



**2017
SUMMER**



From the Editor:
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TO ALL RAINBOWS CO-ORDINATORS AND FACILITATORS AND TO THOSE CONSIDERING TAKING ON THE ROLE

If you are once again taking on the privilege and responsibility of working with grieving children through Rainbows, thank you on behalf of those families who will benefit. You may never know the extent to which you will assist. If you help one child then just consider the ripple effect of your assistance.

If you are considering taking on this role then know that you will not only benefit those in your group but you too will be enriched. Why not try it for just one year and see how it goes?

Check with your local Registered Director to see the closest training day or find out about the on-line training.

A parent in Australia could just as easily have written the following letter from a USA site. Maybe someone will write in glowing terms about your support.

LETTER FROM A GRATEFUL PARENT

The summer before my daughter started first grade was a difficult one. My daughter's father and I began a very tumultuous divorce, one that was painful for everyone in our family. At the same time, both of my maternal grandparents who were very close to my daughter passed away within months of each other. But thanks to donors like you, my daughter's school has been an active Rainbows site for years. Her teacher at that time happened to be one of the school's Facilitators for Rainbows. She recommended I enroll Sally in Rainbows immediately. Sally began Rainbows at the start of the school year. She attended weekly sessions with other kids her age who were facing similar struggles with grief. She found companionship and trust among her peers in the group. She made new friends who understood her feelings and helped her heal. Experts have found that guided peer-to-peer support programs like Rainbows get the best results. Children who participate in them are: 5 times less likely to commit suicide, 9 times less likely to drop out of high school. 10 times less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol and 20 times less likely to develop a behavioural disorder.

Today my daughter is a happy, healthy, young girl and the star of her volleyball team.

This year I found myself giving thanks for Rainbows and their highly effective peer-to-peer support programs. I know they made a positive impact on my daughter and I know they help thousands of other children, across the country heal from grief every day. The child's name has been changed.

BOOKS ABOUT DEATH FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

Four books to assist young children have been given prominence in an edition of Liturgy News of December last year.

You can explore each on the Internet. Clare Scheantes writes of each of them.

1. The Invisible String by Patrice Karst
2. Life times by Bryan Mellonie
3. Love is Forever by Casey Rislov
4. Water Bugs and Dragonflies by Doris Stickney.

REMARKABLE FACILITATORS

In one of last year's Rainbows Newsletters from USA I noted that they have introduced a segment entitled REMARKABLE FACILITATORS.

What an idea for us. Let's introduce it. If you know a remarkable facilitator send in some information as to why he/she is remarkable and we will feature the story.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

You may think about the room in which you conduct Rainbows.

- Is it a safe place for all?*
- Is it a private place for all?*
- Is it a place in which you will not be interrupted?*
- Is it easily accessible for the participants?*

AN URGENT REQUEST

Rainbows is searching for a dedicated volunteer who can undertake the task of bookkeeping for Rainbows. They would need to be familiar with Zero and work with our Treasurer who is based in Melbourne. If interested, please contact Sandra at rainbowsaccounts@rainbows.org.au

VACANCY ON RAINBOWS BOARD -

Rainbows currently has two Board positions available, one of whom is Secretary. The following overview of Directors of the Board is included.

Background Information: Rainbows for the Children of Australia (Rainbows) is a Public Company (not for profit) limited by guarantee. Board members of Rainbows are responsible for the governance of the organisation, that is, to ensure the operations of our organisation are compliant with the law and are financially sound. The board provides the leadership, strategic planning, financial management and compliance, and evaluating its own and the organisation's effectiveness. They work closely with the Management Team, whose members represent all sites within their State.

Number of Directors: The Board consists of 8 volunteer Board members with each position filled by resolution of the Members of Rainbows at an annual general meeting (AGM). In the case of an early resignation of a Director a replacement can be appointed by the Board until the next AGM.

Nominations: Any person seeking to be elected or re-elected as a Director at an AGM of the Company must lodge a written nomination form at the Company office at least 14 days before the AGM at which the election is to take place, The form must nominate the person as a director and be signed by the nominator and seconder and also signed by the nominee signifying their consent to the nomination.

Directors Rotation: At each Rainbows AGM, two Directors will retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election.

Qualifications and Skills Base of Directors:

Qualifications: Subject to the Corporations Act and the Rainbows Constitution, any person over the age of 18 years who is nominated in accordance with clause 4 of the Rainbows Constitution may be appointed as a Director.

Skills Base of the Board Members: To be effective, the Board requires a wide range of skill sets. It is essential for the successful operation of the Board that the skills listed below are evident. It is therefore expected that nominees for the Board should have demonstrated skills and abilities in one or more of the following:

- Finance
- Governance/Policy
- Due diligence
- Business
- Legal
- Secretarial
- Fund Raising
- Marketing and Communication

Meetings: The Board meets via Skype as required – minimum 4 times per year.

Directors' Responsibilities:

- Attend no less than 75% of regular Board Meetings unless there is a valid reason for absence acceptable to the Board.
- Attend to the action items that arise at both Board meetings and between meetings.
- Be prepared to chair and/or serve actively on a sub-committee or special project.
- Actively assist with fund-raising activities of the organisation/branch and pursue grant opportunities.
- Act in accordance with Rainbows' Constitution.
- Treat all members of the organisation with dignity and respect.

Activities a Director could be involved in:

- Policy and Governance
- Due diligence
- Marketing and communication e.g. Website
- Fund Raising and Sponsorship
- Support/Advisory
- Stewardship of the organisation
- Strategic Planning
- Committee Service

Insurance: All Directors are covered by Indemnity insurance.

If interested or someone known to you may be interested in any of the above positions, please contact Paul at rainbowsaustralia@rainbows.org.au mob: 0402 436 716 or Margaret at margaret.henderson@catholic.tas.edu.au ph.: 0418 366 923.

Please pass on the newsletter to your contacts.