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## 11th Biennial International Foster Care Organisation (IFCO) Conference

### *Fostering the Future*

19-23 July 1999 – University of Melbourne

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

(Closing date 1 March 1999)

Jointly sponsored by the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria, Victorian Association of Young People in Care, Foster Care Association of Victoria and the Department of Human Services.

This conference will be an exciting exploration of the challenges facing us in caring for the world's children into the 21st century and search for answers to those challenges. It seems that wherever we look in the world, the issues facing families and children get tougher, the resources to help them tighter and the demands on the community to care for these children and their families is higher. As part of this bigger picture, this conference is an opportunity for governments, services, carers and young people to address and improve these difficulties.

The conference will draw 800-1000 national and international delegates including young people, carers, agency and policy/program workers. Five dynamic keynote speakers have been scheduled into the program, selected for their expertise and leadership in their fields:

**Mick Dodson**, Director of the Indigenous Law Centre at the University of NSW, will address the issues of the over-representation of indigenous children in care around the world and the significant issues this raises in the field of foster care.

**Teresa Lum**, from the Federation of British Columbia Youth In Care Network in Canada, will examine the factors that promote success and best practice approaches in care, including connectedness with family and networks and stability in care.

**Jill Wain**, Acting Manager of Children's Services, Westcare in Melbourne, who as both a carer and later a worker has focussed on building positive partnerships between all stakeholders.

**Angela Maria Pangan**, President and Executive Director of NORFIL Foundation in the Philippines, will address the issues facing foster care in developing nations, where local cultural, structural, socio-economic and organisational factors present a particular set of challenges.

**Dr Frank Kunstal**, a recognised psychologist, author and trainer in the USA who works extensively with seriously emotionally troubled children, will be considering the challenges of caring for children and young people with specific high support needs within a foster care placement.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Conference Organisers Pty Ltd  
Suite 2, 5 Melrose Street, Sandringham, Vic 3191  
Tel: 03 9521 8881 Fax: 03 9521 8889

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