

## MEDIA RELEASE

Attention: COS, news, social affairs, youth, health & community

29 June 2011

# PERMANENT HOMES NEEDED FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

## CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO FIND FAMILIES TO CARE FOR KIDS

Connections UnitingCare is appealing to the local community to help provide a permanent home for three young girls who are in need of the stability and love of a permanent family as it launches its Forever Family campaign to attract perspective families to its Permanent Care program.

Launching the campaign, Connections Chief Executive Officer, Angela Forbes, said it was important that people wanting to start a family realise that there are other options out there that exist beyond adoption and that there are many children in the Permanent Care program who would love to have their own forever family.

'We are appealing to people today to consider permanent care as an option for starting a family,' Ms Forbes said. 'Many of the children we have in Permanent Care awaiting placement may have had an unstable start to their lives, and need the security of a family that can love them, accept them and provide them with a family forever.'

Connections Placement, Prevention and Out of Home Care Services Program Leader, Sheri Shenker echoed the thoughts of Ms Forbes and continued by saying, 'All children need the stability and love of a permanent family to grow, and develop to their full potential.'

'We have three beautiful young girls who have been in and out of care from very early ages and who are desperately longing for someone to love them, protect them and give them the chances in life that every child deserves. We are calling out to anybody who thinks they may have room in their lives to provide these girls with a forever family to get in touch with us today.'

One couple who answered the call two years ago was same-sex couple Paula and Kate who are keen to share their experience. The proud parents of a four year old girl, Paula and Kate always wanted to start a family and once they heard about Permanent Care knew it was the right option for them.

'There have been challenges but there are challenges for every parent and child. We have extended our family, created community, gained amazing amounts of support all while loving and caring for a little girl who gives us more love back than we could have ever imagine,' Paula said.

'Our daughter is now four years old and is settled, happy, bright and confident. We have been considering a larger family and would definitely choose Permanent Care again as a way to do this.'

Connections UnitingCare operates an Adoption, Adoption Information Line and the Permanent Care program along with a broad suite of child, youth and family services. The Connections Permanent Care program facilitates stable, secure and caring family environments for children who cannot live with their own families due to risk or experience of abuse or neglect.

**Media: Connections Chief Executive Officer, Angela Forbes, Program Leader, Placement, Prevention and Out of Home Care, Sheri Shenker and Permanent Care parents, Paula and Kate are available for interview. Contact Connections Communications Officer Kirrilee Torney on 9271 0816 or [kirrilee.torney@connections.org.au](mailto:kirrilee.torney@connections.org.au)**

Connections UnitingCare is a community organisation with a long and proud history of supporting marginalised and disadvantaged people. We offer a range of services across a continuum of care from preschool and childcare through to counselling and in-home support. We provide innovative and early intervention programs that support children, young people and their families giving them a better chance in life now and in the future.

More information at [www.connections.org.au](http://www.connections.org.au)