

Foster carers are always needed in our community. With over 18,000 young people in New South Wales unable to live at home, there is an urgent need for families to provide care and respite care.



Do you care?
Thousands of children in Australia feel alone and isolated daily because for different reasons can't live with their families. Children and young people without safe homes need a place to stay. We all care about what happens to the lives of own children and children in our communities, but if you've ever considered becoming a foster carer you probably have a lot of questions.

Do I have the right qualities needed to foster?

Just like the young people needing care, Foster carers come from all walks of life. Foster care is not based on race, identity, income or marital status. The most important qualities are your ability to care, nurture and provide a supportive environment to young people in need. Pathfinders are looking for passionate carers from a wide range of backgrounds, Carer's must be at least 21 years old and can be single women or men, cohabiting, married or same-sex couples, with or without children. There is no prerequisite for being a carer, just a commitment to support and advocacy of children and young people in need of a caring environment.

How does Pathfinders support me?

Pathfinders value the great work our foster carers do and ensure we support them every step of their journey. We provide excellent training so carers can use these skills and experience to help young people

in their care. Pathfinders foster care support workers are always available to talk through any of your concerns. We provide regular visits, telephone or email support and regular group meetings with other foster carers to share knowledge and learning experiences.

The young people in care have a case worker that works directly with all the child's needs and maintains the relationship between the child and their parents. Foster carers are also supported from the moment they begin training. It extends to constant support, ongoing training and a place to debrief.

What types of foster care are there?

Temporary Care

Sometimes children come into temporary care due to parental illness, crisis or family breakdown. The goal is often to restore these children to their families over a period of time.

Permanent Care

Children in permanent care have been placed in care by the Court usually to age 18, these children/young people, require stable long term placements to help them reach their full potential.

Intensive Support Care

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Some children/young people who come into care require a high level of support due to a range of issues. These children can be challenging and require dedicated carers who have no young children of their own.

Respite Care

Caring for children can be challenging. Respite care allows full time carers to have a break. This is a good way to experience fostering if you are not ready for a full time commitment. It can be in your own home or in the carers home, so not to disrupt their routine.

Becoming a foster carer is incredibly challenging, but also one of the most rewarding experiences you could experience. Pathfinders operate a number of programs and services based in promoting youth and family welfare including foster care. We offer around-the-clock support as well as training to ensure you are equipped to help a child in need.

If you're prepared to help a child find their path, Pathfinders is ready to help you. Make a difference in the life of a child. Show them you care, become a foster carer.