



**BECOME A
FOSTER CARER
WITH OZCHILD**



ozchild.org.au

A close-up photograph of a man and a young child. The man, on the right, has dark hair and is smiling warmly at the child. The child, on the left, has dark hair with bangs and is also smiling. They appear to be outdoors, with a blurred green background. The image is partially obscured by a semi-transparent orange and white graphic overlay at the bottom.

WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Foster care is providing safe and secure temporary, or longer term care, for children and young people who are unable to live with their own family or guardians due to personal difficulties and risks within the family network.

While foster care can be challenging at times, the rewards can be life-changing. OzChild provides foster carers with full training and ongoing support to help give a child in their care a chance to shine with the aim of safely reuniting them back to their families.

TYPES OF FOSTER CARE

OzChild Foster Care has a range of voluntary and non-voluntary Foster Care opportunities including:

Emergency



- » Overnight to several weeks
- » Referrals can be received after 2am

Short Term



- » 3-6 months
- » Pre-adoptive (newborn to 3 months)

Long Term



- » 6 months or longer

Respite



- » Children aged 4+ years (or younger with siblings in exceptional circumstances)
- » Generally 1 weekend per month on an ongoing basis and reviewed after 6 months

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair smiling warmly as she holds a baby. The baby is wearing a white hoodie and looking off to the side with a happy expression. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Specialist Programs

Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCO)

Internationally proven behaviour modification program that provides intensive support to the child, carer and birth family within a six to nine month period and has a 90% success rate in settling children back into a stable family environment. tfco.org.au

The Circle Program

Therapeutic Foster care program supporting carers to establish an environment capable of healing the traumatic impact of abuse and neglect on children and young people with increased focus to support placement stability.

Targeted Care Packages (TCP)

Individualised flexible funding packages designed to be innovative and flexible to ensure that children and young people receive the care and support they need.

WHO CAN BECOME A FOSTER CARER?

Carers need to be over the age of 21. We welcome applications from individuals, and families with or without children. We support applicants from cultural, religious and sexually diverse backgrounds.

You will also need:

- » Stability in your own life to provide a safe and supportive home
- » A high-level of commitment to caring for children
- » To be willing to work as part of a professional team who will provide ongoing support to you as a carer
- » Willing to develop positive contact with a child's birth family
- » Clear background checks
- » Physical capacity to accommodate a child

Ongoing training and support

OzChild provides initial and ongoing training to carers.

24 hour support is available through an allocated Case Manager, Carer Supervisor and After Hours Service

- » Tax-free allowance is provided for a child's daily care needs.
- » Specialist services can be engaged to offer additional support whilst a child is in your care.
- » Opportunity to attend activities and social events with other carers throughout the year.

HOW TO BECOME A FOSTER CARER

The process to becoming a foster carer ensures that you have all the training and knowledge you need to be a foster carer and can take between four to eight months to complete.

Contact us — register your interest at ozchild.org.au/foster-care or call **1800 954 550**.



Talk to our carer recruitment team — our team will contact you and send you an enquiry pack.



Attend one of our information sessions — your opportunity to meet with our current foster carers to get an idea of how foster care works.



Complete our training program — we provide you with training to ensure you are confident in supporting foster children in your care.



Undertake an assessment, including police, working with children, medical, referee and home safety checks.

A close-up photograph of a woman with blonde hair and a young boy with dark hair, both looking down intently at something out of frame. The woman is on the left, smiling slightly, and the boy is on the right. They appear to be in a kitchen or dining area, with a wooden table visible at the bottom.

ABOUT OZCHILD

For over 160 years, OzChild has supported children and young people when they are unable to live with their own families.

With care required for more than 300 children, every night, we are the largest foster program in Melbourne's Southern Region. We provide support for children through foster and kinship care, therapeutic and educational support, care for children with disabilities and strengthening services for families at risk of breaking down.

We aim to prevent further trauma and provide children with the opportunity to reach their full potential.

For more information

Contact our team for more information on how to become a foster carer and upcoming information sessions:

☎ 1800 954 550

✉ fostercarerecruitment@ozchild.org.au



ozchild.org.au