



# Kennerley

*Building a brighter future for Tasmanian families since 1869*

## Fostering Hope

### OUR FOSTER CARE PROGRAM



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# What is FOSTER CARE?

## **PROVIDES A SAFE PLACE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO LIVE WHEN THEY CANNOT REMAIN AT HOME**

Foster Care is about providing a loving home to children and young people who have suffered abuse and neglect, and who are unable to remain safely at home.

The reasons that children need to enter Foster Care are unique in many circumstances. Raising children is a big job and when parents face challenges that sometimes become insurmountable they can sometimes have difficulty keeping their children safe. Sometimes a mental illness, housing issues, drug dependency and family violence can impact so greatly that families are not able to care for their children.

Foster Carers meet the child's daily needs and give children individual attention, love and care in a family setting.

Children entering Foster Care are between birth and 18 years and can remain in foster care for short periods, a few nights at times, possibly a week or two. However, every circumstance is different, and sometimes children cannot return home.

## WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF CARE?

**RESPITE CARE** – Sometimes children and families need support through respite care, usually for short periods of time like a weekend or two a month which gives their carers a well earned break.

*“I found being a respite carer a bit like being an aunty or an uncle, we sometimes go to a movie, watch a football match or go ten pin bowling.”*

**FOSTER CARE** – Our carers work hard to maintain a child's sense of identity as their birth family is a critical part of their identity. Even though at times they cannot return to their birth family it's still important that they get to spend time with them sometimes as they do with their brothers and sisters. Foster carers provide a stable safe home environment for them where their own birth family can't.

*“Being a carer has had many benefits for my family, my children have grown and are more grateful for their experiences, my husband and I too have grown both as a couple and as parents.”*

*“Kennerley are accepting of all different types of families, I felt welcome and part of something really special.”*

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A FOSTER CARER?

**Foster carers provide a warm, loving home environment for children and young people in their care.**

They nurture the children and young people in their care, they include them in their extended family life, they encourage and support them in their interests and to feel safe and valued.

Our carers help the children to maintain their knowledge of their birth family and their connectedness because children do best socially and emotionally when they are supported to stay connected to their family. Foster carers are a critical part of our team at Kennerley – we couldn't do the vital work we do without them.



## COULD I BE A FOSTER CARER?

Just like families Foster carers comes from all walks of life they may have children still living at home, they may be retired, work part / or full time they are over 25 years old, and, they genuinely believe that they can make a difference in a childs life.

### **If you are ready to open your heart and home you can:**

- Be single or have a partner
- Be a same sex couple
- Have children of your own or not
- Own or rent your home or unit
- Work, stay at home, study or be retired
- Be from any culture or religion



## HOW DO I BECOME A CARER?

Take your first steps today, pick up the telephone now and ask us how

1.

Initial Enquiry

2.

A home visit from a Recruitment officer

3.

Working with children checks etc

4.

Foster care assessment and training

5.

Foster Carer Authorisation or accreditation

## WHAT TYPES OF SUPPORT DO I RECEIVE AND HOW WILL I PAY FOR THINGS THE CHILD NEEDS?

Foster carers are provided with support at Kenenrley 24 hours a day, because we recognise you need supports at the right time in the right way, particularly when you are a new carer and not sure how to navigate our systems.

### OTHER TYPES OF SUPPORT INCLUDE:

- A visit once a month
- Access via telephone 24 hours a day
- Ongoing training and development regarding specific needs of a child
- A yearly review of how you are going
- Foster care board payments to help manage the true costs of caring for a child



## *Our* **COMMITMENT TO YOU**

We have been caring for children, young people and their families for almost 150 years. We are still here because families still need us. Children are at the centre of all we do because they are the future. We offer you ongoing specialist support to ensure you feel supported and a part of something really special.

We could not continue to build brighter futures for children and young people without the love and support of their Foster carers and we feel very privileged to work alongside them in doing one of the most rewarding and important challenges of their lives. Our Foster carers strive everyday to help children and young people to reach their potential.

Opening your heart and your home to children who need love and support requires a commitment and an understanding of children's needs, if you think you are ready to begin one of the most exciting journeys of your life call our Foster Recruitment Coordinator today on 6272 5900 or email us at:

[together@kennerleykids.org.au](mailto:together@kennerleykids.org.au)



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 /KennerleyKids

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