



ForCHILDREN (AUSTRALIA) Inc.

NEWSLetter

Volume 2

Spring 2009



creating chances for children



Naomi Tippett

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to the Spring 2009 edition of the ForCHILDREN newsletter, and thank you sincerely for your on-going support.

ForCHILDREN is a volunteer organisation. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child is the platform from which we operate. From time to time, it is helpful to be reminded of what we are doing and why we are doing it, and so we have included the 10 Principles from this Declaration in this newsletter.

2008 was a time of reflection following our 2007 year of fund raising and events. It was also a time for thinking ahead and in that respect, we started this year with a Think Tank on 22 February – “Planning ahead for the next 10 years”. Our facilitator was Graham Hoult, a Board Member who easily managed the challenging task of guiding the assembled group in ‘planning ahead for the next 10 years’. That day has proved to be a turning point for our organisation, and we’re most grateful for Graham’s contribution on that day. There’s more about the day’s outcomes in this newsletter.

Since February, we’ve planned an agenda which is engaging and exciting:

- ForCHILDREN and OzChild have recently formed a strategic alliance working towards establishing OzChild’s ‘Chances to Shine’ program, planning a Disability Conference towards the end of next year and working with OzChild on a proposal for Melbourne to host the International Forum on Child Welfare in 2012;
- The Children’s Hour is another joint OzChild project in its early stages and we’ll keep you informed about its development;
- Our relationship with Yiyili Aboriginal Community in Halls Creek, W.A. will continue;
- Support for the Goodwill Social Work Centre in Madurai is also on our agenda.

There’s much to be done. With your support, we can all do it.

Yours truly,

Naomi Tippett

Naomi Tippett
President



The United Nations’ Declaration of the Rights of the Child

Principle 1

The child shall enjoy all the rights set forth in this Declaration. Every child, without any exception whatsoever, shall be entitled to these rights, without distinction or discrimination on account of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, whether of himself or his family.

Principle 2

The child shall enjoy special protection, and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity.

continued over page >>

Inside

The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child	1-3
Our President’s letter	1
Think Tank	2
OzChild Alliance	2
Fund Raising Outcomes	2
Yiyili Aboriginal Community School, Halls Creek, W.A.....	3
Madurai Goodwill Social Work Centre, India	3
Fund Raising Lunch Aug 09	4
Committee News	4
Contact Us.....	4
Donate.....	4
Website	4

The United Nations' Declaration of the Rights of the Child continued...

In the enactment of laws for this purpose, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration.

Principle 3

The child shall be entitled from his birth to a name and a nationality.

Principle 4

The child shall enjoy the benefits of social security. He shall be entitled to grow and develop in health; to this end, special care and protection shall be provided both to him and to his mother, including adequate pre-natal and post-natal care. The child shall have the right to adequate nutrition, housing, recreation and medical services.

Principle 5

The child who is physically, mentally or socially handicapped shall be given the special treatment, education and care required by his particular condition.

Principle 6

The child, for the full and harmonious development of his personality, needs love and understanding. He shall, wherever possible, grow up in the care and under the responsibility of his parents, and in any case, in an atmosphere of affection and of moral and material security; a child of tender years shall not, save in exceptional circumstances, be separated from his mother. Society and the public authorities shall have the duty to extend particular care to children without a family and to those without adequate means of support. Payment of State and other assistance towards the maintenance of children of large families is desirable.

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chances for children... What's happening locally

Think Tank

Our Think Tank on 22 February 2009 was a turning point for ForCHILDREN. Our Patron, the Hon. Heather Carter, joined 20 Friends of ForCHILDREN and by the end of the day, we had a plan for the next 10 years:

- Our vision is to enhance the opportunities of school age children who may not fulfil their potential due to lack of financial or moral support;
- We are also targeting young people under the age of 20 years whose opportunities in life are being compromised by limited financial and personal resources;
- ForCHILDREN will act as a catalyst to initiate solutions or support solutions. It will operate with low overheads, will maintain a small group of active members who can act quickly in response to identified needs by motivating others to support initiatives; will only deliver services through agencies with whom we negotiate alliances;
- We will keep people involved by increasing our committee, establishing taskforces to work on specific projects, appoint ambassadors who can seek out opportunities and new participants, and arrange mentors for young people and other groups.

As we progress, we'd like to hear from you if you would like to be further involved in creating more chances for children.

A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH OZCHILD

- Establishing a **Chances to Shine** program;
- Planning a Disability Conference late 2010;
- A joint **ForCHILDREN** and **Ozchild** proposal has been submitted to the International Forum for Child Welfare to host their 2012 forum in Melbourne;
- **The Children's hour** fund raising project (potential for increased fund raising). We will keep you further informed.

These projects require much energy and action. We would warmly welcome your involvement.

FUND RAISING OUTCOMES

You may remember in September 2007, ForCHILDREN facilitated a major fund raising project with NHArchitecture which involved a team of motor bike riders travelling from Melbourne to Broome. As a result of donations from firms and individuals, \$70,000 was raised. \$20,000 was given to each of the 3 Chances organisations in



Victoria – Chances for Children in the Mallee, Western Chances and South Eastern Chances. We've received some wonderful feedback:

Chances for Children in the Mallee
www.chancesforchildren.com.au

Chances for Children in the Mallee have provided support to 2 young people from the Mallee to complete their tertiary education.

After completing Year 12 and being accepted into the Bachelor of Nursing course, the recipient was assisted with costs of her books, uniforms and other specialised material required for nursing as well as her living costs so that she could study locally at LaTrobe University in Mildura. In December 2008, the recipient was accepted into the graduate nurse program at a major Melbourne Hospital.

The second recipient received both financial and mentoring support which enabled him to focus on studies and has now completed the final phase of a Bachelor's Degree at a University in Bendigo.

chances for children...

What's happening locally, nationally...

and building the international connection



Western Chances

www.westernchances.org.au

Western Chances 'For Children' Scholarships enabled 3 recipients to be supported for one year, with the opportunity available to each to apply annually for a Renewal Scholarship up to the age of 25 or until their education/training is completed.

One year 11 student who received a scholarship is now closer towards her goal of studying architecture and interior design because she was awarded a ForChildren scholarship.

Another year 11 student has been awarded the ForChildren scholarship which has been put towards textbooks and tuition so that he can fulfil his goal to become a Pharmacist.

Pursuing a career in Civil Engineering is the goal for the third ForChildren scholarship recipient who has received financial assistance with tuition costs and textbooks.

South Eastern Chances

www.connections.org.au/chances



ForCHILDREN established this program in partnership with Connections UnitingCare. The program was recently re-launched and a number of new applications for scholarships are being considered.

In October 2007, ForCHILDREN with the help of Linda and Mark Edwards and a working committee held a Banquet Auction in Brighton. As a result of that evening, just over \$70,000 was raised, and those funds were additional funds committed by ForCHILDREN to establish the South Eastern Chances Program. Previous funds allocated to the program were as a result of sponsorship for the NHArchitecture bike ride, additional donations, successful grant applications and fund raising events.

Congratulations to Connections UnitingCare and South Eastern Chances in launching the program, and also to the Hawthorn Football Club for their commitment in supporting this

worthy initiative.

For more information, have a look at the South Eastern Chances website.

Yiyili Aboriginal Community School, Halls Creek, W.A.

www.yiyilischool.atspace.com

We are continuing our support for this wonderful community school following the NHArchitecture team of bike riders visiting the school. A donation sent to them late 2007 was put towards major software upgrades for their school computers and compost for the school gardens.

Madurai Goodwill Social Work Centre, India

www.goodwillsocialworkcentre.org



Goodwill Social Work Centre in Madurai, India - a project supported by ForCHILDREN (Australia) Inc.

The Goodwill Social Work Centre is a professional social work organisation in Madurai Tamil Nadu in Southern India, and it conducts an extensive range of services for families and children in the region.

At the first IFCW World Forum in Cologne in 1980 a call was made for agencies in developed countries to work in partnership with agencies from developing countries. As a result, a relationship developed with the Director of Goodwill, Dr J. Christopher Daniel and financial and professional assistance was provided by Family Focus, one of the agencies that came into merger to create OzChild Children Australia in 1990.

Many projects over the years have been funded and visits to each others agencies by Goodwill staff and ForCHILDREN Committee members have been made over the years.

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The United Nations' Declaration of the Rights of the Child continued...

Principle 7

The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages. He shall be given an education which will promote his general culture and enable him on a basis of equal opportunity, to develop his abilities, his individual judgement, and his sense of moral and social responsibility, and to become a useful member of society.

The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents. The child shall have full opportunity for play and recreation, which should be directed to the same purposes as education; society and the public authorities shall endeavour to promote the enjoyment of this right.

Principle 8

The child shall in all circumstances be among the first to receive protection and relief.

Principle 9

The child shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. He shall not be the subject of traffic, in any form.

Principle 10

The child shall be protected from practices which may foster racial, religious and any other form of discrimination. He shall be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among people, peace and universal brotherhood, and in full consciousness that his energy and talents should be devoted to the service of his fellow men.

chances for children...

What's happening nationally...

and building the international connection

ForCHILDREN has had responsibility of assisting the Madurai Goodwill Social Work Centre since 2005 and has recently funded a Chances for Children Program. The components of the program include educational sponsorship to children in dysfunctional families, home placement to children at risk and childhood enrichment services. Our work has enabled children from the poorest families in Madurai to have the opportunity of attending a school which is conducted by the Goodwill Centre. A small classroom was built and around 25 children were enrolled.

FUND RAISING LUNCH, 23 AUGUST 09



Dr George Tippett addressing our August Fund Raising Lunch at the West Brighton Club

Dr George Tippett, A.M. K.St.J kindly agreed to address our fund raising lunch on his rich life experiences – travelling through his early childhood, his time as a Royal Flying Doctor, overseas work involving treating many people in great need of medical care in many countries, and now to discovering meditation and journeying towards the path of enlightenment. Our sincere thanks to George for generously giving of his time and allowing us to share in his experiences.

We thank the guests who attended, and by all accounts, they very much enjoyed the afternoon and thanks also to the West Brighton Club for allowing us to use their venue.

Sincere thanks also to those who donated raffle prizes – to Victoria and Ron McNeilly who donated a Simon Johnson Hamper, to Michael and Margot Kefford of Kurrajong Estate for the donation of a dozen bottles of Hanging Rock wine, to Caroline Sheales who donated a superb basket of soaps and to our Committee who donated wine. Also our warmest thanks to our friends for their cash donations.

The day was a great success and it gave us the opportunity to inform our guests about all the exciting projects on our agenda which are outlined in this newsletter. We are very pleased to have raised about \$1,500.

COMMITTEE NEWS

To our former Vice President, John Smith and to Frank Fielding, former Treasurer and Judith Fielding, we thank you for your wise counsel and commitment which was a great asset to our Committee over many years.

We welcome Rosemary Fisher as our Treasurer, Helen Hayward and Franciscus Henri to our Committee. Marilyn Rothery is also welcomed on our Committee as OzChild's representative. Meg Bartel has been appointed as part-time administrator to assist with the ever increasing workload that is occurring as a result of our busy agenda.

CONTACT US:

Denis Oakley
Secretary

ForCHILDREN (Aust) Inc
e-mail: denis.oakley@optusnet.com.au
Phone: 0419 341 996

Meg Bartel
Administrator

ForCHILDREN (Aust) Inc
e-mail: agbartel@hotmail.net.au
Phone: 0412 567 517

DONATIONS:

If would you like to make a donation, all donations to the ForCHILDREN Trust Fund are tax deductible. Cheques payable to the ForCHILDREN Trust Fund can be forwarded to either Denis Oakley or Meg Bartel and you will be issued with a receipt.

WEBSITE:

Please visit our website: www.forchildren.org.au

ALL ENQUIRIES TO:



ForCHILDREN Inc
(AUSTRALIA) AOO 3654

Denis Oakley 0419 341 996 or Meg Bartel 0412 567 517

www.forchildren.org.au