



Supporters
Update

Winter
2017



In August our little artists at Korin Korin kinder participated in Aboriginal Children's Day activities

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CPS Early Years Education Program scores top marks

CPS was presented a significant tick of approval in the form of the coveted 'Excellent' rating at our West Heidelberg Child & Family Centre. Rhonda Livingstone, Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) Education Leader, made a special visit to present a certificate to our hard working Early Years team.

CPS operates the first and only Centre in Victoria to be re-awarded this status. Only 52 of 13,500 services across Australia currently hold the ACECQA Excellent rating with just 7 having been re-awarded.

"One of the really exciting things is that more than half (granted Excellent rating) were in the more disadvantaged communities," noted Rhonda Livingstone, who took great interest touring the facility and learning more about CPS' ground-breaking practice.



Opened in 2009, the Centre was established as part of a dual research program to investigate the impact of an intensive program for vulnerable children aged 0 – 5 years old. Of greater satisfaction than the rating is knowing the wide ranging short and longer term benefits of this early intervention has provided dozens of clients and the template created by this project.

Korin Korin Kindergarten also scores top marks

At CPS our Early Years program endeavours to make children's lives better by providing outstanding education and care for children in their formative years to help prepare them academically and emotionally for school and beyond.

This commitment was again recognised by ACECQA recently, rating the Wollert located Korin Korin kindergarten as 'Exceeding National Quality Standards' in their first external assessment against the National Quality Framework.

To place the Korin Korin team's achievement into context, the Centre was assessed against 58 different quality elements. Of 4,152 Victorian services, only 1288 are deemed worthy of this ACECQA rating.

For 3yo kinder expressions of interest call 9409 1723 or email enrolments@cps.org.au.

For 4yo kinder expressions of interest contact Whittlesea Council's Early Years Team on 9217 2170 or email keo@whittlesea.vic.gov.au.



Want to be on TREND?

CPS invites you to our newest event; **TREND a night of fashion and fun** at the Plaza Ballroom on Thursday 19 October 2017 from 6pm.

TREND features fashion, fun, and empowerment, promoting self-esteem and encouraging women and young girls to be bold, beautiful and confident!

A fashion show will include an entertaining and inspiring demonstration of models showcasing

today's fashion designs from The Ark Clothing Co Melbourne. **TREND** also includes live performances from music icons Deborah Conway and Willy Zygiel.

Tickets (\$100 each) are available at www.cps.org.au/fashion and include a \$25 complimentary personal styling session voucher from The Ark. Event proceeds will help us support CPS' award winning Mentoring Mum's program for vulnerable and isolated mothers.



State Government supports new CPS family violence initiative



The Andrews Labor Government's latest family violence initiative entails trialling new ways to provide intensive therapeutic support to women, children and their families experiencing family violence. As such, Minister for Families & Children, Jenny Mikakos, recently committed \$22.87m in funding to 26 pilot projects across Victoria. Rather than the traditional crisis response model the funded projects focus on providing a therapeutic response for as long as survivors of family violence require.

For CPS this means at-risk children and families will have access to the groundbreaking Children and Mothers in Mind program (CMiM), a unique mother-child program with some elements originating from Canada, specifically designed for mothers and children who've experienced family violence and are no longer living with the perpetrator.

CMiM recognises the loss of confidence suffered by family violence survivors, particularly if their parenting has been undermined or criticised by an abusive partner and affected by isolation and unhealthy coping mechanisms. The program aims to enhance parenting skills, strengthen parent-child relationships and reduce parenting stress.

"Children are often the hidden victims of family violence. CPS is extremely grateful for the \$2.5m State Government injection into a program with the potential to change the lives of vulnerable mothers and children, both in the short and longer term", said CPS Chief Executive Officer, Aileen Ashford.

CMiM represents an Australia-first, evidence informed trial led by CPS, together with the expertise and experience of Anglicare Victoria, Minerva Community Services, Caroline Chisolm Society, Moss Incorporated, CASA, Quantum Support Services, MacAuley Community Services for Women and VincentCare Victoria. The program will be delivered at five trial sites across Victoria.

"Mothers can learn from other mothers who have had similar experiences, and together, grow their skills and build back their confidence in a safe and secure environment. By helping children at this early stage, we can help limit the negative impact that family violence has on their life trajectory."

Dr Angelique Jenney
CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, TORONTO
(MOTHERS IN MIND PIONEER)



Dr Angelique Jenney (centre) visited CPS in July to meet with program workers Chloe Lonsdale and Olivia Carter



Luncheon Rumours Feast '17

The 12th Luncheon Rumours Feast, CPS' major fundraising event, was held at the beautiful Plaza Ballroom on Friday 11 August.

More than 450 guests were treated to the versatile and supremely talented Rob Sitch. Not to be outdone, ventriloquist Darren Carr had guests in hysterics. The panel featuring 3AW breakfast regulars including Ross Stevenson, John Burns and John Silvester (with special guest Glenn Robbins) also proved highly entertaining.

The major raffle and a hectic auction helped boost the tally over \$184,000 and we thank the many generous sponsors and guests for their support. Finally, a special CPS thanks goes to tireless organisers Elaine Marriner, Margaret Robinson and Leonie McNicol who somehow make the Luncheon Rumours Feast even bigger and better every year!

Caring Dads launch

On 28 June Minister for Families and Children Jenny Mikakos officially launched Caring Dads, an early intervention pilot program aimed at fathers experiencing drug or alcohol abuse who have committed, or are at risk of committing family violence.

Fathers attend voluntary group sessions over 17 weeks where they learn parenting skills and the impact of family violence on their children as well as the importance of a respectful relationship with their children's mother. Referrals to the program are made through alcohol and other drug services, mental health services, child protection, Child FIRST, maternal and child health services, police and other community service providers.

The Victorian Government's \$4.6m investment in Caring Dads over four years is reinforced by an additional \$1m contributed by philanthropic partner Gandel Philanthropy. Gandel Philanthropy's support comes as a strong advocate for addressing domestic violence and made one of its largest program-focussed grants to support the trial for the next three years.

After trials beginning late last year, the program is currently operating in three locations around the state. CPS is managing Caring Dads in Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs (in partnership with Uniting ReGen) and is also providing clinical oversight to Anglicare's running of the program in Inner Gippsland. Anglicare and IPC Health are heading the program in Melbourne's west.

"Family violence is insidious and the whole society has a duty to support programs and activities that address this crisis. Gandel Philanthropy trustees believed that the delivery of a pilot program, based on a very successful overseas model directed specifically at the perpetrators of violence, was worthy of support and had the potential to help tackle this pressing and complex social issue," said CPS CEO, Aileen Ashford.

Set to be fully evaluated by the University of Melbourne, the pilot ends June 2019. Developed in Canada, Caring Dads is currently delivered in Ireland, the UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany and the USA.



Paul McDonald (Anglicare CEO), Aileen Ashford and Jenny Mikakos MP

"This program helps bring in to sharp focus for fathers the impact that family violence can have on their family and the development of their children. The Victorian Government is committed to trialling family-focussed programs that end the vicious cycle of family violence."

Jenny Mikakos
Minister for Families
and Children

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