They need your love and the care of our community.

Open Your Heart. Foster a Child

FOSTERING NSW
Foster carers provide an alternative home for children and young people who can’t live safely with their family due to experiences of abuse or neglect. Foster carers provide day-to-day care, supervision, guidance and support to children and young people placed in their care.

Why do some children need foster care?
Children and young people in foster care have been removed temporarily or permanently from their birth parents due to experiences of abuse or neglect. There are different reasons as to why the abuse or neglect may have occurred including parents not coping, depression or other forms of mental illness, domestic violence, and alcohol and drug issues.

Why Pacific and Maori community foster carers are needed?
Pacific and Maori community foster carers are needed so children of Pacific and Maori community background in foster care can be looked after by carers from their own community. This helps to keep these children connected to their culture, language, religion and community. These connections help children in foster care to develop a positive sense of identity and belonging.
Types of foster care

There are four main types of foster care:

Immediate or crisis care
Immediate care is needed when there are concerns for a child’s immediate safety. Immediate carers need to be able to provide care at short notice, after-hours and on weekends.

Respite care
Sometimes, parents and carers need a break. Respite carers help for short periods of time, such as school holidays, weekends or for short periods during the week.

Short to medium-term care
Short to medium-term care lasts for up to six months. Children are placed in this type of care where there is a likelihood that they will eventually return to their birth parents or extended family.

Long-term care
Long-term care is needed when the child is not expected to return to their family.
What support will I receive?
Foster carers have access to a range of supports, including:
• free training on how to care for foster children
• a caseworker to support you and the child
• regular visits from a caseworker
• access to a 24 hour emergency call line
• access to support groups for foster carers
• opportunities for respite care or short breaks
• financial assistance to meet the needs of the child

What financial assistance will be available?
As a foster carer you will receive a fortnightly allowance to help to feed, clothe, educate and meet the needs of the child in your care. A number of other payments and reimbursements are also available for certain children and situations.

How do I apply to become a foster carer?
If you would like to be a foster carer, you need to apply with a foster care agency. There are various foster care agencies in NSW and each agency will have its own application process. Applying to become a foster carer generally involves:
• completing an application form
• a safety inspection of your home
• providing medical and personal references
• Working with Children and criminal record checks
• participating in initial training on being a foster carer
• assessment interviews with the potential foster carer and their family

Where do I find out more about foster caring?
If you are interested in fostering a child or would like more information, call Fostering NSW on 1800 236 783 or visit www.fosteringnsw.com.au

What qualities make a good foster carer?
• Genuine interest in meeting the needs of children
• Empathy and good listening skills
• Patience and flexibility
• Stability in your personal and family life
• In good physical and emotional health
• An ability to guide and discipline children without the use of physical punishment

Can I be a foster carer?
If you over the age of 18 years, an Australian citizen or permanent resident and in good health, you can apply to become a foster carer. You can be single, married or in a de facto relationship; renting or own your home; working (full or part-time) or not working, someone with or without children.
For more information please contact:

Fostering NSW
1800 236 783
www.fosteringnsw.com.au