

# Foster care shortage

*“Choose how much care to provide, depending on commitments and lifestyle.”*

The Victorian Government funded – foster carers come from all walks of life – campaign promotes the rewarding experience of foster care and highlights the diversity of people eligible to become carers. As part of this, Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service is recruiting tertiary students as foster carers for their respite and foster care programs

in the north and western suburbs of Melbourne. Good Shepherd believes that students preparing for careers in teaching, health and social welfare professions are particularly suited to this form of community service. Good Shepherd’s recruitment campaign plans to dispel the myth that foster carers need to be part of a nuclear family. Foster carers are ordinary



people from all walks of life, backgrounds, ages and experiences. Anyone over 21 years is eligible to apply to become a foster carer. Foster carers need a sense of humour, patience, tolerance and a willingness to be flexible and open to new experiences. They play an important role in giving children loving and safe homes and helping them to reach their goals and improve their quality of life. As volunteers Good Shepherd carers choose how much care they wish to provide, depending on their own commitments and lifestyles. Some carers prefer to provide respite care on weekends. Others are available to provide longer placements for a few days, a couple of weeks or a number of months, or

longer. Foster carers are not expected to deal with the demands of fostering on their own. Good Shepherd has a team of experienced social workers who offer practical help and professional support 24 hours a day. Foster carers receive a non-taxable fortnightly allowance depending on the age of the child. A medical and education allowance is also available to help cover costs. Students wishing to learn more about becoming a foster carer can contact Good Shepherd’s recruitment officer John Mitchell on 9270 9300 or email [j.mitchell@goodshepvic.org.au](mailto:j.mitchell@goodshepvic.org.au) or visit [fosterabrighterfuture.com.au](http://fosterabrighterfuture.com.au)

# We need you.



Make a real difference in the life of a child or young person



- Be part of a caring team • Fostering can be fun and rewarding • Provide a safe and nurturing environment
- Help a child to grow and learn • Be a positive role model
- Receive ongoing training, professional support, and financial reimbursement

Contact Good Shepherd’s foster care recruitment officer John Mitchell on 9270 9351 or email [j.mitchell@goodshepvic.org.au](mailto:j.mitchell@goodshepvic.org.au)