



caringlife

CONNECTING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN CARE

Proudly supported by



| Hello, we are



Jonathan



Emma



Anthony



We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which Arts Centre Melbourne stands, the People of the Kulin Nations, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and future

We are OzChild



Established in
Melbourne in 1851



Caring for around
400 children on
any given night



Over 700 staff,
carers &
volunteers in VIC,
NSW, QLD & the
ACT



Supporting over
10,000 children,
young people &
family members
each year



Delivering approx.
26 programs &
services



All children and young people are safe, respected, nurtured and reach their full potential



| We are Caring Life



caringlife

A Priceless Box



Who has something similar to this box?

How important is it to you?

I imagine incredibly important.

Does it hold celebrations, photos of loved ones, achievements and reflective moments.

Does it hold your life story?



Now imagine having lived in 11 different homes over the last 7 years

Maybe coming from a birth family in crisis

Who and how are we taking care of their *priceless* childhood memories? This is often the case for children in care

Mental Health and Identity



Research shows that the concepts of identity and belonging are key predictors of mental health in children-in-care, as well as the feeling of security and permanency*.

“

A fragmented, damaged, discontinuous personal narrative puts an individual child at risk.

Without a life story, a child is adrift, disconnected and vulnerable - their neurobiology of reward, stress regulation and relational interactions are all altered - in negative ways - without a cortically mediated coherent personal narrative.

”

Adjunct Associate Professor Richard Rose, Director of Child Trauma Intervention Services Ltd

Life Story Work



Therapeutic Life Story Work enables children and young people who have experienced the trauma of child abuse and neglect and who are struggling with the pain of their past to reflect, develop compassion for themselves and move on.

CSOs and carers are required to collate placement details, records of life experiences and achievements, school reports, medical records, photographs of meaningful and significant events, people involved in the child's life and keep it in a safe place so the child may take such memories with them when changing placement or leaving care.

This is very challenging if you are bouncing around the system!



Currently

No system - worldwide - that provides for the central storage of memories

Children are often given these mementos in hard-copy form or on a USB stick, which are easily lost, particularly when the children move between carers.

These moments are priceless, and form part of the child's identity and life story



Welcome to CaringLife



CaringLife enables agencies to achieve their life-story requirements in a quick and safe way.

Carers, agencies, case managers and children are able to upload, moderate and see the photos and other files.

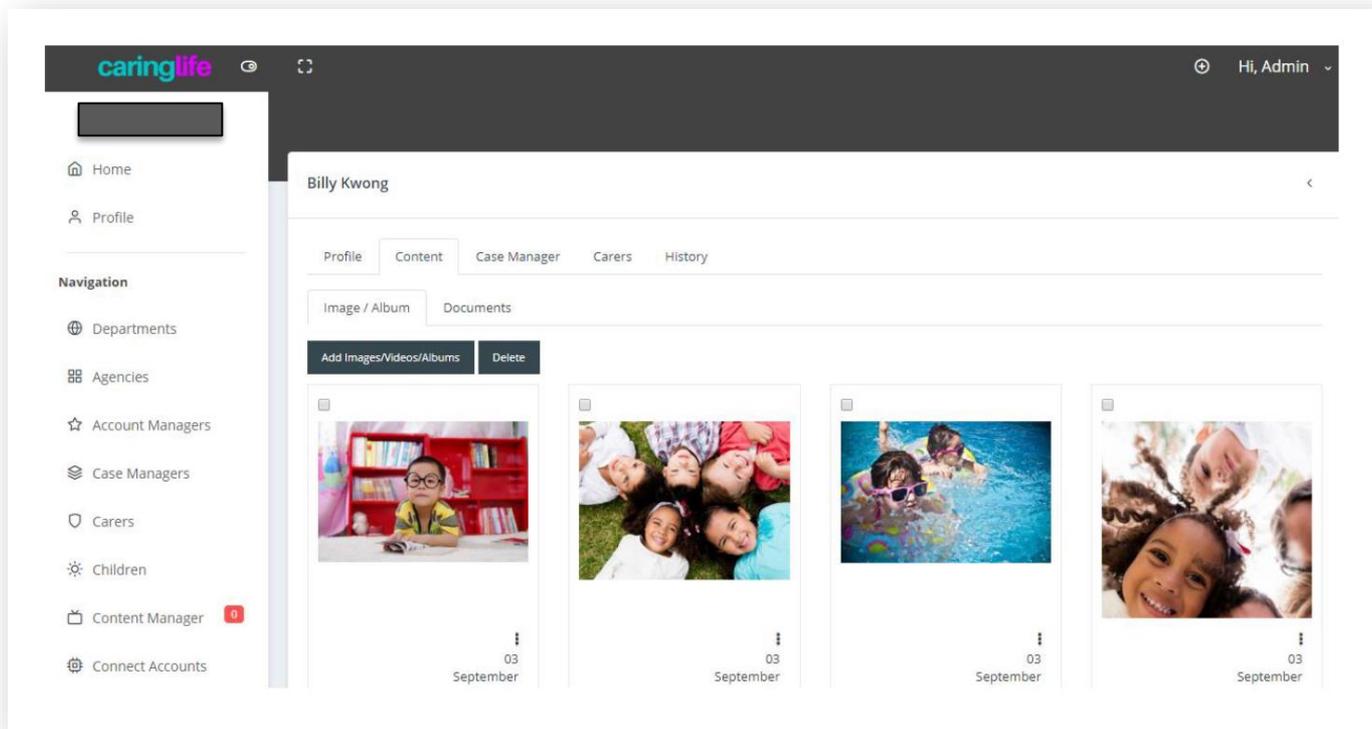
Developed with a deep understanding of the Life Story therapy approach that is developmentally sensitive and trauma-informed.

Even when children leave care, or transition into adulthood, they will have on-going access to all their content.

A Modern-Day Memory Box

- Therapeutic and identity benefits for children in care – the app allows children to form a continuous life narrative and sense of identity and belonging, which has a direct relationship with mental health outcomes.
- Regulatory compliance under the *Program Requirements for Home Based Care in Victoria (1.6.5)*
- It has been identified as a therapeutic resource by the Australian Childhood Foundation and Professor Richard Rose.





Carers and children each have their own private account created on CaringLife, which are then connected when a child is staying with that carer.

Carers

Features include:

- Ability to post photos, videos and documents that they feel are important for the child;
- Ability to add captions, notes and other personalised information for the child to provide memories and context to the photos, videos and documents;
- Access to view photos, videos and documents that they have uploaded for all the children they have cared for;
- No access to photos, videos or documents that have been previously uploaded by other carers to ensure privacy for the child.

Child

Features include:

- Access to view all approved photos, videos and documents;
- Ability to add photos, videos, documents and notes - this allows for them to feel as though they have an interactive role in their "life story";
- Can see content from all carers;
- Can hide photos they don't like or want to see;
- Continued access to the photos, videos and documents once they leave care or reach adulthood;
- Ability to download the documents for printing etc.

| Pilot Program



The current pilot program includes:

- 3 agencies participating OzChild, Anglicare and Barwon Child Youth & Family
- Over 40 agency Case Managers
- Over 100 Carer Families
- All supporting 192 children's accounts



Pilot Program Statistics



More than 6500

photos, videos and other content have been uploaded



Each carer family has uploaded on average, **58 unique pieces of content**

Carers upload content, on average, **twice a week**



59%

are photos



32%

are videos



9

are documents

%

100% of carers surveyed as part of the pilot program said that they would recommend CaringLife to other carers

Feedback from Pilot Program

"My child loves looking at his memories. I often find him doing this."

- Sue M, Carer

“ They love it – it makes them feel special and thought of.”

- Jackie K Carer

"It's so cool seeing my photos and videos."

- Sarah, aged 10

“ They love it! It's been a fantastic addition to their lives and they really enjoy spending time going through all of the photos and videos.”

- Steve T, Carer

“ I wish this had been around sooner so I could see photos of me when I was younger.”

- Jane, aged 14

"They love looking through it and seeing new photos and videos, and they love adding their own crazy pics!"

- Justine M, Carer

"This is cool!"
- Iain, aged 6

| Our Supporters



| Our Supporters



“Having access to Childhood memories is something parents in everyday life take for granted, so ensuring our children in foster care have their own private access to memories, they create, through CaringLife is an incredible innovation and an absolute right for all children and young people in the care system.”

Dr Lisa Griffiths, CEO, OzChild

Our Supporters



“The CaringLife app has utility as a therapeutic tool through which children and young people can connect with their carers using the non-threatening, safe and private media platform in the app.”

Janise Mitchell
Deputy CEO - Australian Childhood Foundation

“A fragmented, damaged, discontinuous personal narrative puts an individual child at risk. CaringLife provides a terrific way for children to be able to access their life moments in an easy and continuous way, and I support the use of CaringLife for children in out-of-home care.”

Associate Professor Richard Rose
Director of Child Trauma Intervention Services Ltd

Comprehensively tested and assessed through testing by external security agency (200,000 hacking attempts over 4 days)

All data is hosted and stored in the child's country of residence

The system and the data storage, which is AWS cloud-based, align with security best practices and a variety of IT security standards including:

- SOC 1/SSAE 16/ISAE 3402 (formerly SAS 70)
- SOC 2
- SOC 3
- PCI DSS Level 1
- ISO 9001 / ISO 27001
- ITAR/FISMA, DIACAP, and FedRAMP
- FIPS 140-2
- DOD CSM Levels 1-5
- MTCS Level 3



Our Journey to Today



 About 2500 hours of our time

 55 CSO meetings

7 DHHS MEETINGS

 500 USERS

 Funding still in *negotiation*



WINNER OF 2019

Child Protection Award for Innovation

725 DEVELOPMENT HOURS

What's Next



1. Working in collaboration with the Indigenous community to ensure the system properly reflects Indigenous culture and requirements.
2. Rolling it out to 1000 children in Victoria

Thank you

