

# NATIONAL FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE 2006

**Friday 29th September – Sunday 1st October 2006**

**Stamford Grand, Adelaide, South Australia**

**SUPPORTING CARING FAMILIES:  
MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT 5 YEARS**



## WELCOME

I am delighted to invite you to attend the 2006 National Foster Care Conference which is to be held in Adelaide in September. The theme of the conference is Supporting Caring Families: Meeting the Challenges of the Next Five Years.

One of the ways that the South Australian Department for Families and Communities can support foster families is by supporting this conference, and bringing together the many presenters, carers and workers from around the country to share their views, their research and their questions.

This year's program builds on previous years and will offer valuable opportunities for foster carers, workers, policy makers, researchers and educators to come together to support each other and look towards the future.

I urge all of you who are in the field of foster care to attend the conference, meet with old acquaintances or make new contacts, and most importantly leave with information to spread amongst your own networks.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Vardon  
Chief Executive  
Department for Families and Communities



## OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dorothy Scott is the Foundation Chair of Child Protection and the Director of the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia. Her previous positions were those of Head of the School of Social Work at the University of Melbourne and Executive Director of The Ian Potter Foundation. Dorothy's work in child welfare began in the 1960s when she was a teenager and volunteered to help children in institutional care with their literacy. After leaving school she was a child care worker looking after children in state care before studying social work at the University of Melbourne. Her first job was in foster care and adoption and she later worked in mental health and sexual assault services. During her sabbatical leave she has worked with families in an intensive family preservation program and in a parent-adolescent mediation program. Her head is in academia but her heart is still in practice!

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Professor Freda Briggs is a Senior Australian who in her roles as educator, author, scholar and ambassador has ceaselessly and passionately worked towards her vision to provide a safer and more caring world for children. She is the recipient of the Inaugural Australian Humanitarian Award, the ANZAC Fellowship Award, the Jean Denton Memorial Fellowship and the Creswick Fellowship Award for her work with disadvantaged children. Her experiences working with the London Metropolitan Police in the child protection field underscored the importance of training teachers to identify children who were being abused and neglected. When she became a lecturer, she introduced students to issues relating to child protection. In 1975 Freda and her family moved to Australia so she could take up the position of Director of Early Childhood Studies at the State College of Victoria, a pioneering position and the first course of its kind in Australia. In 1980 Freda was appointed foundation Dean of the De Lissa Institute of Early Childhood and Family Studies, then Associate Professor of Childhood Development at the University of South Australia in 1991 and a Professor in 1994. A tireless advocate for children, she still travels the country voluntarily to provide advice on issues relating to the educational needs of veterans' children. She also travels extensively throughout Asia and the Pacific at her own expense, consulting to humanitarian aid organisations. She spent nine years as a consultant to Save the Children in a voluntary capacity to ensure that Australian money was wisely spent and services met community needs. Additionally, she advises the New Zealand Police and Ministry of Education and the Government of Fiji on child protection issues.



Father Chris Riley, founder of Youth Off The Streets, is a member of the Salesian Congregation of Priests and Brothers, a Catholic Order that is the third largest in the world and whose mission is to help disadvantaged and troubled youth. He has worked with disadvantaged youth for the past 27 years in a variety of roles: teacher, youth worker, probation officer, residential care and principal. Without significant Government funding, Youth Off The Streets has become one of the largest youth services in Australia, offering residential, counselling, street-based programs, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, educational, semi-independent casework and family support facilities. Father Chris Riley believes there is no such thing as a "child born bad", but acknowledges that there are bad environments, circumstances and families that impact negatively on our young.

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Anne Skipper has enjoyed a diverse portfolio of public, private and non-for-profit sector interests and responsibilities with the themes being, social justice, health, children and youth, media, corporate governance and women's leadership development. Just a few of the positions held by Ann during her career include Founder and Managing Director of The Teleran Group - a highly successful leadership development business which was recognised for its work in maximising people's potential and achieving transformational change in leaders and organisations, Chair Board North West Adelaide Health Service - the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Lyell McEwin Health Service, Commissioner Development Assessment Commission, General Manager of Turnbull Fox Phillips (now Porter Novelli) Public Relations, Presenter Channel 9, Executive Officer, Neurosurgical Research Foundation, Chair Spastic Centres of South Australia, Chair International Year of the Family and Clinical Nurse Consultant, Theatre at Northern Community, Calvary and Memorial Hospitals.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Foster Carers  
Indigenous Carers  
Kin and Family Carers

Government Workers & Managers  
Non-Government Workers & Managers  
Key Stakeholders in the Sector

Social Work Students  
Academics/Lecturers  
Researchers

Further information on workshops & presenters available at [www.fostercare.org.au](http://www.fostercare.org.au)  
Program subject to change

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## Friday 29th September 2006

1pm – 3pm Registration  
3pm Welcome Afternoon tea  
4pm - 7pm Official Opening, Conference Overview,  
National & State Reviews, National Foster Care Plan update

3.00pm Afternoon Tea  
3.30pm Workshops, Group B  
5.15pm Sessions conclude  
7.30pm Conference Dinner, National Recognition Awards

## Saturday 30th September 2006

8am Registration  
9am Opening Keynote Speaker, Prof Dorothy Scott OAM  
10.15am Snapshots of SA  
10.45am Morning Tea  
11.15am Workshops, Group A  
12.45pm Lunch  
1.30pm Keynote Speaker, Prof Freda Briggs  
2.45pm Snapshots of SA

## Sunday 1st October 2006

8.30am Registration  
9.00am Workshops, Group C  
10.30am Morning Tea  
11.00am Snapshots of SA  
11.30am Preview of 2007 Conference  
11.45am Keynote Speaker, Father Chris Riley  
12.30pm Conference reflection and conclusion  
1.30pm Lunch

## NATIONAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Join us on Saturday 30th September for a memorable evening of networking, entertainment, the awards ceremony and a special guest speaker. A national event to celebrate the commitment and value of foster carers.

### WORKSHOP OPTIONS – GROUP A – SATURDAY MORNING

- A1** Life Story Work for Guardianship Children - Jo Jarvis
- A2** The Home to Home Respite Program - Chantel Mardon, Kathrine Biddell, Kay Andrewartha, Jackie Schiller  
**AND** Families Helping Families: Towards Best Practice in Recruiting Resource Families to Support Foster Care - Emily Duizend
- A3** Addressing the Impact of Trauma on Abused and Neglected Children in Foster Care - Eddy Fenbow, Lee Marling
- A4** Examining the Impact of Heterosexism on Lesbian and Gay Foster Applicants - Damien W Riggs  
**AND** Responding to Trauma & Family Making Practices - Claire Ralfs
- A5** Ten Years Of Out-Of-Home Care Research: Evaluating The Australian Evidence-Base - Leah Bromfield  
**AND** Indirect Costs of Fostering and Their Impact on Carers - Marilyn McHugh
- A6** Using a Business Plan in Caring for a Child With a Disability - Jeanette Curtis

### WORKSHOP OPTIONS – GROUP B – SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- B1** Building Futures - A Volunteer-based Educational Program for Foster Children - Avryl Gration  
**AND** Caring for children of prisoners: Sentenced outside - Terry Hannon
- B2** Less Cents for the Adolescence - Raelene Linden, Holden Ward  
**AND** X-Streams Where Super Heroes Learn To Fly - David O'Rafferty, Brenda, Nuri, Rebecca, Karen
- B3** International Models for Indigenous Child Welfare - SNAICC  
**AND** Building a Sustainable Foster Care Base and Creating Stable and Nurturing Placements for Children By Employing an Alternative Model of Delivery of Support - Katie Sherwell, Joanne Bennett
- B4** How Do Children In Care Perceive 'Family'? - Jacqueline Reed  
**AND** What Foster Carers' Sons & Daughters Are Saying - Pam Sleeth
- B5** Orientation Training for New Foster Carers - Aileen Braun, Eva Licsauer  
**AND** Kamp Kyabra - Bringing Together Parents and Carers to Achieve Better Outcomes for Children & Young People - Linda Fletcher
- B6** AFL Grand Final

### WORKSHOP OPTIONS – GROUP C – SUNDAY MORNING

- C1** Supporting Foster Carers in Building Better Working Relationships with Birth Families - Jill Wain, Gail Walton
- C2** FAST (Foster Carer Advocacy & Support Team) - Anne-Louise Stonehouse & Allana Bianchi
- C3** Supervision & Support of Foster Carers - Avryl Gration & Alison Ingram
- C4** Caring for Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - Sue Miers  
**AND** Promising Practice in Indigenous Foster Care - SNAICC
- C5** Caring for Children in Care within an Attachment Theory Framework - Lorren Arezio & Claire Simmons
- C6** Foster Carers and Children - Legal Rights- Mark Rice

Further information on workshops & presenters available at [www.fostercare.org.au](http://www.fostercare.org.au)  
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## CONFERENCE VENUE

### **Glenelg, Adelaide, South Australia**

The conference venue is the Stamford Grand Hotel at Glenelg, located right on the beachfront of Adelaide's most popular seaside suburb. Glenelg is synonymous with sandy white beaches, spectacular ocean views and stunning sunsets - not to mention festivals, great restaurants and cafes, seven day shopping, fascinating museums, galleries and attractions. As Adelaide's most popular coastal region only 15 minutes drive from the CBD, you can be there in just ten minutes from the airport, or take a trip on a moving icon - the City to Bay tram. You'll experience quality restaurants, historic buildings, heritage walks and beautiful beaches, plus genuine warmth and friendliness from the local community who live in these charming seaside suburbs.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation has been held at the following places and must be booked through the conference organiser to obtain these rates. As it is a long weekend in Adelaide, please book early, using the registration form, to avoid disappointment.

### **Stamford Grand Adelaide (Glenelg) - Conference Venue**

Single, Double or Twin room \$190 per room per night

Additional beds \$38 per night

No charge for children under 12 sharing with parents and utilising existing bedding.

### **Best Western Ensenada Motor Inn (1 minute walk)**

Single, Double or Twin room \$135 per room per night

Extra person \$20 per night

### **Comfort Inn Haven Marina (10 minute walk)**

Single, Double or Twin room \$115 per room per night

### **Atlantic Tower Motor Inn (10 minute walk)**

Single or double standard room \$96 per room per night including continental breakfast

Single or double balcony room \$122 per room per night including continental breakfast

Single or double spa bath room \$150 per room per night including continental breakfast

2 room suite \$160 per night including continental breakfast

Extra person \$14 per night

### **Oaks Liberty Towers (5 minute walk)\***

1 bedroom apartment (single or double) \$144 per night

1 bedroom apartment & study (single or double) \$162 per night

2 bedroom apartment (sleeps up to 4 people) \$207 per night

### **Oaks Plaza Pier (7 minute walk)\***

1 bedroom apartment (single or double) \$167 per night

2 bedroom apartment (sleeps up to 4 in queen & double bed) \$221 per night

\*GST does not apply to accommodation at either Oaks hotel as they operate as a strata managed buildings.

The money paid by guests is deemed as rent and therefore does not attract GST.

## CHILDCARE

Delegates should make their own arrangements for child care. Please note that it is not appropriate to bring children to conference sessions.

The YMCA is offering a special program for ages 7-12 and teenagers. Activities will include movies, museums and more. Costs will be approximately \$70 per child for a full day including lunch, and \$40 per child for half day. Please call the YMCA of SA on 08 8235 3600 to book. Minimum numbers are required to operate the program, so make sure you book your children in.

Family Day Care - Phone (08) 8226 8700. Please ask to speak to a field worker, and mention the conference. Please ring well beforehand to register. If you have Centrelink approval, please check with Centrelink that it will be transferred or full cost may apply.

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