How to become a foster carer

Contact UnitingCare Community

Contact us via email at fostercare.recruitment@uccommunity.org.au or fill out the expression of interest form on the website. This will let us know that you are interesting in finding out more about fostering.

The process to become an approved foster or kinship carer usually takes around three to six months. This varies depending on your individual circumstances and the type of care you are able to provide.

Information session

Depending on where you live we will arrange a time with you to visit you at home or arrange an invitation to a group information session in your area to give you more information about fostering and answer any questions you and your family may have.

Home visit

A household safety study report will be completed; it includes mandatory safety requirements in your home that must be met prior to approval as a carer.

Pre-service training

Pre-service training provides you with a better understanding of the foster carer role and will assist to equip you with some of the skills you will need to provide quality care.

Complete application / background check

By filling out the application for approval (APA) form you are agreeing to move ahead with the process to be a foster carer. The application for approval (APA) form provides important information to help with personal history checks for you and your adult household members. This includes consideration of criminal and child protection history, and where necessary, domestic violence and traffic history.

An application for a Blue Card must also be completed by applicants and all other adult members of the household.

Assessment interviews and report

The assessment interviews will take place in your home and will be conducted over several sessions. Children and other adults residing in your home will also be interviewed. You are encouraged to ask lots of questions about foster care throughout the assessment.

We need to find out:

- Your motivation to foster
- What your parenting style is
- Your childhood and family history
- Your coping and support mechanisms
- The age and needs of the children that would suit your family and experience
- Your ability to provide a supportive and caring environment for children
- Your ability to keep children safe from harm.

Presentation to panel or Child Safety Service Centre Manager / approval

Depending on where you live the process for final approval can be slightly different. Your information, along with the report, will be presented to either a panel of Child Protection professionals or the Child Safety Service Centre Manager in the region you live, to make a decision on your suitability to be approved as a foster carer.

We will let you know if you have either been approved as a carer or let you know why you have not.

You are now a Foster Carer