

Best Practice Principles for Carer Support

The Foster Care Association supports the best practice principles for carer support:

- Support is provided by other foster carers
- Support is available when needed
- Support is offered by a variety of means
- Support includes the provision of information
- Support builds carer emotional resilience and personal effectiveness
- Support improves the emotional well-being of carers
- Support encourages and facilitates adult learning processes
- Support includes obtaining carer input into systematic improvements
- Support is provided during difficult and demanding experiences
- Support addresses wider community and societal attitudes towards fostering



131 Hawkesbury Road
Westmead NSW 2145

Email: fcansw@fcansw.org.au

www.fcansw.org.au

24 Hour Carer Help Line

1800 783 663



The Foster Care Association (NSW) Inc is an incorporated association formed in 1992 to provide peer support and information services to the foster carers of New South Wales

The Association is the funded peak body by the Department of Community Services

Mission

The Foster Care Association (NSW) Inc. exists to support and develop foster carers in New South Wales and to promote the value of foster caring in New South Wales through:

- Information and support to foster carers
- Networking and representation
- Advocacy on behalf of the organisation and foster carers

We value respect for the individual, participation, diversity, accountability and education and development of carers.

Universal service philosophy

While the Association has members, it has a universal service philosophy. That is, the Association aims to provide support to all foster and kinship carers whether or not these carers are members of the Association.

Membership of the Association

Membership Categories:

A person is eligible to apply to become an Ordinary or Dual Member of the Association if that person is at the time of making the application, has been approved, authorised or licensed under any relevant legislation to act as a Foster Carer. Dual membership is available for partners in the same household. A person can become an Associate Member of the Association if that person has an interest in the objects of the Association but is not a registered carer.

Membership Year:

Membership commences on the date that the application is approved by the Board of the Foster Care Association (NSW) Inc and ceases at midnight on 30 June at the end of the membership period (unless renewed).

The role of a Foster Carer

A foster carer has many responsibilities including:

- Meeting the physical, emotional and social needs of children placed in the home;
- Performing the nurturing functions that would normally be provided by the child's birth parents;
- Providing positive role models of adult behaviour;
- Developing foster parenting skills; and
- Working with the child, birth family and agencies to meet the needs of the child or young person.



Services

The Association provides the following services:

- Advice and support for carers throughout New South Wales;
- Advocacy for Foster Carers' needs and rights;
- Bi-annual Conference and regular training and development seminars;
- Input into the government policy affecting foster carers and children and young people in care;
- Newsletter and web site; and
- 24 Hour Telephone support line.

Fostering Today:

Fostering Today is the newsletter of the Foster Care Association (NSW) Inc. It is published ten times a year. Members will be sent electronic copy if an email address is supplied, unless the member specifically requests that a hard copy be sent). The newsletter is also published on the Association's web site. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome and can be sent to fcansw@fcansw.org.au

Privacy statement:

The Foster Care Association will retain and use your personal information in order to provide you with information about the work of the Association (such as newsletters, meetings, training and carer support) and issues affecting foster carers (such as government policy). Your personal information will not be disclosed to third parties without your prior written consent.

Further Information

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Area Representative: _____

Region: _____

Contact Details: _____

