

ISSUE 1 JULY 2010



Welcome to the first edition of PASQ's newsletter.

Our service was formally launched at Parliament House 1 Feb by Honourable Phil Reeves MP Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport. This day also saw new legislation in Queensland (The Adoption Act 2009) come into effect. The new legislation allows for greater access to information regarding an adoption.

The past six months have been an amazing journey for our team as we set up our service. We feel it is a special privilege when people share their life stories with us and include us as part of their emotional travels through the search/reunion and post reunion process.

We are also very mindful that as a government funded service we follow decades of dedicated peer support services with volunteer workers. These services have done an amazing job for many, many years. Our team would like to acknowledge the hard work of these services and their workers and thank everyone for their continued support to our team and their teachings.

We have lots of thing happening for the rest of the year. First up is Minister Phil Reeves, who has demonstrated his huge support for the adoption community on many occasions, is welcoming everyone to our new premises at 9 Wilson St, West End on Tuesday 20 July. Read on to find out more.....

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PASQ Staff

Susan, Team Leader

Hi everyone. Before coming to PASQ I worked for many years with Forgotten Australians, adults who were institutionalised as children in religious orphanages and/or government run homes. Many of this client community have been affected by adoption. Prior to this I worked with historical and recent sexual assault . I also spent many years working in women's health. I am the mother of an 18yr old son and a 9 year old staffy! Recently the teenage numbers in our household expanded to two with our 19 yr old god daughter coming to live with us. Setting up PASQ has been a wonderful journey—thank you all for sharing that with me. I look forward to all the journeys ahead! Susan

Joycelyn, Counsellor

Greetings everyone. Before starting at PASQ I have worked in various counselling and family therapy positions. When working I individualise sessions by using a number of tools including art, sandtray, emotional freedom techniques, stress management and relaxation. I have four beautiful adult daughters and five bouncing grandchildren who I love to play with. In my spare time I can be found gardening, walking by the beach, travelling, scrapbooking or sewing. It is a privilege to work at PASQ and have the opportunity to meet so many lovely people who share their adoption stories. I look forward to meeting or speaking to . Warm wishes, Joycelyn.

Leza, Counsellor

Hi everyone. I have been working as a social worker for 16 years and before working with PASQ I have spent the past 10 years specializing in the field of fostering of adoption. Before coming to Brisbane I was based in Sydney and worked at PARC (Post Adoption Resource Centre, The Benevolent Society). It is a pleasure to be based back in Brisbane, close to extended family, and continuing to work with people affected by adoption. Leza.

Joanne, Student

Hello everyone! I have been working within the youth and community sector for over 10 years in various agencies in Brisbane including Save the Children, BABI Youth & Family Service and in North Queensland at the Weipa Community Centre. I am currently completing my Masters of Social Work placement with PASQ until the middle of November this year. I hope to meet many of you while I am working here as I know I will learn a great deal from every person.

Joanne

Celina, Student

Hello everyone! I'm originally from San Francisco, California and moved to Brisbane 6 months ago to attend University of Queensland. I am currently enrolled in the university's Master in Social Work Studies program. As part of our program I am on placement here with PASQ until November. My experience has mainly been focused on working with young children and families. I look forward to this new experience and my time here with Post Adoption Services.

Celina

Fiona, Receptionist

IHi everyone. I have recently started as the Receptionist for PASQ in West End. Before coming to PASQ I worked for Centacare in country NSW and am enjoying my new Brisbane lifestyle. I am your first point of call for the PASQ team and look forward to meeting or speaking to you all in the near future.

What would you like professionals to know about your adoption experience?

PASQ recognises that there is a need to increase awareness in the Queensland community around the issues associated with, and the long-term impact of, adoptions which took place in Queensland. This year we are working on producing and distributing a booklet to professionals who may work with people affected by adoption.

This booklet will consider (1) the experience of adoption; (2) the long-term impact of adoption; (3) search and reunion, and (4) a comprehensive resource section which will include services, support groups, and websites. In order to produce this booklet we need to hear from you.

We also want you to help us with the editing of the booklet.

We are holding a number of “brainstorming” workshops to collect information from you throughout the next few months. These workshops will be held at our West End office.

Sessions

The Experience of Adoption:

Adoptees	Wed 25/8	10-12pm
Birth parents	Thur 26/8	2 - 4pm
Adoptive parents	Wed 1/9	10-12pm

The Long-Term Impact of Adoption

Adoptees	Thur 2/9	2-4pm
Birth parents	Wed 8/9	10-12pm
Adoptive parents	Thur 9/9	2-4pm

Experiences of Search and Reunion

Adoptees	Wed 15/9	5-7pm
Birth parents	Wed 22/9	5-7pm
Adoptive parents	Wed 29/9	5-7pm

Your input is really important to us. To make this project work we really need to hear from you.

Please call in advance if you are interested in attending.

**Phone: 1300 914 819 or
(07) 3170 4600**

PASQ goes to the movies

ALAS and PASQ invites you to attend the screening of **Mother and Child**

When: Sunday 22nd August at 2 pm

Where: Redcliffe Culture Centre
Downs St Redcliffe

Cost: \$6.00

(can be purchased at the door).

PASQ staff look forward to attending with everyone.

ALAS Meeting will be held at Redcliffe at 11 am prior to the movie and people are welcome to attend and bring a plate of food. If you are interested in attending please call Marg in advance on 0402 336 480

Mother and child (About the movie)

It's been years since Karen gave her daughter, Elizabeth, up for adoption, and the decision to abandon her child has always haunted her. Upon meeting laid-back Paco, Karen permits her anxiety and mistrust to get the best of her. On the surface it appears that Elizabeth is none the worse for never knowing her biological mother; she's a fast-talking lawyer who's just landed a high-profile job at a firm fronted by Paul, though her unsavoury penchant for exploiting others is about to blow up in her face. Meanwhile, maternal-minded baker Lucy (Kerry Washington) longs to experience the joys of motherhood, eventually deciding that adoption is the best bet to start a family with her husband, Joseph.

Fancy writing a review after the screening? We would love to hear what you think- see a review of "I'm glad my mother is alive" which also deals with adoption.



Movie review

"I'm Glad My Mother is Alive"

This gripping movie, based on a true story, covered most issues faced by people affected by adoption. It is about a boy, Thomas, who is 4 when both he and his infant half-brother were placed for adoption by their teenage mother. Their adoptive parents are not open about the adoption and wish not to discuss the boy's past. Whilst his brother grows up with no desire to search, unbeknownst to his adoptive parents, Thomas tracks down his natural mother with dramatic and unexpected results. The film explores the themes of troubled children-parent relationships; the complexities of reunions; the different perspectives that both brothers take on their adoptions; issues of genetic attraction with reunited birth relatives; along with other adoption specific issues including jealousy of subsequent siblings, interpersonal relationships, identity etc. A truly powerful and emotion/thought provoking film.

Review by Leza

PARC's resource library

PASQ's sister organisation in NSW PARC (Post Adoption Resource Centre) has an awesome library. Library membership costs \$25 or \$15 concession per year.

Please visit our website to have a look at available books that are available to lend

<http://www.bensoc.org.au/postadoption/director/resources/bookshopandlibrary.cfm>

PASQ has a number of popular books for purchase if you would like to buy these instead of loaning them from PARC.

PASQ Newsletter naming competition!!

We need your help! Our newsletter needs a name... please send in suggestions.

Our regional Manager, Paul Harris, will select the winning title and we will announce it in our next newsletter.

PASQ quilt

PASQ is putting together a very special quilt to represent the adoption experience for you. Please call us if you want to be part of this.....we will send you out a calico square that you can paint, crayon, needlework...whatever fits best with you!

When we have enough squares we will sew them together to form a Queensland Quilt.



25th International Adoption Day 2010

When: Sunday 25th July

Where: Logan Entertainment
Centre

Time: 9:30am - 3:30pm

Cost: \$5.00 per adult

Children under 18 free



Information on adoption

Entertainment
Photo comp
Dancing
Raffles
Cultural parade
Face Painting
International food

Limited edition
t-shirts
Rides

Short story submissions

Be a part of the International Adoption Day 2010

Join IAFQ in celebrating 25 years of supporting international adoption. Families old and new, as well as those in the making, receive support and friendship.

Communities are enlightened and children find a place they can call home.

For more information visit the [International Adoptive Families of Queensland](http://www.internationaladoptivefamiliesofqueensland.org.au) website

or email: iad@iafq.org.au

- Worried about your responses to situations?
- Wanting to learn how to manage triggers?
- Struggling with anxiety or feeling really tired all the time?

PASQ is running an 8 week group to help people better understand their responses to triggers and how to link these with the deeper issues of loss, abandonment and rejection, and people interfering in your life. We will then look at how our bodies respond to triggers and stress. The group will be introduced to new skills of self calming and self soothing which will help equip you during times of stress, including when you have to talk about your adoption experience.

Start date: Every Wednesday starting on 6th October finishing on 24th November 2010

Duration: 8 weeks

Time: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Location: Benevolent Society –PASQ office
9 Wilson Street West End

Upcoming Adoption Connections Meetings.....

**Brisbane @ West End.....end
Aug**

Ipswich.....end Sept.

These meetings are open to all parties affected by adoption. They provide a safe, respectful and caring opportunity for you to confidentially talk about your adoption, search and reunion experience and to hear others experiences. If you are interested in attending either of these meetings please call for more information.



News from Jigsaw—Upcoming groups!

BE PREPARED! COME FOR SUPPORT *BEFORE* YOU NEED SUPPORT!

Things can happen very quickly in the world of adoption. After years of waiting, or years of denial, suddenly the time has arrived for action.

Are you ready!

Are you informed?

Are you aware of your feelings now?

Do you want to know how adoption has impacted on others who have been there before you?

Jigsaw Queensland offers three peer support groups every month.

OPEN SUPPORT GROUP – for anyone affected by adoption

First Tuesday monthly - 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm - short break around 8 pm.

“So many different points of view, so much confusion ... but definitely more clarity for me, slowly but surely, as a result of attending.”

BIRTH MOTHER SUPPORT GROUP

Third Saturday monthly - 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm – afternoon tea break.

“I’ve found I feel more ‘normal’ now that I’ve met and participated in the mothers’ group and the rest of my family is benefiting too.”

ADOPTEE SUPPORT GROUP

Third Wednesday monthly - 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm - short break around 8pm.

“Sometimes I just need to be say something about my adoption that I’ve not felt able to say to others in my life.”

All meetings at

505 Bowen Tce, New Farm

For more information

Contact the Jigsaw office for more information – 3358 6666 (Recorded message or Wednesday and Thursday 10am-2.00pm to speak to a trained volunteer)

or email jigsawqueensland@bigpond.com

Web Page: jigsawqueensland.com

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