

The Kinship CARE Project 18/19 has been extended to 2020!



Artist: Rose Ward, Noongar Woman

Highlights of the first 18 months:

18 locations:

- 13 Metropolitan
- 5 Regional

Reach:

- 224 Kinship Carers
- (11% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander)
- 296 Children in Kinship Care

Outcomes

Aggregated Session Ratings:

- 98% satisfaction
- 98% would recommend to other kinship carers

Pre-Post Questionnaire:

- >100% increase in kinship carers' understanding that children's behaviour is about their needs.

Post-Training Survey:

- 100% of carers who completed the training and the post implementation survey *agree or strongly agree* that they received *helpful information* as part of their participation in the Kinship CARE Project;
- 97% report that they *learnt strategies* that have helped them in their role as a kinship carer;
- 84% report that they *feel more confident* in their role as a kinship carer;
- 97% report that they *are happy with the training* they have participated in; and
- 75% report experiencing improved relationships with the child or children in their care.

Registration forms can be accessed [here](#).

In the Kinship CARE Project there is a focus on relational connection (relationships) that:

- *repairs* (relational) harm experienced by children and young people who are recovering from abuse and neglect;
- *regulates* emotions and behaviour;
- supports *physical and mental health*; and
- supports a *positive self-concept in children and young people*, which is vital to their confident approach to life and relationships, and growth.

In the Kinship CARE Project, 75% of participant kinship carers who complete the training and a post-training survey agree or strongly agree with the statement that *they are experiencing improved relationships with a child or children in their care*. The remaining 25% neither agree nor disagree with this statement. It is possible that they were already satisfied with relationships in the home.

The *perception* that relationships are improving is likely influenced by, and influences, what carers notice about the home environment. *This is a key outcome of the self-care methodology of The Project. For more information about the science behind the self-care methodology, click [here](#).*

The self-care methodology is designed to achieve an outcome where carers see their successes in performing the role, including what they are already doing that supports recovery from relational trauma, and evidence that the child(ren) are benefitting from their caregiving endeavours. This supports carer

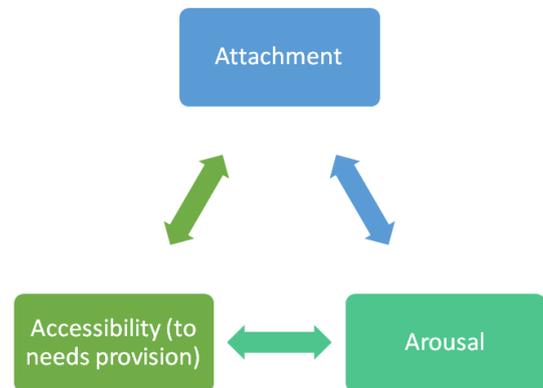
wellbeing and optimal performance in the role. Indeed, *84% of respondents on the post-training survey report that they feel more confident in their role as a kinship carer.*

Importantly, an anticipated outcome of the self-care methodology is that children experience themselves differently, based on the change in perception by their kinship carers. The self-concept of children is very much influenced by their experience of how adults in a caregiving role perceive and interact with them. Children who experience adults focusing on their problems will see themselves as a problem. Children who experience adults approaching them with positivity will internalise positive messages about themselves. This relates to the concept of the “looking-glass-self”, described by Cooley in 1902 and confirmed via empirical study since. I discuss this in both of my books.

Children’s thoughts about themselves influences their feelings, behaviours, and the reaction of others. Negative attachment representations (negative thoughts about self, other and world) are reinforced where adults respond to children’s behaviour only, as opposed to the needs being expressed via the behaviour and/or reasons for the behaviour. Acknowledging and addressing the reasons for children’s behaviour is a key aspect of this Project, and a key outcome. Responding with understanding circumvents unhelpful relational dynamics that perpetuate attachment insecurity/disorder, where attachment insecurity/disorder is over-represented among children in out-of-home care. This represents a vital step in supporting progress towards attachment security for children in kinship care, where attachment security is widely accepted as optimal for children’s growth and development and successful approach to life and relationships.

In our Project, participant kinship carers complete a brief questionnaire about the behaviour of a child in their care at the beginning of the first training session and at the end of the fourth training session. Pre- and post-responding to this questionnaire is evaluated via keyword analysis. What we have found for the first 12 (completed) groups is a more than two-fold increase in carers acknowledging that the child’s behaviour relates to a (contemporary or historically unmet) **need**, from being mentioned in 26% of carer responses to the pre-questionnaire, to being mentioned in 58% of the post-questionnaires. There is a corresponding reduction in mentions that the behaviour is occurring because the child ‘wants’ something. This outcome appears to reflect that carers get better at looking beyond the behaviour, which is also an important outcome of the

Project and necessary to support kinship children’s progress towards secure attachment, optimal arousal for wellbeing and performance in life tasks, and new learning about the accessibility and sensitive responsiveness of adults in a caregiving role.



In helping kinship carers focus more on needs that drive the behaviours of children recovering from relational trauma, the Kinship CARE Project supports the imperative to nurture secure attachment, the importance of which is enshrined in the new child protection legislation in effect in South Australia.

So, please register your kinship carers for upcoming implementations of the Kinship CARE Project. Further details can be accessed [here](#). Please check back from time to time as this page is updated regularly.

Registration forms can be accessed [here](#).

Key Contacts:

Georgina Johnson – georgina@securestart.com.au
 Rebecca Pearce – admin@securestart.com.au
 Colby Pearce – colby@securestart.com.au

References:

Cooley, CH (1902). *Human Nature and the Social Order*. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons

[Pearce, C \(2016\) *A Short Introduction to Attachment and Attachment Disorder \(Second Edition\)*. London: Jessica Kingsley](#)

[Pearce, C \(2011\) *A Short Introduction to Promoting Resilience in Children*. London: Jessica Kingsley](#)



The Kinship CARE Project

- C Consistency
- A Accessibility
- R Responsiveness
- E Emotional Connectedness

securestart.com.au

Kinship CARE Project – Salisbury North

The Kinship CARE Project is being implemented by Secure Start® in partnership with the Department for Child Protection.

The Project offers training to kinship carers in the implementation of the CARE Model.

CARE stands for:

C	Consistency
A	Accessibility
R	Responsiveness
E	Emotional Connectedness

CARE offers simple and practical ideas and strategies for therapeutic parenting of children who have had a tough start to life.

Since 2018 Secure Start® has delivered to 18 Groups in metropolitan and regional South Australia with overwhelmingly positive feedback.



Training is delivered by Colby Pearce, Clinical Psychologist, Author and Developer of therapeutic programs.

Kinship Care Support Workers and Psychologists who support them have also been trained in CARE. The Kinship CARE Project supports a common language.

CARE is delivered in 4 sessions -

Dates:

Thursday's
7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th November
9.30am – 1pm

Venue:

Bagster Road Community Centre
17 Bagster Road, Salisbury North

To confirm your attendance, complete the registration form and email it to Georgina Johnson at:

georgina@securestart.com.au

Or speak to your Kinship Care Support Worker

For more information:

securestart.com.au/kinship-care-project-2018-19/



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Places are limited!

Kinship CARE Project – Reynella

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CARE is delivered in 4 sessions -

Dates:

Monday's
4th, 11th, 18th & 25th November
9.30am – 1pm

Venue:

St Francis Winery
Governor Phillip Room
14 Bridge Street, Reynella

To confirm your attendance, complete the registration form and email it to Georgina Johnson at:

georgina@securestart.com.au

Or speak to your Kinship Care Support Worker

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Kinship CARE Project – Port Adelaide

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CARE is delivered in 4 sessions -

Dates:

Wednesday's
23 & 30 October, 6 & 13 November
9.30am – 1pm

Venue:

Adelaide Business Hub
6 Todd St Port Adelaide

To confirm your attendance, complete the registration form and email it to Georgina Johnson at:

georgina@securestart.com.au

Or speak to your Kinship Care Support Worker

For more information:

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REGISTRATION FORM

The Kinship CARE Project

A partnership between Secure Start® & the Department for Child Protection



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS: _____

KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT WORKER: _____

OFFICE SUPPORTING THE CHILD IN YOUR CARE: _____

NUMBER OF CHILDREN YOU ARE CARING FOR: _____

LENGTH OF TIME YOU HAVE BEEN A KINSHIP CARER: _____

DO YOU IDENTIFY AS ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER? _____

WHAT TRAINING HAVE YOU RECEIVED WITH REGARDS TO YOUR CARING ROLE:

WHAT BEHAVIOUR(S) DOES THE CHILD YOU CARE FOR PRESENT WITH THAT CONCERNS YOU THE MOST?

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THERAPEUTIC CARE? Please tick

- Nothing
 A bit
 Quite a lot

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET OUT OF THE TRAINING?

Eyes are mirrors for a child's soul. What do children see in your eyes?

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO georgina@securestart.com.au

Registrant numbers are limited. However, if there are insufficient numbers Secure Start reserves the right to cancel the workshop and reschedule.