



FOSTER CARE INFORMATION



WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Foster Care involves providing care in your own home to a child or young person who is unable to live with their family. The general aim of Foster Care is to provide for a child's physical, emotional and social needs within a stable family environment. The children and young people who come into care require opportunities for positive relationships, connectedness and a sense of belonging.

FOSTER CARE AT LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS

At Life Without Barriers, we have Carers who provide full-time care on a long-term basis, and also Respite Carers who provide regular weekend care (e.g. one weekend per fortnight or month). Both types of Carers play a very important role in ensuring that the young people we support have stable placements.

Sadly, the children and young people who we support have experienced trauma and as a result have emotional and behavioural issues. Many of these young people have not experienced a positive family life and now need extra patience and commitment.

Our work with these children and young people has a therapeutic focus. The goal of therapeutic care is to promote healing and recovery from the effects of abuse or neglect. In order to achieve this, our Carers develop safe, nurturing relationships with the young person in their care, and provide them with on-going emotional support within a calm home environment.

Our Carers work closely with a team of professionals, receive extensive training and support, and have access to our clinical services, including Psychologists and our creative arts therapy program, 'Living Arts'.

HOW WE SUPPORT OUR CARERS

Carers are the heart of our organisation, and we are dedicated to providing them with the highest level of support. Our Carers receive:

- Placement support and advice from a dedicated support worker
- Access to 24-7 on-call support
- Regular respite
- Extensive accredited training and ongoing opportunities for learning and development
- A tax-free reimbursement of \$650 per week, and
- Access to regular networking events (e.g. morning teas).

BECOMING A FOSTER CARER AT LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS



“You sheltered me. You cared for me. When I get older I will come back and show you how happy I am. You have helped me change my life forever.”

Young Person, LWB Out-of-home

We are seeking compassionate individuals or couples to join our team as long-term or respite (i.e. weekend) Foster Carers, to care for young people aged between 5 – 17 years old.

Life Without Barriers values diversity. Carers can be single, married or in a de-facto relationship, including same sex relationships, with or without their own children. What is most important is that you can provide a safe and caring home to a child or young person.

To become a Foster Carer with us, you need to be:

- empathic
- patient
- nurturing
- flexible and open-minded, and
- willing to learn about different ways of parenting children with complex needs.

In addition, it is essential that you:

- are at least 25 years of age
- have a spare bedroom
- are committed to working as part of a team
- are willing to support a young person in making and maintaining a cultural connection to their community, and
- are willing to engage in all relevant training and assessment processes.

As a Foster Carer, you could make the world of difference to a young person in need, by giving them the care and opportunity for positive growth and development that every child is entitled to.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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