Australian Foster Care Association
Sylvia Davey	Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV)

Key Dates / Deadlines

Monday 22 September 2008

Deadline for Early Bird Registration.

Saturday 18 October 2008

Deadline for receipt of postal pre-registrations. Any registration received after this date will be regarded as an onsite registration and treated accordingly.

Program

The conference sessions and activities focus on achieving positive outcomes or enhancing practice and in particular, attempt to address the issues challenging the sector now and in the next five years. The Organising Committee encourages delegates to share ideas and partake in pro-active discussion in sessions.

	A1 Behaviour and learning	A2 Carer recruitment, training, retention	A3 Hearing children and young people, infants and contact	A4 Kinship care	A5 Education	A6 Aboriginal care recruitment
S001 Dr Sue Packer , Community Paediatrician (ACT) Behaviour and learning: The challenges for children in care (90 mins)	S002 Josh Fergeus and Anne Dwyer Anglicare Victoria (VIC) Foster care recruitment, training and retention: A comprehensive team approach achieving better outcomes (45 mins) S003 Leanne Salmond, Kate Buckmaster and Lynne Canavan Department of Disability, Housing & Community Services; Barmados; Marymead (ACT) Positive futures caring together: A collaborative approach to competency based training for foster carers (45 mins)	S004 Jim Oommen Office of the Child Safety Commissioner (VIC) Creative ways of listening to children and young people in out of home care (30 mins) S005 Meredith Kiraly, Professor Cathy Humphreys, Rhona Noakes and Jim Oommen Alfred Felton Child and Family Welfare Research Unit and University of Melbourne (VIC) Infants in care and family contact (60 mins)	S006 Albert Zhou and Marina Paxman NSW DoCS (NSW) Kinship Care in NSW (45 mins) S007 NSW DoCS – Western Region staff NSW DoCS (NSW) Partners in caring – Strengthening relationships in relative and kinship care (45 mins) S008 Peter Walsh, Marina Paxman and Sharon Burke NSW DoCS (NSW) Caring for children and young people from non-English speaking backgrounds in out of home care in NSW (30 mins)	S009 Michelle Townsend Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University (NSW) Are we making the grade? The education of children and young people in out of home care (90 mins)	S010 Aboriginal training and recruitment film AbSec NSW Have a heart become a carer DVD (90 mins)	

	B1 Behaviour management	B2 Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) needs; Reducing systems abuse	B3 Grand parenting	B4 Carer recruitment; Innovative success	B5 Strengths based practice	B6 The cost of care
S010 Mary Anderson Clinical Psychologist (NSW) Behaviour management: How to help children learn self control (90 mins)	S012 Mary Dimech Multi-Cultural Services, NSW DoCS (NSW) No one asks me about THAT! Responding appropriately and well to migrant and refugee foster children and their families (45 mins) S013 Kaye Bearlin and Justine Crichton St. Luke's Anglicare (Bendigo) (VIC) Keys to stability: Getting serious about systems abuse and the ways fostering services perpetrate it: How the co-location of a permanent care and fostering service has benefited children in foster care (45 mins)	S014 Anne McLeish Grandparents Australia (VIC) Grandparents – The alchemists of the 21st century (90 mins)	S015 Rosalie Scott and Claire Parsons Glastonbury Child and Family Services (VIC) Understanding the barriers to becoming a foster carer: A study into why people withdraw from the recruitment process (45 mins) S016 Christine Ringrow Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (VIC) Best practice engagement projects: Process, outcomes and lessons (45 mins)	S017 Jan Lee Mercycare Family Services (WA) The developmental audit: A new tool in the strengths based revolution (60 mins) S018 Sue Tregear Barmados Australia (NSW) Service user experience of case managed interventions (30 mins)	S019 Dr Damien Riggs and Dr Paul Defabro University of Adelaide (SA) Economics of care: Remuneration and recognition in foster care (45 mins) S020 Marilyn McHugh Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW (NSW) The cost of care (45 mins)	



0900 – 1015 PS02 Plenary session 2 – Endeavour Ballroom

1015 – 1100 **Morning tea** – includes Market Place, pampering and Table Talk

Workshops – Group C

C1 Relationships	C2 Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder	C3 Long-term care permanency planning	C4 NSW Out of Home Care Legal Systems Act	C5 Transitioning, Alternative care models	C6 Aboriginal care
S021 John Cheek Clinical Psychologist (NSW) <i>Repairing relationships</i> (90 mins)	S022 Sue Miers National Organisation for Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and Related Disorders (SA) <i>Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder: Providing an alternative paradigm for understanding behaviours</i> (90 mins)	S023 Claire Berlyn Australian Institute of Family Studies (VIC) <i>Stability in long term care</i> (30 mins) S024 Inga Jacobsson NSW DoCS (NSW) <i>Evaluation of permanency planning demonstration project</i> (15 mins) S025 Steve Kimmond Community Service Division, NSW Ombudsman (NSW) <i>Outcomes of the aboriginal foster care project and group review of children and young people in care, 10-14 years old</i> (45 mins)	S026 Rod Best Legal Section, NSW DoCS (NSW) <i>The NSW Act and related legislation: A brief overview followed by questions from the floor</i> (90 mins)	S028 Joseph McDowall CREATE Foundation <i>CREATE Foundation report card: Transitioning from care</i> (45 mins) S028 Dr Damien Riggs, Dr Paul Delfabbro and Martha Augoustinos University of Adelaide (SA) <i>Australian carers and the creation of foster families</i> (45 mins)	S029 Dr David Vicary, Susan von Leonhardi and Judy Wilkinson Schools Of Psychology And Nursing And Midwifery, Curtin University Of Technology; Keyassets Fostering, WA & NZ (WA) <i>Towards improving out of home care outcomes of Western Australian Aboriginal children</i> (45 mins) S030 Megan Cadd and Julie Toohey Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VIC) <i>A training program to support non-Aboriginal carers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care: What makes the difference and how can we foster this change?</i> (45 mins)

1230 – 1330 **Lunch** – includes Market Place, pampering and Table Talk

1330 – 1500 PS03 Plenary session 3 – Endeavour Ballroom

Afternoon tea

Workshops – Group D

D1 Challenging behaviours	D2 Allegations	D3 Education	D4 Carer views; Caring for the carers	D5 Strength based practice	D6 Domestic violence
S031 Interactive panel of professionals with hands on tips <i>Challenging behaviours: Understanding why they do it and how to manage it</i> (90 mins)	S032 Rod Best Legal Section, NSW DoCS (NSW) <i>Unravelling allegations in foster care: The departmental perspective</i> (45 mins) S033 Trisha Bayler Child Protection Division, NSW Ombudsman (NSW) <i>Unravelling allegations in foster care: The Ombudsman's perspective</i> (45 mins)	S034 Theresa Burgheim Wesley Dalmar (NSW) <i>Education and dysfunctional attachment: A clash of belief systems</i> (90 mins)	S035 Heather Lovatt James Cook University (QLD) <i>The fostering experience and what should be different! The foster carers perspective</i> (45 mins) S036 Rosalie Scott and Claire Parsons Glastonbury Child & Family Services (VIC) <i>Who cares for the carer? Supporting foster carers in a changing and challenging environment</i> (45 mins)	S037 Dr Leon Fulcher and Jonathan Modley Keyassets Fostering WA & NZ (NZ) <i>From strength to strengths: Towards better outcomes for kids in out of home care</i> (90 mins)	S038 Chris Burke and friends Gracie Productions (NSW) <i>The power of puppets – Working with children and young people exposed to domestic violence</i> (90 mins)

1715 Close

1930 – 2200 **Conference Dinner**, Endeavour Ballroom – Includes National Recognition Awards and Plenary session 4 (PS04)

0900 – 1030

Workshops – Group E

E1	E2 Policy	E3 New care models	E4 Children and young people resilience	E5 Reunification	E6 Good practice
S039	S040 Commonwealth Department of FAHCSIA <i>framework initiative update (45 mins)</i> S041 Australian Foster Care Association <i>Carers views on out of home care policy (45 mins)</i>	S042 Susan von Leonhardi and Judy Wilkinson <i>Keyassets Fostering, WA & NZ (WA)</i> <i>Keyassetswa: A new independent model of foster care in WA (45 mins)</i> S043 Rowena Penny and Dee Burdon <i>Evolve Therapeutic Service (QLD)</i> <i>Evolve Therapeutic Service: Collaborating to include carers and the children/ young people (45 mins)</i>	S044 Jo Villa and Kristy Crimmins <i>Barnardos (NSW)</i> <i>Smiles and memories. A group program for young people and their carers to explore identity, self-esteem and resilience (45 mins)</i> S045 Jan Williams and Deb Willick <i>Barnardos South Coast (NSW)</i> <i>Carer kids toolkit (45 mins)</i>	S046 Kaye Bearlin and Justine Crichton <i>St. Luke's Anglicare (Bendigo) (VIC)</i> <i>A quiet revolution – Increasing reunification outcomes (45 mins)</i> S047 Justine Crichton and Kaye Bearlin <i>St. Luke's Anglicare (Bendigo) (VIC)</i> <i>How to get your kids back – An innovative parent training program with surprising outcomes (45 mins)</i>	S048 Dr Gerard Stoyles, Timothy Broady, Kim McMullan and Karen Mathews <i>University of Wollongong (NSW)</i> <i>Fostering successful care in foster care (90 mins)</i>

1030 – 1100

Morning tea – includes Market Place and Table Talk

1100 – 1230

PS05 Plenary session 5 – *Endeavour Ballroom*

1230 – 1300

Conference review and close – *Endeavour Ballroom*

1300

Closing tea and coffee – includes Market Place**Market Place**

The place to meet, greet, catch a film, buy a DVD or a book, unwind with a massage, catch up with the workshops you can't get to and check out the kids' gallery... or just chill.

Table Talk Sessions

Got a burning issue you need to discuss? Table Talk is a time to connect with other carers, get advice and share a challenge e.g. attachment, rural carer needs, legal, bedwetting, head lice, a self harming child. Only limited by your needs.

Please indicate on the registration form your interest in attending a table talk session.

Program is subject to change. Please refer to the conference website at www.fostercare.org.au for the most up-to-date program.

To provide a change of pace from daily sessions, a conference dinner has been organised for delegates and their guests to allow them to meet socially to network or to renew friendships with industry colleagues.

Conference Dinner

Date: Saturday 1 November 2008
Time: 1930 – 2200
Cost: AUD\$70 including GST per person
Location: Endeavour Ballroom, Novotel Brighton Beach
Dress: Smart Casual

Please book tickets using the Delegate Registration Form. The Conference Dinner cost includes a barbeque buffet, one hour of drinks and formal program including guest speakers and the presentation of the National Recognition Awards.

Foster Carer
 National
 Recognition Awards

All relative, kin and foster carers, current and past, are eligible for this Award. The purpose of the awards is to publicly recognise those carers who have made a sustained contribution to the community by caring for other people's children for 20 or more years. Any carer can apply or be nominated by a third party if they:

- Have 20 or more years active service in total as a foster, relative or kinship carer (shorter periods added up count towards the 20 years).
- Are a person of good character.
- Hold a current and clear police record / Working With Children or equivalent check.
- Fully complete both sides of the application form and supply all requested information.
- Agree to the nomination and sign the nomination form.
- Submit the application by Friday 10 October 2008 for recognition at the 2008 National Foster Care Conference.

All applications received after this date will be held over for presentation at the next national conference.

To obtain a nomination form please visit the conference website at www.fostercare.org.au

Conference
Venue: Novotel
 Brighton Beach

The National Foster Care Conference 2008 will be held at Novotel Brighton Beach. Located close to Sydney Airport and just 15 km away from Sydney's central business district, the hotel offers easy access for delegates attending the conference. In addition to its modern meeting facilities, Novotel Brighton Beach also features a business centre, restaurant and bar, undercover parking and a gymnasium.



To attend the Conference, please complete the registration form and return it to the Conference Secretariat. Each delegate must complete a separate form. Please read this booklet carefully before completing the form. Forms will be accepted by post, fax or online through the website at www.fostercare.org.au

Registration Fees

All fees are quoted in Australian dollars (AUD) inclusive of GST.

	<i>Early Bird Before 22 Sept</i>	<i>Standard After 22 Sept</i>	<i>Onsite After 18 Oct</i>
Carer / Full-Time Student	350	405	430
Non-Carer	460	515	540
Day Registration – Friday only			
Carer / Full Time Student	185	195	220
Day Registration – Friday only			
Non Carer	240	250	275
Day Registration – Saturday only			
Carer / Full Time Student	240	250	275
Day Registration – Saturday only			
Non-Carer	320	330	355
Day Registration – Sunday only			
Carer / Full Time Student	185	195	220
Day Registration – Sunday only			
Non-Carer	240	250	275
Teenagers	185	185	185

Entitlements

Full registration fee and teenager fee include:

- All conference sessions
- Entrance to exhibition
- Conference satchel
- Conference materials
- Catering:
 - Friday: Lunch, afternoon tea
 - Saturday: Arrival tea and coffee, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea
 - Sunday: Morning tea, closing tea and coffee

Day registration fees include:

- Conference sessions for day of registration
- Entrance to exhibition for day of registration
- Conference satchel
- Conference materials
- Catering:
 - Arrival tea and coffee, morning tea and afternoon tea for day of registration, if applicable
 - Lunch for day of registration, if applicable.

Catering that is available at the conference is as follows:

Friday 31 October 2008

- Lunch
- Afternoon tea

Saturday 1 November 2008

- Arrival tea and coffee
- Morning tea
- Lunch
- Afternoon tea

Sunday 2 November 2008

- Morning tea
- Closing tea and coffee

Method of Payment

Payment of fees must accompany all registration forms. Registration will not be confirmed until full payment is received. Payment can be made by the following methods:

- Bank draft in Australian dollars drawn on an Australian bank
- Credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners)
- Bank transfer (please send a remittance advice so your payment can be acknowledged)
- Personal or company cheque (Australian delegates only)**

Cheques should be made payable to **NFCC 2008

Please note that debits to your credit card, excluding accommodation, will appear as ICMS Australasia on your credit card statement.

**Note that if you are making a credit card payment from a country outside Australia, for security reasons you must first advise your banking institution of the impending charge and authorise them to allow the charge from Australia to go through for up to 48 hours (this is due to the time difference between our countries).*

Cancellation of Registration

Cancellations must be notified in writing to the Conference Secretariat. Cancellations made before 1 October 2008 will be refunded less AUD150.00 to cover administration costs. Refunds for cancellations received on or after 1 October will only be made in exceptional circumstances. As an alternative to cancellation, your registration may be transferred to another person on or before 1 October without incurring any cost penalty. The Conference Secretariat must be advised in writing of any alterations or transfers.

Liability

In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the Conference Organiser and Conference Organising Committee does not accept responsibility for loss of monies incurred by delay.

Registration Desk Opening Hours

Endeavour Pre-function Area, Novotel Brighton Beach	
Friday 31 October	0900 – 1715
Saturday 1 November	0800 – 1715
Sunday 2 November	0800 – 1300



You are encouraged to book your accommodation through the Conference Secretariat to ensure that you receive very competitive rates.

Deposits

Accommodation will not be confirmed until a deposit of at least one night's tariff is received. This deposit will be forwarded to your hotel and will be credited to your room account. Delegates must settle the balance of their account with the hotel concerned upon check-out. You also have the option of paying the full amount due to the hotel up front, if you wish to do this you will need to indicate this on the registration form.

Cancellations

No accommodation deposits will be refunded on or after Friday 26 September 2008.

Early Arrival

As check in is not until 1400, it is possible that your room may not be available for immediate occupation on your early arrival. Whilst hotels will do everything possible to accommodate early arrivals, if you wish to be guaranteed immediate occupation, you are able to pay an extra day's tariff for the night before you are due to arrive. If you wish to take this precaution, please advise the Conference Secretariat on the registration form so that we can notify the hotel that your room is pre-registered.

Late Arrival

Please indicate if you will arrive at your hotel after 1800. Failure to do so may result in your room being released.

Change of Booking

Prior to Friday 24 October 2008 any change in booking must be made in writing to the Conference Secretariat and NOT directly to the hotel. After 24 October 2008, please contact the hotel directly for any changes to your booking.

Children Policy

For delegates travelling with children, the Novotel Brighton Beach can offer free accommodation and breakfast for two children up to 16 years old sharing a room with guardians, provided they use existing bedding and/or up to one extra bed.

Please note that the rates outlined in this brochure do NOT include breakfast for adults. Adults wishing to have breakfast at the hotel will be charged.

<i>Hotel/ Apartment (includes GST)</i>	<i>Tariff per room/ per night (Prices are based on single/ double / twin occupancy, Otherwise stated)</i>
--	---

- Novotel Brighton Beach (4 ½ star)

<i>Standard King Room</i>	AUD\$209.00
---------------------------	-------------

- The Grand Pines Tourist Park

<i>Standard Cabin (share bathroom)</i>	AUD\$88.00
--	------------

<i>Ensuite Cabin</i>	AUD\$125.00
----------------------	-------------

**Please note the rates above are per night. The rates are in Australian dollars and breakfast is NOT included in the above prices.*



Parking

Three levels of parking located directly underneath the Novotel Brighton Beach with internal lift access to the lobby and function rooms. This parking station is independently operated by Bayside Plaza Parking. The following rates apply (and are subject to change):

Day Delegates: \$10.00 per car per day*

Overnight parking: \$25.00 per car per night*

Please note that the Overnight Car Parking charges are valid for 24 hrs from the first point of entry into the Car Park.

** Prices correct at the time of printing*

Transport from the Airport

The Conference does not provide any transfers from the airport to the Conference hotels or Conference venue. All delegates must make their own transport arrangements from the airport. The following are estimates only for travel from the airport to the conference venue one way:

Taxi: AUD20.00 to AUD25.00*

Train link to Rockdale Station: AUD13.80*

** Prices correct at the time of printing*

Public Transport around Sydney

Sydney's public transport network allows easy travel around Sydney and its suburbs. Considerable savings on buses and harbour ferries can be obtained with the State Transit Travel pass. Taxis can either be booked by telephone or hailed from the street.

Delegates wishing to take the bus from Rockdale Train Station should board Sydney Buses 475, 478 or 479 to Bay Street. For detailed transport information on public trains, buses and ferries consult the Transport Infoline at www.131500.info or call 13 15 00.

Banks

Banks in Australia are open from 0930 to 1600 Monday to Thursday and 0930 to 1700 on Fridays. At the discretion of individual bank institutions, selective bank branches may be open between 9.30am to 12pm on Saturdays. Banks are closed all day Sunday.

Exchange facilities are available at the airport and most major hotels.

Automatic teller (ATMs) facilities are available at within the hotel and surrounding area.

An ATM is available in the hotel and is not aligned to a specific banking institution.

A Commonwealth Bank ATM is located on Bay Street.

A Westpac ATM is located in the food court level of the plaza adjoining the Novotel Brighton Beach.

Climate

You can look forward to an average daily temperature of 23°C in Sydney during the months of October and November.

Wheelchair access or other mobility disability access during the Conference

When you register, please notify the secretariat of any mobility disabilities you have so that any venue access challenges can be addressed.

Dress Code

Smart casual is recommended for the duration of the conference.

Eating Out

An array of international cuisine is available from the various cafes in Brighton Le Sands. Please contact the hotel concierge for more information on restaurants or cafes in the area.



C o n f e r e n c e P a r t n e r s



Australian Foster Care Association Inc.



NSW Department of Community Services



Conference Organiser



Enquiries

Please direct all registration and accommodation enquiries to:

2008 National Foster Care Conference Secretariat
C/- ICMS Australasia
GPO Box 3270
Sydney NSW 2001

Telephone: +61 2 9254 5000
Facsimile: +61 2 9251 3552

Registration & accommodation enquiries:
annebs@icmsaust.com.au

General enquiries: conf2008@bigpond.com

Website: www.fostercare.org.au



