



## ACCSA

### Convenor & Project Worker Report 2017

During the 12 months since the last report, ACCSA completed the AGD's CCS Online Directory pilot project. This project has been a clear success with report statistics and online analytics clearly demonstrating that the information was utilized comprehensively across all states and territories. The amount and nature of email traffic emanating from the Directory further illustrated the diversity of those in need of our services. Communication was received from family members, family law practitioners, family dispute resolution practitioners, independent children's lawyers, health service providers, law enforcement staff and researchers from both Australia and overseas. At the time of writing ACCSA is awaiting word from the federal government as to whether they will continue to fund the upkeep and maintenance of the Directory.

It has recently come to our notice that there is some misunderstanding within the private services sector as to ACCSA's position in regard to full membership. The decision to revise the membership criteria in early 2017, to only allow government funded services that are subject to oversight, was based upon legal advice to that effect. The Association's ongoing campaign for regulation that all CCSs be required to be accredited would, if it was put into effect, see all services operating under the same framework and subject to the same oversight - it will also provide the basis for all accredited services to be full members of ACCSA.

Heartfelt thanks is extended to the outgoing Board of 2017 for their time on the Board this year. They contributed on a monthly basis with the ongoing running of the Association and with the 2017 Forum for their considered input and support in its planning and facilitation. The mutual respect and willingness to engage was

evident at all times during the year and it has been an honour to work with each and everyone.

The ACCSA National Forum of 2017 provided the Association with the clear message that the sharing of practice experience is one of the most highly valued and beneficial experiences that we facilitate for those working in the sector.

Since 2007, ACCSA Board's have presented eight national events and in each instance have been privileged to join our highly motivated and committed peers in sharing the experience of what works well for children and their families when providing safe, secure and meaningful time together at a Children's Contact Service. The dynamic nature of these Forum exchanges are such that a need for more frequent opportunities has to be created. The 2018 ACCSA Board will be tasked with, amongst other things, establishing and facilitating quarterly State and Territory practice based teleconferences. ACCSA will also extend an offer to ACCSA Supporters working in the private sector to participate in similar Association facilitated conversations.

The Association will be recognizing the value it places upon practice wisdom and commitment to mentoring and sharing by bestowing Life Membership to Jenny Kell, Terry Quinn and Melanie Ryan. Each of these nominees has extensive experience working in the CCS sector, served on ACCSA Boards and have actively facilitated the sharing of effective and positive practice.

**Sue Thompson**

**ACCSA Convenor 2007-**

**Mike Cross**

**ACCSA Project Worker**