

HOW DO I BECOME A FOSTER CARER?

Contact	you contact our agency and we register your inquiry
Information pack	we send you an 'Information Pack for Potential Carers'
Registration of Interest	you register your interest in becoming a carer using the 'Registration of Interest' form
Information Session	you participate in an 'Information Exchange Session' with your family, agency workers and an experienced carer
Carer Application	you complete an 'Application to Become a Foster Carer' form
Training	you complete a training course
Assessment	you participate in assessment sessions
Checks	checks are undertaken regarding your: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health • accommodation • background and criminal record • personal references

DECISION

Application is Approved	Application is not Approved
Carer Agreement if your application is approved you will be asked to sign a Carer 'Code of Conduct' Agreement	Appeal if your application is not approved you can appeal the decision
Matching	when a child or young person is matched with your family, you decide whether to accept the placement
On-going Training	our agency provides on-going training
On-going Support	our agency provides on-going carer support



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Foster Care



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WHO ARE WE?

Pathfinders Ltd is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee operating across the New England and Northwest Tablelands and Mid North Coast of New South Wales. Pathfinders operate a number of programs and services based in promoting youth and family welfare.

These programs include a Women's & Youth Refuge, Residential Out of Home Care, Supported Independent Living, Family Support Service, Youth Accommodation Services, Family Referral Service and Non Placement Support Services.

Pathfinders program, Pathways have an established Out of Home Care program in Armidale and Inverell, group homes, intensive and generalist foster care.

We are currently seeking people interested in becoming foster carers in our communities.

Pathfinders Vision

Thriving communities, in which all fully participate and develop freely through mutual trust and acceptance.

Pathfinders Mission

To empower people to live with hope and equal opportunity to achieve their potential.

WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

Why are children placed in Foster care?

Children are placed in foster care when their families are not able to care for them. This could be because of abuse, neglect, drug and alcohol problems, physical or mental illness, domestic violence, family breakdown or any other reason that means a parent is not able to care for their child.

Who can be a foster carer?

Many different types of people make good foster carers. We need carers from a range of backgrounds in order to meet the needs of children requiring care. Foster carers must be at least 21 years old and can be single women or men, cohabiting, married or same-sex couples, with or without children.

Can I be a foster carer if my children still live at home?

Yes. It can depend on the age of your children and the needs of the child you foster. Children who need care may have complex needs and require a great deal of time and attention. Fostering a child is a big change, so it is important to talk to our caseworker about your particular situation.

Can I be a foster carer if I work?

Yes. It can depend on the needs of the foster child and the type of care you are providing. A carer with school aged children and adolescents can work full time, pre-school and younger children may need someone at home.



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

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.