

What is Foster Care?

Foster care is an alternative living arrangement for children whose parents are unable to care for them at home for a period of time.

When significant concerns about a child's safety are raised with authorities, the Department of Communities will investigate the concern and work with families to support them and make sure the child is safe.

Where significant concerns remain unresolved, the Department of Communities will apply to the WA Children's court to provide an alternative living arrangement for the Child to enter Out of Home Care.

Children are in Out of Home Care for varying lengths of time. The usual plan is for the child to return home as soon as it is safe to do so. If it is not possible for the children to return home, children are then considered as a longer-term placement.

This could look like a placement in a group home, or with relatives which is considered as a first option. Where this is not possible, a foster family unrelated to the child, but especially suited to the child's needs and circumstances, may be selected by authorities.

A goal of all placements is for contact and knowledge to be maintained between the child and his or her family. If on-going contact is not possible, children

still need knowledge about their family to maintain their self-esteem, sense of belonging and sense of continuity.

Which is where Wungening comes in as an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation, with over 300 staff from the Aboriginal Community across Boorloo (Perth). We work in Ngalla Bidee Mia to identify, assess, train, support, and work alongside Foster Carers who step up and open their hearts and homes to children in need.

MYTH: Parents who have children in foster care are bad.

FACT: Parents with children in foster care are human and have likely experienced challenges as well. By providing a safe and stable home for children whose family situation is not currently safe, you are allowing parents to get help and support in the hopes that this will improve. Foster carers play a crucial role in supporting relationships with parents and extended family, ideally so the child can eventually return home. Retaining connection to family, including any siblings, is a crucial part of supporting a child's identity and growth.



**Keeping our kids in care safe and connected
– to family, community and culture**

To learn more or become a community Foster Carer, visit:
wungening.com.au

FAQs

What is Fostering?

Fostering is an arrangement where a family, or an individual, cares for a child in the care of the Department of Communities (Communities) in their own home. Foster carers are volunteers who are willing and able to provide care to children and young people (from birth until 18 years of age) who are not family members.

I would like to foster but don't want to be upset when the child returns home.

A child leaving a placement can certainly raise a lot of feelings and emotions for the carers and their family. Before a child returns to family, a safety assessment and parenting capacity assessment is conducted to ensure the child will be safe. There are support services available through Communities which carers can access.

Is fostering considered a job?

Fostering is voluntary; to be considered you and your partner need to be financially stable. You will be receiving subsidy payments to cover day-to-day living expenses for the child, but this is not an income.

Is there a demand for foster carers? Why are some carers not allocated children?

There is a shortage of foster carers for children in all age groups. The number of children in care continues to rise, but the number of carers is decreasing. This means that carers are often asked to take additional children when they are at capacity. There are several reasons why a foster carer may not have a child in their care at any time. If this applies to you, please contact your local District Office.

Can I foster a child permanently? It will be less disruptive for my family.

Some children require permanent care arrangements with foster carers but, if the birth family members can provide a safe placement, Communities will work with the family to place the child or with the parents to reunify the child to them.

Child Protection Acknowledgement

Wungening acknowledges that Child Protection has historically been a hurtful and traumatic experience for many people across our Community. We are proud to be part of the story shifting those experiences.

Ngalla Kaaditj Whadjuk Noongar Moort
Keyen Kaadak Nidja Boodja.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we deliver services to our communities across Boorloo. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present and acknowledge the ancient connection they hold with their Country.

General Enquiries

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