



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 20th May, 2021

VOLUNTEER TO BE A FOSTER CARER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With Volunteers Week currently being celebrated around the country, Mallee Family Care says there is no better time to recognise the incredible contribution being made by foster carers in the region and the Organisation is calling out for more people to consider becoming foster carers.

Chief Executive Officer of Mallee Family Care, Ms. Teresa Jayet, says that people who volunteer to become foster carers change the lives of children.

“When someone opens their home to a child in need, they’re not only impacting the life of the young person, they’re making a difference to our whole community. The support they provide to a child in their care can help them navigate their childhood and their transition into adulthood.

“We see better education, employment and wellbeing outcomes, which of course leads to better life outcomes and the social benefits of this, not just for the children but for the communities in which they live, are immeasurable.

“At Mallee Family Care, time and time again, we are seeing the positive change that is made when a child is given a safe and secure place to call home.”

Ms. Jayet says that year on year, the rate of children entering foster care has been rising and that the need for more carers has never been more critical.

“We have an amazing group of carers offering a range of care options, including respite, short term, long term and emergency placements but unfortunately, what we’re seeing is increasing demand that we cannot meet and as the ramifications of COVID-19 begin to be truly felt across the Mallee, we are anticipating a further spike in the demand.

“The sad reality is that we have more children in need of care than we have carers.”

Nationally, over 47,000 children rely on out of home care each year and Mallee Family Care supports children from across far-west New South Wales and northwest Victoria, ranging in age from early infancy through to eighteen.

Ms. Jayet says that her Organisation has noted an increased interest in foster care, particularly over the last twelve months, something she puts down to greater awareness.

“We are receiving more inquiries, through our campaigns but we really need that to translate to a significant rise in successful recruitment.

“In the second half of 2020 we recruited five new carers and we are currently providing training for a further nine potential carers which is exciting but there is no denying that we need more.”



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Ms. Jayet said Mallee Family Care’s foster carers come from a variety of backgrounds, with a range of experiences behind them.

“We have single people, single people with children, couples without children, couples with children and our carers range in age from their 20s through to their 60s. We have people who support children on weekends and others who have children in their homes for the long term.

“We have carers who are supporting one child and we have others who have opened their hearts and homes to up to five children.”

Ms. Jayet says that just like the children in need of support, each carer is different but they all have one thing in common – the desire to make a difference in the life of a child.

If that sounds like you, Mallee Family Care would love to hear from you. Phone 5023 5966 or visit malleefamilycare.org.au/Our-Services/Foster-Care

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