



How to become a foster carer

1 Contact UnitingCare

Let us know that you are interested in finding out more about fostering by emailing fostercare.recruitment@uccommunity.org.au or filling out the Expression of Interest form on the website.

The process to become an approved foster carer usually takes around three to six months. This varies depending on your individual circumstances and the type of care you are able to provide.

2 Information session

Depending on where you live we will arrange a time with you to visit you at home or arrange an invitation to a group information session in your area. The session will give you more information about fostering and answer any questions you and your family may have.

3 Home visit

A household safety study report will be completed; it includes mandatory safety requirements in your home that must be met prior to approval as a carer.

4 Getting Ready to Start training

Getting Ready to Start training provides you with a better understanding of the foster carer role and will equip you with some of the skills you will need to provide quality care.

5 Complete application / background check

By filling out the Application for Approval (APA) form you are agreeing to move ahead with the process to be a foster carer. This form provides important information to help with personal history checks for you and your adult household members. This includes consideration of criminal and child protection history, and where necessary, domestic violence and traffic history.

An application for a Blue Card must also be completed by applicants and all other adult members of the household.

6 Assessment interviews and report

The assessment interviews will take place in your home and will be conducted over several sessions. Children and other adults residing in your home will also be interviewed.

We need to find out:

- Your motivation to foster
- What your parenting style is
- Your childhood and family history
- Your coping and support mechanisms
- The age and needs of the children that would suit your family and experience
- Your ability to provide a supportive and caring environment for children
- Your ability to keep children safe from harm.

7 You are now a Foster Carer

If your assessment is approved through the panel process, you will receive a certificate of approval as a Foster Carer.