

QUESTION AND ANSWERS FOREVER FAMILY PERMANENT CARE CAMPAIGN

What is a 'Forever Family'?

A forever family is a family that will provide a stable and secure family upbringing for a child or children, on a permanent basis. It differs from foster care in that a forever family holds the legal status of being guardians and custodians of the child (or children), and cannot be altered by the Court system once a Permanent Care order is in place. The family will be the child's carers on a permanent basis.

Why are you running this campaign today?

There are many children awaiting a permanent family placement, often they are older than what is considered the norm in 'adoptions' and often they are a group of siblings. There are children right now waiting for a permanent family who will love them and provide them with a stable family home.

What is the difference between adoption and permanent care?

Adoption usually occurs with the consent of one or both parents, but permanent care is ordered by the Court in the future planning for a child.

What is the difference between foster care and permanent care?

Foster Care is a temporary option of planning for a child/children, while work is done with the biological family to reconstruct the family, and have the child or children, placed back in the care of the biological family. Foster Care is seen as a temporary care option. Permanent Care is the placement of the child with a family on a permanent basis, when there is an acceptance by all planners that the child will never return to the care of their biological family, and will have an alternate stable, permanent family for the future.

What is the process to become a Permanent Carer?

There are a number of steps that are worked through, including being involved in information and education group sessions, pre-assessment interviews, written applications, including police checks, referees and medical checks. There is then a formal assessment of the applicants, involving interviews between the case worker and the applicants. This process includes a visit to the home of the applicants. The assessment process involves educating the applicants on the processes involved in Permanent Care, and helping the applicants make decisions on the child that would best fit with their family.

Why are children placed into Permanent Care?

Permanent Care caters for children up to the age of 12 years who are unable to live with their family of origin, due to risk or experience of serious abuse, neglect or harm. Children are referred to the program by the Child Protection program of the Department of Human Services.

Why is their difficulty getting families to look after children right now?

Many families are unaware of Permanent Care as an option for building their family, as it is not a well publicised area of out of home care.

What happens to a child if they do not get placed into permanent family?

They will remain in the foster care system and may be moved from foster care placement to foster care placement, so they never experience the security and stability of a family life.

How do I find out more?

You can contact our Adoption and Permanent Care team at Connections UnitingCare by Freecall or Email.



www.connections.org.au/foreverfamily



YOUR FOREVER FAMILY
STARTS HERE...

ALL CHILDREN NEED THE STABILITY AND LOVE OF A FOREVER FAMILY TO
GROW AND DEVELOP TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. YOUR FOREVER FAMILY
COULD BE WAITING FOR YOU - CONTACT US TODAY.

There are children who need a
permanent and loving home today.

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