



Could you be a respite carer?

It's not children's fault they enter care. They did not choose to go into care or have their lives characterised by disruption and trauma. Children in Tasmania are removed from their families of birth due to safety concerns and placed in out of home care which means foster care, kinship care (someone known to the child before they enter care) or residential care.

Foster and kinship carers are people in our community, people in your school community, who step up to open their homes, hearts, and families to children in care. Being a carer is like nothing else, it is your whole life, it is 24/7, 365 days a week, and impacts every decision from what size car you drive to whether you can go on holidays!

Parenting children who suffered trauma, broken attachments, and placement instability is a tough gig. It is an incredible privilege to care and love our children, but as they are trying to navigate their own stories, their emotions, and the big feelings in their body, we're going along for the ride. We get to see the awesome, quirky, wonderful parts of their personalities and the bits that need healing, professional support, belonging, acceptance, and love.

Respite carers are people like you! Yes, you could be a respite carer! They are people in our children's lives who could offer to have them once a month for the weekend and be extended family for them. When children are removed, they are also removed from their extended families, communities, pets, and respite carers can be that for our kids.

Respite carers are also HUGE supports for us full time carers. It's someone else on the team around our children. It makes our journey less isolating, as often our community shrinks when we take children in care into our homes. And when we know our child loves going to your house for respite, we can all look forward to it.

The respite carers in our community also love it because once a month they plan a really fun weekend, they spoil our children, they do things they wouldn't normally do, and they know they are investing in a little person's life.

Currently in Tasmania there are not enough respite carers for all the children and carers. Could you respond to this urgent need?

Get in touch today: <https://www.fosteringhope.community/general-8-1>

Mary Dickins
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Fostering Hope