

## Why Become a Carer?

As a foster carer you have the chance to help change a young life for the better. And you don't have to be a superhero to do it! You just need to be willing to open up your heart and home to support children in need. In fact, many of our carers say it's the little things they do as foster carers that makes being a carer so rewarding. This could include taking a child to the footy for the first time or reading them a story at bedtime.

## How Can I Become a Carer?

The process of becoming a foster carer can take some time. The initial enquiry to the formal accreditation can take as long as three to six months.

### To become a foster carer applicants:

- must register their interest
- are encouraged to attend a free information session
- must attend the Shared Stories, Shared Lives training
- must participate in the Step by Step assessment which will include having a police check and Working With Children Check
- must become registered as an accredited carer



## Contact Us

To find out more about becoming a foster carer call us on the numbers listed below:

**Eastern Metro Region: 1300 889 335**

**North West Region: 03 9396 7400**

**Southern Metro Region: 03 9706 8568 or 0499 016 445**

**Gippsland Region: 03 5133 9998**

**Bendigo & Loddon Region: 03 5440 1100**

Or visit us at

[anglicarevic.org.au/foster-caring](http://anglicarevic.org.au/foster-caring)

For all other areas of Victoria visit [fosteringconnections.com.au](http://fosteringconnections.com.au)

## Other Ways to Help

For people interested in supporting children in foster care but unable to commit the time, we also offer a Friends Volunteer Program (in our Eastern and North West regions), where people can volunteer with tutoring, mentoring, transport, babysitting and more.

For more information visit

[anglicarevic.org.au/volunteering](http://anglicarevic.org.au/volunteering)

We also welcome donations to any of our programs.

To make a donation please visit

[anglicarevic.org.au/donate-now](http://anglicarevic.org.au/donate-now)



## Foster Care

Become a Foster Carer and help children achieve brighter futures

**BETTER  
TOMORROW'S**



**OUR FOCUS IS ON TRANSFORMING THE FUTURES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND ADULTS. OUR WORK IS BASED ON THREE GUIDING PILLARS: PREVENT, PROTECT, EMPOWER.**

**BETTER  
TOMORROW'S**

anglicarevic.org.au  
info@anglicarevic.org.au  
1800 809 722  
youtube.com/anglicarevic  
twitter.com/anglicarevic  
facebook.com/anglicarevic

Anglicare Victoria is the State's largest provider of foster care and plays a vital role in protecting children and ensuring they have a safe and loving home. Foster care is a way of offering children a safe, secure and nurturing place to stay while their family is unable to care for them.

## Who Needs Foster Care?

Our foster care programs provide a safe and supportive home environment for children and young people aged 0-18 years. Children enter foster care for many reasons including neglect, trauma, abuse, family illness or crisis. A child might stay in foster care for as little as one night or as long as a few years.

## Types of Foster Care

We offer four main types of foster care placements, each with different lengths of stay.

### EMERGENCY CARE

Foster care provided at short notice, often for just one or two nights in an emergency or crisis situation.

### RESPIRE CARE

Foster care provided on a regular basis, usually for one weekend per month or for up to two weeks during school holidays.

### SHORT TERM CARE

Typically varies from a few days to a few months depending on the needs of the child and when it is appropriate for the child to return to their family.

### LONG TERM CARE

Where a child or young person requires long term care for up to two years or more. In some circumstances the child or young person can stay with their carers until they turn 18.

Carers can choose to provide a variety of foster care placements to meet the needs of children as well as to suit their own family needs and time commitment.

In addition, carers can elect to care for children of a particular gender or age or can specialise in providing care for adolescents, children with a disability or for children with more complex needs.

## Who Can be a Foster Carer?

**Foster carers come from all walks of life and can be:**

- single, married, or in a same sex relationship
- with or without children
- older or younger
- working full time, part time or as a stay at home parent

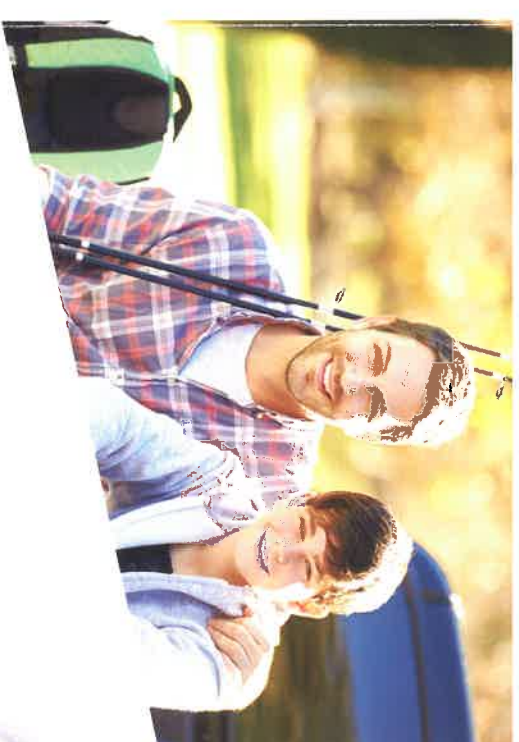
You don't need any specialist skills, just genuine concern for the welfare of the children and the capacity to offer time and quality care. A willingness to learn, flexibility and an ability to take on new ideas are often qualities sought in prospective carers.

Anglicare Victoria carefully matches children with foster carers, so that the needs of both the children and their foster carers are adequately supported.

## What Support is Provided to Carers?

We're dedicated to offering a supportive environment for both children and carers alike. As a foster carer you are trained, provided with access to comprehensive ongoing support, and reimbursed for any out of pocket expenses.

Foster carers are also provided with assistance in co-ordinating appropriate support services to meet their specific needs such as respite care, counselling, recreational opportunities and sibling support groups.



Foster carers are part of a team. You will have regular contact with Anglicare Victoria staff and may need to be involved with teachers, doctors and other professionals, including the Department of Health & Human Services.

## What is Your Role as a Carer?

Foster care is temporary care. The aim of foster care is to return children to their family as soon as it is appropriate to do so.

The service is voluntary and you do not receive a salary, although a tax-free fortnightly reimbursement from the Department of Health & Human Services is paid for each placement to cover expenses. The amount of this reimbursement is dependent on the age of the child and their particular needs.

*"Being there as a companion, a guide and a friend to a child, is such a wonderful experience and is the most rewarding thing you can do."*

Megan, Respite Carer