

Jigsaw
Queensland
Inc.

2021

Support Connect Inform Advocate



Annual Report 2021-2020

Jigsaw Queensland Inc.

President's report 2020-2021

Trying new things

COVID-19 continues to challenge organisations to re-evaluate and re-work their best laid plans. It has certainly changed the way we do things at Jigsaw.

While the provision of information through telephone support and our website have not been affected, our face to face work through the support group has been disrupted. Thankfully, we have been able to squeeze in regular adoptee support groups and the mothers' morning tea. However, a major decision was made to end our regular Open Support meeting and replace these with occasional, but regular, information evenings. We are keen to see some of these being offered in new territory. Already, we have had one successful film evening in the Ipswich area (see more below).

Staff movements

WE farewelled Andrea Lynch our long-serving FASS Team Leader (to retirement) and Jane Sliwka, who is now with PASQ. WE welcomed Caroline Slade as our new FASS Team Leader .

Governance

Once again, we have relied heavily on the dedicated work of all our volunteers and committee members to keep Jigsaw directly relevant to persons affected by past adoption. I would like to offer a heart-felt thank you to our Management Committee team. This year there were changes in the Committee as Trevor stepped out of the President's role (and was appointed CEO of Jigsaw) and Collette, while remaining on the Committee, handed the Secretary role to Lois Buch. Robert White continues in the Treasurer role and Heather Hernman brings the mothers perspective to our deliberations as well as helping to maintain a sense of history and purpose in what we do.

Warm and hearty thanks to all the Jigsaw Committee members, group facilitators, office workers and volunteers who keep Jigsaw alive and well.

It is not only our longevity but also our respect for the diversity of adoption experience that has earned Jigsaw Queensland its outstanding reputation as a trustworthy provider of post-adoption support and a valued contributor to state and national discussions on permanency and adoption policy and practice. The different colours in our Jigsaw logo represent the diverse ways in which we are all affected by adoption and the unique contribution each of us can make in transforming lives. They also remind us that our colour is not the whole rainbow and that working together and supporting each other on the journey is important. (Trevor Jordan, CEO)

Jo-Ann Sparrow
President

Support group reports

Mothers' Group

The Mothers support meeting entered its 24th year in August 2021. We continue to gather at a Mothers' Morning Tea every other month.

I was able to phone regular attendees to remind them that the meeting is coming up and to catch up with them if they cannot attend. I would like to thank Jigsaw for having trust in me to run the meetings for the past 12 years. -- Heather

Adoptee Group

The Adoptee support group has been well attended this last year. We've managed to have a few meetings under the always changing COVID-19 restrictions. It is gratifying that other service providers recognise the

value of peer-to-peer sharing and support. So, a number of adoptees attend to get peer support who are also getting support through Post Adoption Support Queensland's counselling service. Melissa has done a great job again in facilitating the meetings with style and wit.



8th National Apology Anniversary Event

This year the National Apology Commemoration nEvent was held indoors and on a Sunday, which made it more of a family event. Our special guest was Professor Karen Healy of the the UNiversity of Queensland Social Work department and former President of the Australian Social Workers Association, who spoke about not repeating the past. Jay Truner and Cath Mundy also led our special just for the event choir in a rendition fo the 'Lost & Found' a song written by Jay in conjunction with workshops with people affected by past adoption and performed by our all age choir created for the occasion.

Bridge Light-Up event

"Adopt Perspective" podcasts

Jigsaw Qld's Adopt Perspective Podcast is no longer a fledgling podcast. By the time of the AGM we'd reached 7000 listeners worldwide and produced 23 episodes in 2021, bringing our two-season total to 44 episodes. Our top countries of reach are Australia, closely followed by the USA. Keeping to our mix of personal stories interspersed with interviews with professionals, authors, filmmakers etc, we have continued to receive glowing

feedback from clients, stakeholders and others affected by adoption around the world.

This year we interviewed psychotherapist - Pam Cordano, *Lost and Found* singer / songwriters, Cath Mundy & Jay Turner, Professor Daryl Higgins, former MP Anne Warner, Ruth Loli from Link Up Qld, Lynelle Long from ICAV, filmmaker Rebecca Autumn Sansom and mothers and fathers who lost children to adoption and adopted people. We covered many topics including; discharging adoptions and adoption and addiction.

The podcasts help to promote FASS services and encourage people to seek support during the COVID crisis and also reach people who cannot attend face to face support groups e.g. those living in regional areas.



We thank the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs for their continuing support of our peer support services. This contribution is crucial for our volunteer engagement with all those affected by adoption.



**Queensland
Government**

Forced Adoption Support Service

This year the FASS team has assisted mothers, fathers, adopted people, and other family members with information, emotional support, family tracing, intermediary services and referrals. See the report below.

