



MEDIA RELEASE

4 July 2019

Leading child welfare agency, OzChild is pleased to see the release of a series of podcasts aimed at providing tips for new foster carers, and stories that highlight what it is like to be a foster carer.

Who Cares? is an innovative project brought to life by The Foster Care Association of Victoria (FCAV) and Carer KaFÉ in partnership with OzChild and Berry Street. The podcast series is targeted at new and potential carers, delivered by the experts - real life foster carers.

“Being a foster carer for the first time is daunting, there are many questions, many unknowns. And for those thinking about becoming a carer there are even more questions, that’s why this podcast series is so exciting. This is a really innovative way for people to get those answers, hear from foster carers who have been on the journey, who are already caring for children and young people,” says OzChild Chief Executive Officer, Dr Lisa J. Griffiths.

Who Cares? Provides people with the opportunity to hear from people who do care - foster carers.

“Having recently developed our very own App for foster and kinship carers, we understand the need for information to be easily accessible and at people’s fingertips. That’s why we are so proud to have been part of this project,” says Dr Griffiths.

The *Who Cares?* Podcasts will be available through the [Carer KaFÉ](#) website and whilst they are aimed at educating and informing new and potential carers, those in the accreditation stage who are looking to learn more and current foster carers would certainly benefit from and most likely enjoy listening to other carers sharing their own stories.

In Australia close to 50,000 children and young people are currently placed in Out-of-Home Care. The reasons are often complex and varied, but the challenge of recruiting foster carers remains, it is hoped these new podcasts will shine a light on the rewarding role of foster care.

-ENDS-

- Dr Lisa J. Griffiths is available for interview upon request.
- OzChild's own podcast episode - [Caring Families](#) addresses the reality of what it's like to be a foster carer when you have your own biological/permanent children and how to make it work.

Who can become a foster carer?

- Anyone over the age of 21.
- Anyone with secure accommodation and appropriate space in the home.
- Race, gender, marital status, employment, sexuality and religion do not affect a person's eligibility to become a foster carer.

OzChild provides full training and on-going support to all carers.

- 24/7 Case Manager and after hours support.
- Respite Support.
- Ongoing training opportunities.
- Community building events and access to other social events.

ABOUT OZCHILD

For nearly 170 years OzChild has been committed to delivering quality services which make a real and lasting difference to Australian families to ensure all children and young people are safe, respected and nurtured to reach their full potential.

OzChild is committed to improving the lives of at-risk children, young people and families in our community, through foster and kinship care support and the delivery of evidence-based programs to achieve better outcomes, strengthen and repair relationships to build a brighter future for young Australians.

For further information please contact:

Rebecca Swinton

03 9230 7782 / 0439 472 281

OzChild National Office
Level 3, 150 Albert Road
South Melbourne VIC 3205 Australia
T: + 61 3 9230 7782 F: +61 3 9696 0507 E: rswinton@ozchild.org.au
ozchild.org.au