



## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE INTRODUCTION**

*Greetings of the season to all our readers and supporters; I hope that this holiday season will be one of rest and happiness for you.*

It has been an extraordinarily quick and busy year for our organisation and the staff who work so diligently to enable children and young people to heal from trauma and abuse. The number of children and young people that we have provided services to has exceeded all previous years' numbers to a total of 12,614. Last year was 9,414. This increase is predominantly due to the opening of a new service in Bunbury, in the South West, and highlights the need for a greater investment into early intervention work for this client group. There clearly are not enough resources to go around which should send a message to our politicians and decision-makers that further investment into this area are desperately needed; not a reform which is about reducing funding under the camouflage of improving services.

Parkerville Children and Youth Care have never halted in our responsibility to seek out new opportunities to provide much-needed services to the ever-increasing pool of damaged children. This year we are very excited to have been granted approval, through an expression of interest, to purchase two large blocks of land in the Midland precinct with hopes of providing much-needed services to that area. As I speak, we are in the process of finalising drawings for a second Child Advocacy Centre to be built on that land. The building will encompass around 4000 squares of floorspace, at a cost of nearly \$25 million. We will be joined by Police Detectives from the Child Abuse Squad, and Police Domestic Violence Squad, Department of Communities: Child Protection and Family Support, and four non-government agencies all providing quality services to support the work we do for this client group.



*Artist Impression – Child Advocate Centre Midland*

We are very proud to have Wanslea, Ruah, Ngala and Yokai as partners in this building to provide comprehensive and holistic services to the community of Midland. We anticipate the building will open in June 2019 and we will of course keep you updated on the progress.

As we enter into this holiday season, please never let us forget that, for the client group to which we provide services, the season is less about joy, friendship and spiritual worship and more often than not a season of pain, memories, grief and unfilled dreams for children and young people throughout our suburbs. Please spare a thought for those children and young people who will not have a happy Christmas; who will not wake up to the arms of loved ones; who will not open a present on the day; who will not enjoy the flavours of Christmas; and who will not look forward to the Christmas season.

Be grateful for what we have, love those closest to us and those who are not aligned with us; that is, not take what we have for granted because there are many who would wish to be in our position.

Thank you to all of you who continue to listen to the work we do and to support that work in whatever way you are able. I wish you a very happy holiday season.

Basil Hanna  
Chief Executive

## CHARITY LUNCH 2017

Our inaugural charity lunch, then titled “Sportsman's Lunch”, commenced in October 2004, at Subiaco Oval with Herb Elliot as a guest speaker and some 330 attendees. It was planned as a fundraiser and indeed generated some \$40,000 in net profit and so, as organisers, we were delighted. It was agreed to be a yearly event, and at the next charity lunch with John Eales as key speaker and some 350 attendees, we made slightly less profit of \$30,000 but gained a lot of enthusiasm that we should pursue this fundraising event annually.

The Grandballroom in Burswood as it was known then, became the venue amidst name changes for the next 11 years. The event increased in popularity from 550 people in 2007 to this year's highest ever number of 1141 attendees.

In 2012 we also introduced comedians, firstly alongside sports personalities then totally in their own right as we changed the theme to “Child Abuse Is No Laughing Matter”. That theme has been the catalyst for an increasing growth and popularity for the event that is now not just around fundraising but has a more important function; friend-raising. We acknowledge that the lunch has generated some significant funds over the years for the organisation, some \$6.3 million over the 13 events, but it has also contributed some loyal and long serving supporters who generate a great deal more support in pro bono work, volunteerism, and advocacy for the work of the organisation. Some 9,500 people have come through the doors to attend a charity lunch, many of these are repeat attendees.

This year the event filled the Crown Towers Ballroom for the first time and while the enormous room was not ideally suited to the lunch, its glamour certainly resonated with the theme of the event. Adrian Barich served as our Master of Ceremonies; three comedians entertained our guests, the most notable being Darren Carr and his dummy friend who had patrons laughing in the aisles; the subject matter of child abuse and the horrors it presents is never ignored by loyal and supportive attendees, and at the end of the evening we had raised some \$713,500 net.

A sincere, heartfelt thank you to all those who attended and supported our work; we look forward to seeing you again next year back in the old Crown Ballroom on October 12.



***Details of the event will be released in January 2018 when tickets go on sale to the public. If you would like to receive a notification when tickets are to go on sale please contact [events@parkerville.org.au](mailto:events@parkerville.org.au).***

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## AUSTRALIA'S FIRST CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE – AN EXAMPLE OF INNOVATION AND EMPOWERMENT IN PRACTICE

Parkerville Children and Youth Care were named finalists in this year's AIM WA Business Pinnacle Awards in the category of Innovation Excellence. A team of 20 from the Organisation, Board and partners, WA Police and Department of Communities, attended the gala event to represent the ongoing work at the George Jones Child Advocacy Centre and within the Multiagency Investigation and Support Team. Although we were not successful in taking away the final prize, being named as finalists amongst some of WA's top businesses was a significant achievement.



Our journey in developing WA's first Child Advocacy Centre has been focused on creating a

new culture of responding to child sexual abuse which cuts across different government and non-government agencies, multiple ministerial portfolios, different roles and professions, and multiple pieces of legislation. Parkerville have provided a key leadership role in the sector with the sole focus and aim to bring about sustained change for our society's most vulnerable children and families.

## PARKY PARCEL – CHRISTMAS APPEAL



**Christmas is not always a time of joy, and unfortunately not all children receive gifts and happy memories. For vulnerable children and young people, Christmas can be a time of sadness.**

**You can make a difference.**

**Through Parky Parcel – Christmas Appeal, you may donate funds which go to providing gifts for vulnerable children in Parkerville Children and Youth Care programmes.**

**Visit our website [www.parkerville.org.au](http://www.parkerville.org.au) for more details on how you can help a child in care this Christmas.**

*Thank you.*

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## LIFE AS A THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARER

I am sure everyone with children would agree with the statement that “parenting is one of the hardest, yet most rewarding jobs on the planet”; but what is it like to be the primary carer for children who have suffered trauma from abuse?

We have a team of extremely dedicated, loving and professional Therapeutic Foster Carers at Parkerville Children and Youth Care who live with and support, at times, multiple children, all with ranging degrees of complex trauma from abuse.

One such couple have been with Parkerville Children and Youth Care for just over three years. We sat down with them to ask them what life is like for a couple, working as Therapeutic Foster Carers.

### ***What is the greatest Challenge you face as a Foster Carer?***

“There are many. I think you are challenged as a person on a daily basis....the kids teach me so much. I think understanding trauma, and the implications of that, and how it manifests in children's lives is a huge challenge, but unless you can grasp that, understand that, and be able to love the child beyond behaviour, then everything else is redundant. You have to love unconditionally, and learn to separate naughtiness from just plain old 'childness'.

There's a great quote that 'we see what we look for, and hear what we listen for'. A wild fox caught in a trap does not hold its wounded leg out for the trap removal. It will bite, snarl, growl, scratch. Emotionally wounded children can be the same. It's learning to look past the outward behaviour.”

### ***What is the best thing about being a Foster Carer?***

“Our table at dinner time, little people busting to tell their news. Merit certificates at school, when they look in the audience and they have someone there applauding just for THEM (always makes me cry). Reunification.... when it works is heart wrenchingly beautiful. All the wonderful things about parenting, sticky hugs, Christmas morning, late night teen conversations....”.

### ***Any success stories you would be able to share?***

“Oh, we have so many. But for us, at the moment it really is the relationship we have with both the children's parents and families. It hasn't been easy, there's often one step forward and then, ten backwards. The greatest success is always when kids return to their family home safely. But when they can't.... with the support of both Mum and Dad,



their new partners, grandparents, uncles and aunties we have managed to promote a support network around the children. They have not lost their identities through living in Out Of Home Care. We share birthdays, father's day, mother's day and Christmas.

They are surrounded by love, and on special days they have both Mum and Dad and my husband and I to share it. One of the sweetest moments recently was the school had a fete and open day and we invited Mum and Dad to meet the teachers and see the children's performances. They got to see the classrooms, the kid's artwork, they felt involved. Dad snuck back into the kids classes and left a little 'I'm so proud of you' note in their desks for them to find Monday morning. If it can be done safely the greatest thing we can do for our kids is include their natural parents in their lives.”

### ***What advice would you give to someone wanting to become a Foster Carer?***

“Are you committed? The worst thing for a child separated from their natural families is a placement breakdown. Think about what aged child suits your home and lifestyle (ie. If you're out at sport every night a baby probably doesn't suit, but for 10+ it would be really beneficial for them to be involved). Get involved with the training and networks available, it's easy to think you don't need it....but self-care is vital when you are fostering. Talking and meeting with other foster carers, people that ACTUALLY understand your new crazy, funny, loud, stressful moments are soooo important, they are a lifeline.”

**If you can see yourself providing care for some of Western Australia's most vulnerable members of society, or if you would like more information on the work we do, then please contact Geraldine Carvell-Crea on 08 9290 1542 or via email [gcarvell@parkerville.org.au](mailto:gcarvell@parkerville.org.au)**

## PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS CONTRACT WITH WA POLICE

The Therapeutic Family Services team was recently awarded a three year contract with WA Police to provide specialist psycho-education services to support children, young people, their families and professionals to develop skills to better manage difficult situations related to child safety and abuse.

Protective Behaviours as delivered by Parkerville Children and Youth Care is a key feature of the programme, and provides children and young people with a range of skills aimed at helping them to identify potentially unsafe situations and empowering them with strategies to respond appropriately and effectively to preserve their physical and emotional well-being. The programme is adaptable to all age groups, is aimed at enhancing problem solving and communication skills, empowering people to deal with difficult or hostile situations, instilling the right to feel safe and giving strategies to keep safe.

Delivered primarily by our Child and Family Advocates, the programme has already provided services to over 40 children involved in the forensic process of reporting their sexual abuse experiences, or siblings of these children. In addition the team is also working with a number of children who are responsible for child sexual abuse which is sadly increasing. By providing a modified version of the Protective Behaviours programme, children and their families are supported to develop better ways of managing difficult emotions and behaviours, engaging in more safe and respectful relationships.

The programme which will provide services across both metro and regional WA is also available to WA Police and associated Department staff to provide education and supports to enable them to more effectively manage issues related to child abuse. Further aspects of this training include upskilling parents and those that work with children in recognising the signs of child abuse, how to talk to children about safety and secrets, how to respond to concerning child sexualised behaviours and how to manage disclosures.

If your community, sporting group or organisation has a child focus and would like to have our team provide a Protective Behaviours workshop to parents or staff then please contact [protectivebehaviours@parkerville.org.au](mailto:protectivebehaviours@parkerville.org.au).



## CHILD SAFE ACCREDITATION – CELEBRATING ONE YEAR ON!

On November 8 2017 Parkerville Children and Youth Care celebrated its first anniversary of becoming a Child Safe Accredited Organisation. One year ago in Melbourne, a panel of experts from the Australian Childhood Foundation assessed the organisation against the 7 Safeguarding Standards and unanimously agreed that Parkerville Children and Youth Care not only achieved accreditation in record breaking time but excelled in all areas partly due to its quality management culture and mainly due to its wonderful committed staff team. The work did not stop once accreditation was achieved, the task of ensuring the 7 Safeguarding Standards became embedded as part of the organisation culture. Each and every staff member now receives an induction on their role in maintaining a child safe organisation, they attend mandatory training and online training on identifying child abuse and the reporting process. The selection and recruitment processes of new staff now includes extra safeguarding measures. The organisation uses a variety of methods such as website and posters to communicate to children and families their rights and what to expect from the staff and service. The organisation has a dedicated person to act as a consultant for staff and external stakeholders in all child safe related matters. Parkerville Children and Youth Care will continue to take an innovative and active approach in maintaining accreditation and the next 12 months will be filled with new projects to further add to the child safe culture.



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## MEET OUR BOARD!

We interviewed two of our fantastic board members for our Summer edition.

### Sue Pember

#### *How long have you been on the board at Parkerville Children and Youth Care?*

I just celebrated my 12 month anniversary in August 2017.

#### *What made you want to join the Board at Parkerville Children and Youth Care?*

I first heard Basil speak at the Interpeople Ball a few years ago. At the time I was completely overwhelmed by the situation that many West Australian Children find themselves in and I started donating to Parkerville from that day forward.

I have 3 businesses based in Perth, my first started 8 years ago and I try and use my passion as start-up Entrepreneur to influence others. I think differently to many people out there when it comes to where the opportunity is and I hope my events, sales and marketing background will assist Parkerville into the future with my 'Out of the Box' ideas for fundraising and in building our 'reach' in the future.

#### *Why, in your opinion, should people support the work of Parkerville Children and Youth Care?*

We are in the middle of a child abuse epidemic in this State and we need to educate our society that children are the community's responsibility not just the parents! I am very passionate about encouraging other small business owners to contribute to Parkerville Children and Youth Care.

Many individuals/ businesses think they need to have already 'made it' to start donating to charity. In my opinion, start-up businesses can donate with every transaction and that is what we do at micasaproperty.com. Work this way and you set your business culture from the start. I measure my success by how much I am able to 'Give' and I want to encourage others to do the same.



### Tony Brooks

#### *How long have you been on the board at Parkerville Children and Youth Care?*

I joined the board of Parkerville Children and Youth Care in February 2015.

#### *What made you want to join the Board at Parkerville Children and Youth Care?*

When first approached to become a board member I was delighted at the thought of joining such a well-respected organisation and board. George Jones has always been an incredible inspiration to me and I'd heard a lot about the great work that Basil Hanna our CE has done over the years supported by a great executive team and board. Now having been on the board for almost 3 years I get a real sense of achievement when I see first-hand the impact and influence we are able to have, on thousands of wonderful Western Australian children. I believe we all get to a point in life when we want to give back and Parkerville Children and Youth Care gives me that opportunity to help support the CE and management team to make a real difference to so many families.

#### *Why, in your opinion, should people support the work of Parkerville Children and Youth Care?*

Parkerville Children and Youth Care is a very experienced, proven and very focussed organisation that really does achieve very positive outcomes when it comes to protecting and caring for the most vulnerable children and young teenagers in our community. They really put an emphasis on individual care plans and this is a must for those "high needs" children out there. It truly is an amazing organisation and those supporting it on a regular basis do so year in year out, because they see the very real difference Parkerville Children and Youth Care make as a very effective provider and supporter of those wonderful kids out there that so need the assistance and care they deserve.



## 2018 – SAVE THE DATE

2018 is set to be another busy year for the team at Parkerville Children and Youth Care.

Make sure you mark your 2018 calendars with the dates below



Mark your  
calendar!

- **Sunday 6th May 2018**

– Family Picnic at the Parkerville Campus

- **Friday 11th May 2018**

– Parky Angels Ladies Lunch

- **Friday 12th October 2018**

– 14th Annual Charity Lunch to be held at the original Crown Grand Ballroom

Make sure you sign up to our monthly e-newsletter by visiting our website [www.parkerville.org.au](http://www.parkerville.org.au) and entering in your details

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are so many ways you can truly make a difference to the lives of children, young people and their families who have suffered trauma from abuse in WA, and not all of them are monetary.

Whilst we do rely heavily on the donations of our supporters to continue to provide services to those in our community we also ask for your help in raising awareness of the work we do.

You can help us raise awareness by

- Following us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/parkerville.cyc](http://www.facebook.com/parkerville.cyc) and sharing our posts with your friends
- Visiting our website and learning about the work we do
- Attending our events and joining in our community.
- Signing up to our newsletter via our website

You may also wish to volunteer your time; we have opportunities for individuals and larger corporate groups, email [marketing@parkerville.org.au](mailto:marketing@parkerville.org.au) to find out more.



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*Wishing you and your family a  
very safe and happy Christmas  
from all at*

*Season's  
Greetings*



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