

19 May 2020

AN URGENT CALL TO KINSHIP CARERS FOR INFORMATION IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Please contact KCV if, since the spread of coronavirus, you have connection to:

- children who might have run away from residential care, or
- young parents who have had their contact or reunification orders delayed.

Please call KCV on (03) 93722422 or email director@grandparents.com.au



Kinship carers have alerted the KCV office to these two issues confronting their families.

Residential care

From an article written by Kellie Lazzaro and posted by ABC news on 12 May 2020.

In that article the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Liana

Buchanan, was quoted as saying that in April Victoria Police received 190 reports of children missing from

out-of-home care during April, a 30 per cent increase on the same month last year. It would seem that children are running away from residential care due to the consequences of stay-at-home rules.

Ms Buchanan says a review of the sector will now be expanded to include the effects of COVID-19 on children in care.

Contact and reunification orders

KCV is also hearing from carer networks that young parents are suffering badly because their contact or reunification orders have been slowed since the coronavirus spread. The courts have not been operating but KCV also believes that pressures on the DHHS are a factor in this matter. Nevertheless, we would like to know of any stories you can share with us so we can pass them on and ask people to act on them.

According to the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Liana Buchanan, in April Victoria Police received 190 reports of children missing from out-of-home care during April, a 30 per cent increase on the same month last year.