



Victoria could have

27,500

children in out-of-home care by 2026; more than any other state and territory.

(Source: Social Ventures Australia)

How else can I help?

Not everybody can commit to being a Foster Carer. By **making a regular donation** to the BCYF Foster a Future appeal you can still make a difference in the lives of children and young people.



To find out more about becoming a regular supporter of Foster A Future please contact BCYF's Manager of Fundraising:

☎ **0431 880 306**

✉ **fundraising@bcyf.org.au**

We need you, because every child and young person deserves a safe and stable home.

Do you know someone who might want to make a difference by becoming a Foster Carer?

Please help us spread the need for more carers by sharing this brochure with your friends or family.



Scan QR code to find out more about foster care or to make a donation.

BCYF is a leading not for profit community service organisation supporting children, young people and families, to be safe, connected and empowered to live well.

www.bcyf.org.au

☎ 03 5226 8900

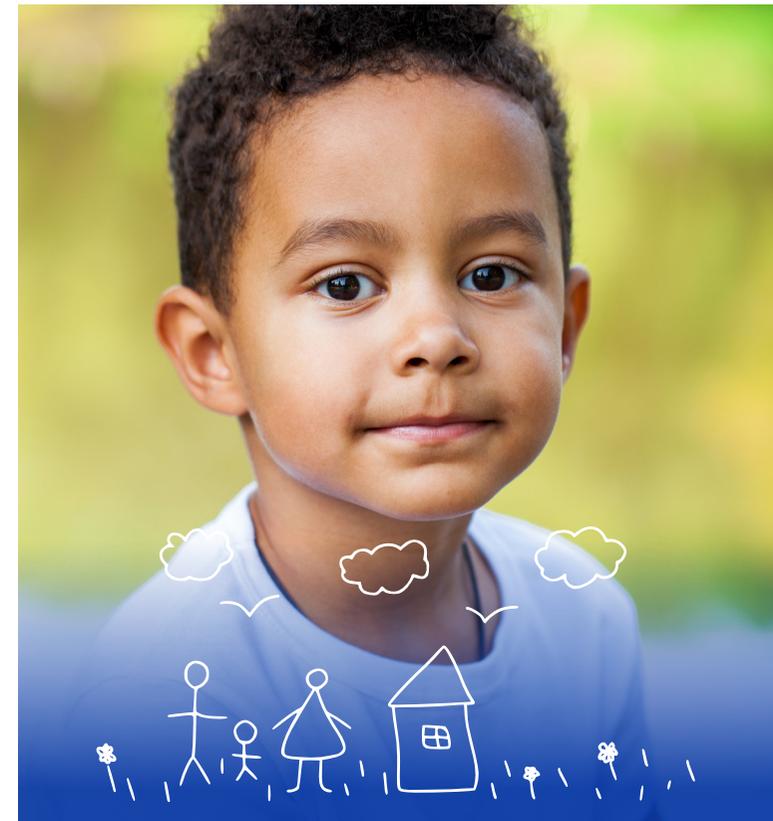
✉ fostercare@bcyf.org.au

📘 BCYFGeelong

📷 bcyfgeelong



Could you open your home and **make a difference in a child's life** by becoming a Foster Carer?



Every night in the Geelong region there are many children who don't have a safe and nurturing home.

BCYF provides foster care services for these children in need.

We urgently need more carers who can provide a safe, stable and nurturing home environment for a child or young person.

What is foster care?

Foster care is care provided by people in their own homes for children and young people during a time when they cannot live with their parents or extended family for a variety of reasons, including issues of risk or safety.

Who needs foster care?

Children and young people requiring care:

- range from birth to 17 years of age,
- are culturally, linguistically, ethnically and religiously diverse,
- may enter foster care individually or as a sibling group, and
- are likely to have experienced various challenges in their lives.



At the end of the 2019/20 financial year, there were

9095

children and young people in out of home care in Victoria.

(Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)

Who can become a Foster Carer?

Anyone 21 years and over with a spare bedroom can apply to become a Foster Carer with BCYF. We welcome individuals, couples and families from diverse backgrounds, cultures, religious beliefs, age, sexual orientation, relationship status and gender identity. Carers can be with or without children, working or not working.

How to become a Foster Carer

Becoming a Foster Carer involves a number of steps. You will go through a process of assessment, including screening checks and pre-service training before you can be approved as a Foster Carer.



Meet Grace

Grace is 25, single, works full time and is one of BCYF's amazing Foster Carers.

She looks after young people aged between 9 and 11, loving the opportunity to have an influence at a stage in their lives as they enter their teenage years.



The impact of COVID-19 could see demand for child protection increase by

20% for five years.

(Source: Social Ventures Australia)

BCYF is here to support you with every step of your foster care journey

BCYF's service provision to both children, young people and foster carers has evolved and improved over 160 years. BCYF is committed to investing in the most valuable resource in foster care – Foster Carers.

Fostering is teamwork, and BCYF is there for Foster Carers to provide emotional and practical support, and information and other guidance as required.



Meet Gel & Brendan

Gel & Brendan, a couple in their early 30s, have been Foster Carers with BCYF for almost five years. They describe being able to care for children in need as a privilege.