



November 2025 Newsletter

Kin Raising Kids Tasmania
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Global Kinship Week.

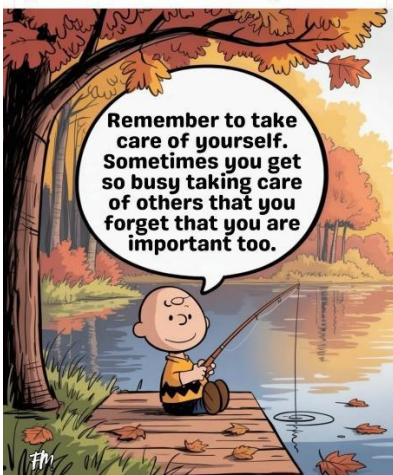
Kin Raising Kids Tasmania recently celebrated this event in conjunction with Baptcare and Mission Australia.



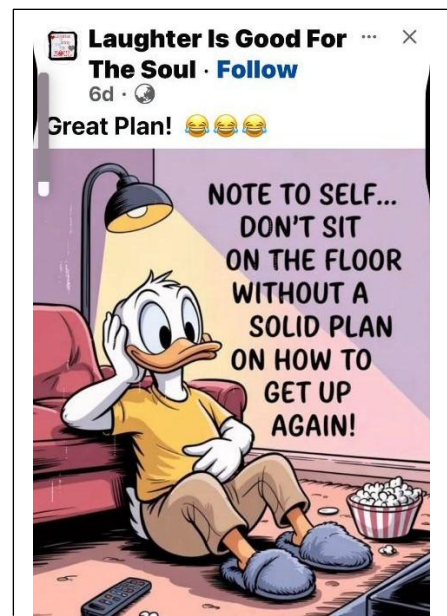
On Wednesday, 8 October, we celebrated *Global Kinship Morning Tea* events in both the North West and the South. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to engage with several regional politicians. The photos on this page are from the North West celebration, where kin carers shared a delicious morning tea and made wonderful connections with like-minded people. It was a great time for everyone, with the children happily cared for by the HUB staff in Devonport as they played on the climbing equipment.



Don't forget to check on yourself too. [#fblifestyle](#)



**THE
IMPORTANT
YOU.**



Kinship Care: The Hidden Backbone of Child Welfare

Australia's child welfare system quietly relies on kinship care—where relatives like grandparents, aunts, or siblings step in when parents can't. It's often informal, underfunded, and overlooked, yet nearly half of all out-of-home care children are in these arrangements.

What Is Kinship Care?

Kinship care means children are raised by family or close friends instead of foster carers. It keeps cultural and family ties strong, especially for Indigenous communities. It can be formal (through child protection agencies) or informal (private family arrangements).

Why It Matters

Children in kinship care often fare better emotionally and psychologically. They stay connected to their roots, siblings, and traditions—key ingredients for long-term stability and identity development.

The Challenges

Kinship carers face:

- Little financial support
 - Limited legal authority
 - Emotional and bureaucratic strain
- Many are older adults on fixed incomes, stepping in during crises without preparation or resources.

A Kinship Care Bill

Possible legislation would aim to:

- Provide financial parity with foster carers
- Grant legal authority for medical and educational decisions
- Extend education support like the pupil premium
- Improve school admissions and oversight

Why Reform Is Urgent

Neglecting kinship carers costs more in the long run—through poorer outcomes and increased reliance on public services. It's also a moral issue: these carers make huge sacrifices and deserve recognition and support.

What Needs to Happen

To pass the Bill, we need:

- Bipartisan political support
- Public and media advocacy
- Committee reviews for expert input
- Incremental wins through policy changes

Kinship care isn't a side note—it's central to a compassionate, effective child welfare system.

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Community Kinship Governance Group - Progress.

Organisation Key: Bapcare (B), Mission Australia (MA), Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), Kin Raising Kids (KRR), Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania (FKAT).

Key Achievements (2022-2025)

Program Growth, Delivery & Engagement

- Increased carer group attendance.
- New peer-led groups launched in Devonport and Burnie.
- Re-engagement of previously disengaged carers via mailouts and outreach.
- Community intake trialled successfully, improving service access.
- Referrals increased through engagement workers and word-of-mouth.
- School holiday activities well attended.

Training & Capacity Building

- Strong attendance and national representation at FKAT conferences.
- Statewide delivery of Trauma-Informed Care, Challenging Behaviours, Resilience, and Grief & Loss workshops.
- Plans underway for virtual training to improve accessibility.

Governance & Strategic Planning

- Terms of Reference reviewed and adopted.
- Strategic overlay session planned to identify key issues for coming year(s).

Advocacy and Policy Influence and Wins

- Government approved expanded respite definitions to enable flexible use of underspent funds and increased staffing to engage unidentified carers.
- Political engagement to push for federal recognition of informal kinship carers.
- Successful delivery of Global Kinship Care Week events.
- Launch of the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare in Tasmania.
- Services Australia direct access and information session.

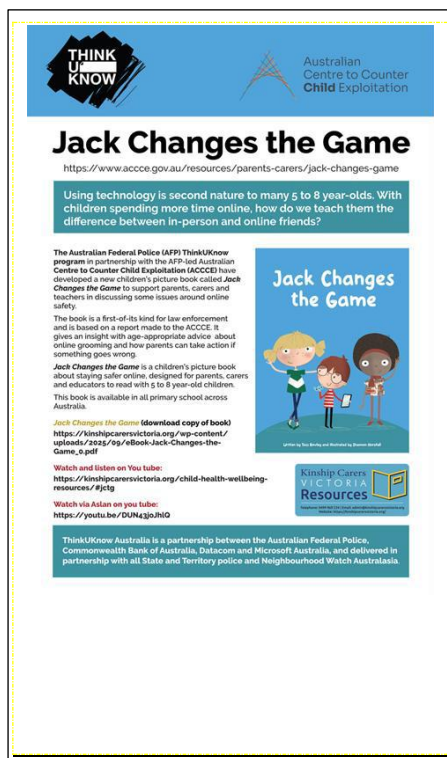
Operational Improvements

- Carer surveys shifted from quarterly to six-monthly.
- Brokerage guidelines updated to include RecLink and sporting opportunities.
- Strategy developed for managing brokerage only clients.
- Increased brokerage usage to support cost of-living needs.
- Organic growth of peer support networks.
- Local area intake enabled direct ARL referrals by practitioners.

As do, Kin Raising Kids Tasmania, (KRK), GPV/KCV support the right of children and adults to know their biological identity

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

A few years ago, GPV/KCV became aware of the increasing numbers of children and young people in out-of-home care seeking to know about their biological family. At the same time, we became aware of children who had been adopted wanting their birth certificates to reflect their biological family information. The following statement was drafted by the Board to reflect the views of the Board on these matters. Recent stories indicate that it is time to reflect again on these matters.



THINK UP KNOW Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation

Jack Changes the Game

<https://www.acce.gov.au/resources/parents-carers/jack-changes-game>

Using technology is second nature to many 5 to 8 year-olds. With children spending more time online, how do we teach them the difference between in-person and online friends?

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) ThinkUpKnow program in partnership with the AFP-led Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) have developed a new children's picture book called **Jack Changes the Game** to support parents, carers and teachers in discussing some issues around online safety.

The book is a first-of-its-kind for law enforcement and is based on a report made to the ACCCE. It gives an insight with age-appropriate advice about online grooming and how parents can take action if something goes wrong.

Jack Changes the Game is a children's picture book about staying safer online, designed for parents, carers and educators to read with 5 to 8 year-old children. This book is available in all primary schools across Australia.

Jack Changes the Game (download copy of book)
https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/eBook-Jack-Changes-the-Game_o.pdf

Watch and listen on YouTube:
<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/child-health-wellbeing-resources/#y1tg>

Watch via Asian on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/DUN43oJhIQ>

ThinkUpKnow Australia is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Datacom and Microsoft Australia, and delivered in partnership with all State and Territory police and Neighbourhood Watch Australia.



GPV/KCV SUPPORTS THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS TO KNOW THEIR BIOLOGICAL IDENTITY

GPV/KCV believes that it is the right of every child to know their biological identity and that:

1. Siblings have the right to be placed together
2. Children over 12 years have the right to participate in decisions about their life
3. A child's given name, as it is registered on the original birth certificate/s, must be maintained
4. Children who are removed from their country of birth must be provided with a cultural program designed to maintain their cultural identity.
5. Legislation must provide for contact between the adopted child and the extended biological family to be maintained after an adoption
6. The child has the right to claim inheritance rights from the family of birth
7. An adopted child's biological identity should be reflected on their birth certificate/s and other legal documentation and that:
 - the woman who carries the child must be listed as the mother, except where the woman has no biological connection with the child.
 - The man whose sperm created the child be listed as the 'sperm donor'
 - the woman whose DNA created the child be listed as the 'egg donor'

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD - ARTICLES 7, 8, 10, 20 AND 21.

Cheers, Anne McLeish – Director

National Foster and Kinship Care Conference

Will this year be held in Sydney from the

28th – 30th November 2025

This is a fantastic opportunity to network with other carers
from different States and Territories.

Current KRK members can apply for limited assistance to attend.

LIVE WELL TASMANIA PRESENTS

 **BECOME A VOLUNTEER**



VOLUNTEER EXPO

Our illustrious President, Jan Savage, taking time to promote Kin Raising Kids Tasmania at the 'Volunteer Expo' held in Wynyard recently. A community event organized by Live Well Tasmania to entice volunteer communal support in the Wynyard region.



by the Australian Government. Department of Social Services

AT
28 SAUNDERS ST, WYNARD

LIVE WELL TASMANIA COMMUNITY CENTRE

Come & meet representatives from all the amazing organisations in Waratah-Wynyard who provide volunteer opportunities!

8 315 298 or **LUCKY DOOR PRIZES - GIFT VOUCHERS**
for enquiries

LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED

ENJOY A DRUMMING SESSION WITH JODHI GOUGH FROM THE DRUM COLLECTIVE



Kin Raising Kids Tasmania Incorporated.



If you aren't yet a Supporter or Member of Kin Raising Kids Tasmania, please consider joining by contacting admin@kin4kids.org.au Encourage anyone you know who has an interest in this work to visit our website: kin4kids.org.au and make contact with Jan or Joh

