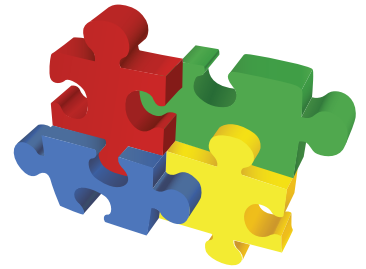


Jigsaw Queensland



Celebrating 48 years of service

Annual Report 2023-2024

**Empowering people
to understand, and
heal from, the impact
of adoption.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Dr Jo-Ann Sparrow - President of
Jigsaw Queensland Inc.*

This year we farewelled our CEO and former President Dr Trevor Jordan, who retired after more than two decades of dedicated service to Jigsaw.

Trevor has made a significant impact on the adoption community not just in Queensland, but also nationally and internationally, all while navigating his own adoption journey.

To honour Trevor's contributions, we celebrated his retirement with a morning tea and a special edition of our [Bits & Pieces newsletter](#) featuring heartfelt messages and reflections from our friends, allies and stakeholders.

In July, we welcomed our new CEO, Helen Angela Taylor. An adoptee herself, Helen discovered Jigsaw Qld in 1991 after relocating to Brisbane from Sydney.

She brings extensive experience in frontline social justice service delivery within the Queensland Government.

Helen served as Liaison Officer and Manager of the Victim Support Service at the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and later as Manager of the Concerned Persons Register at the Department of Corrective Services. In these roles, she developed and delivered

vital support services for victims of crime across Queensland.

Helen's advocacy work as a Community Visitor in the Office of Adult Guardian further underscores her commitment, as she provided rights protection and abuse prevention services.

After four years investigating allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults with disabilities, she became Manager, successfully transforming the service into a respected model of investigation and advocacy.

Helen is deeply committed to continuing Jigsaw Queensland's proud legacy of support, connection, information, and advocacy and we are thrilled she has joined us.

You can learn more about Helen on her [Adopt Perspective podcast episode](#) of 4 December, 2024.

It has indeed been a busy year for all our staff and volunteers and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of them for their unwavering passion and dedication to our mission every day.

Read on for our key achievements in the 2023-24 financial year.

Support Groups

Our support groups continued to attract high attendance this year, with some groups reaching maximum capacity. A total 154 people participated in our Mother's, Adoptee, and Open Groups, held in the meeting room at Jigsaw HQ.

Peer support volunteers have been attending bi-monthly supervision with Andrea Lynch throughout the year and found the sessions helpful in developing their practice and managing their wellbeing.

Adopt Perspective podcast

Season 5 of Adopt Perspective has successfully concluded with 14 episodes produced in 2023 - 24 financial year. The podcast's growth continues to surpass expectations, achieving a 67% increase in

listeners, 28% rise in streams, and a 45% boost in followers. More than 100 followers have named Adopt Perspective their favourite podcast. The average rating is 5-stars.

Reaching nearly 40,000 listeners across 45 countries, Adopt Perspective made it into Spotify's top 15% of most shared and followed podcasts globally in 2022.

As an extension of our peer support and professional services, the podcast has enabled us to reach clients who may not be able to attend in-person services such as peer support groups. We consistently receive positive feedback from listeners, who find the episodes helpful as they navigate their own experiences. Guests also report the therapeutic value of sharing their stories and contributing to the broader conversation.

The podcast has become required listening for new employees in the Child Safety Department in at least one Australian state and is also listened to by relevant departments in Queensland.



It was incorporated into Churchill Fellowship research on Australia's forced adoption response and has been cited in discussions with Scottish government officials ahead of their own formal apology. The podcast has led to outreach from lawyers, policymakers, and members of

inquiries and reference groups, all of whom have said that listening to the podcast has broadened their understanding, and informed reports and recommendations.

Adopt Perspective is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Deezer, Castbox, Pocket Casts, Amazon Music, Overcast, and on our website: <https://www.jigsawqueensland.com/podcast>.

Churchill Fellowship findings released

In September, 2023 then CEO Trevor Jordan and the FASS Team Leader met with Churchill Fellowship researcher, Jeanott Farmer who visited Australia to collect data about Australia's response to past forced adoptions.

Jeanott is a mother who lost a child to adoption. Her fellowship findings, [No More Standing in the Shadows - Treating the Wounds of Historic Forced Adoption](#) were published in May 2024.



Jeanott Farmer, Churchill Fellow Recipient.

Brisbane Care Expo

On 1 & 2 September 2023, Jigsaw Qld exhibited for the first time at the 2023 Brisbane Care Expo held in the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. The event was a great success and we attended again in 2024.

11th National Apology Anniversary event

A morning tea for the 11th Anniversary of the National Apology for Forced Adoptions was held at Victoria Park on 21 March 2024. A presentation was made to the family of Margaret Hamilton to honour her advocacy legacy by The Hon. Claire Moore, former Senator for Queensland. Guest speaker, Charlotte Smith, the CEO of VANISH (Vic) spoke to us about the Parliamentary Inquiry in Victoria that resulted in the Historical Forced Adoptions Redress Scheme.



Attendees at the 11th Anniversary for the National Apology.

The anniversary was a collaboration between You Gave Me a Voice, Jigsaw Queensland Inc., Origins Queensland, ALAS Australia and Association for Adoptees, funded by the Australian Government of Social Services.

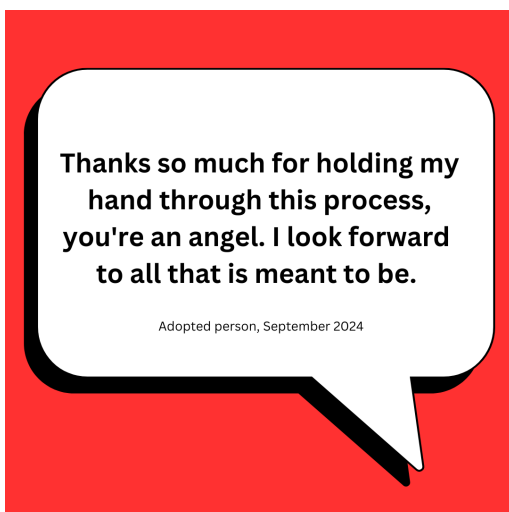
11th Queensland Apology Anniversary event.

A morning tea event was held to commemorate the anniversary at the

Normanby Hotel following a rose laying ceremony at Roma Street Parklands on 27 November 2023.

The Hon. Craig Crawford MP, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services sent a video message and Jigsaw Qld's President, Jo Sparrow, spoke about the importance of information and support and the impact Adopt Perspective podcast guests sharing their stories has had around the world.

Forced Adoption Support Service (FASS)



In 2023-2024, we saw a number of changes and a period of learning and growth for the Forced Adoption Support Service (FASS) team, including the appointment of a new Team Leader, Simone Gott. The team also welcomed two new Information and Support Workers, Donna Byrne and Sarah Oakleigh.

2023-2024 was a busy and productive year, with the FASS team supporting 185 clients, with 1,343 instances of support, and an average of 7.3 occasions of support per client.

The majority of clients were aged between 50-59. The three top types of support provided were advocacy and support (49.81%); information, advice and referral (25.76%); and searching assistance (13.40%).

Jigsaw Queensland was successful in meeting the FASS program objectives and goals for the past 3-year funding period (2021-2024). The Department of Social Services (DSS) acknowledged Jigsaw Queensland's efforts in managing the recent transitions in a proactive manner, ensuring service continuity. We are happy to report that the FASS program has had its funding renewed for a further three years (2024-2027).

Submissions

This year we wrote a submission in response to the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill 2024, advocating for the rights of donor-conceived individuals to access information about their biological origins, mirroring the progress made in adoption law reforms.

Our submission reflected a commitment to ethical, compassionate support and the belief that access to information about one's origins is fundamental to personal identity, with a focus on providing adequate support and resources for all parties involved.

Key points of the submission included:

- Support for access to information
- Lessons from the adoption experience
- Balancing privacy and access
- Contact preferences
- Opposition to enforceable objections
- Secrecy vs. Privacy
- Ethical and therapeutic support for contact
- Support services and education
- Sibling's rights.



Forced Adoption Support Services

Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Social Services



Queensland Government