

Fostering Hope can equip your church to respond to foster care and the need in Australia. We run geographic Fostering Hope groups of Christian foster and kinship carers. We provide trauma focused training and information sessions for churches so they are equipped to support vulnerable children.

## What we will provide

- Talk at your church about fostering and out of home care
- Support for your church to run a “Stand Sunday” event to stand with foster/kinship carers and children growing up in care
- Organise mentoring for children in care
- Buddies for new carers and support for people considering fostering
- Provide info/training to help your church become trauma informed
- Regional groups of Christian foster and kinship carers

## Could you partner with us?

- Can you foster?
- Can you help a fostering family?
- Can you be a mentor?
- Can you be a prayer partner?
- Can you become trauma aware?
- Can you partner financially?

## Contact us

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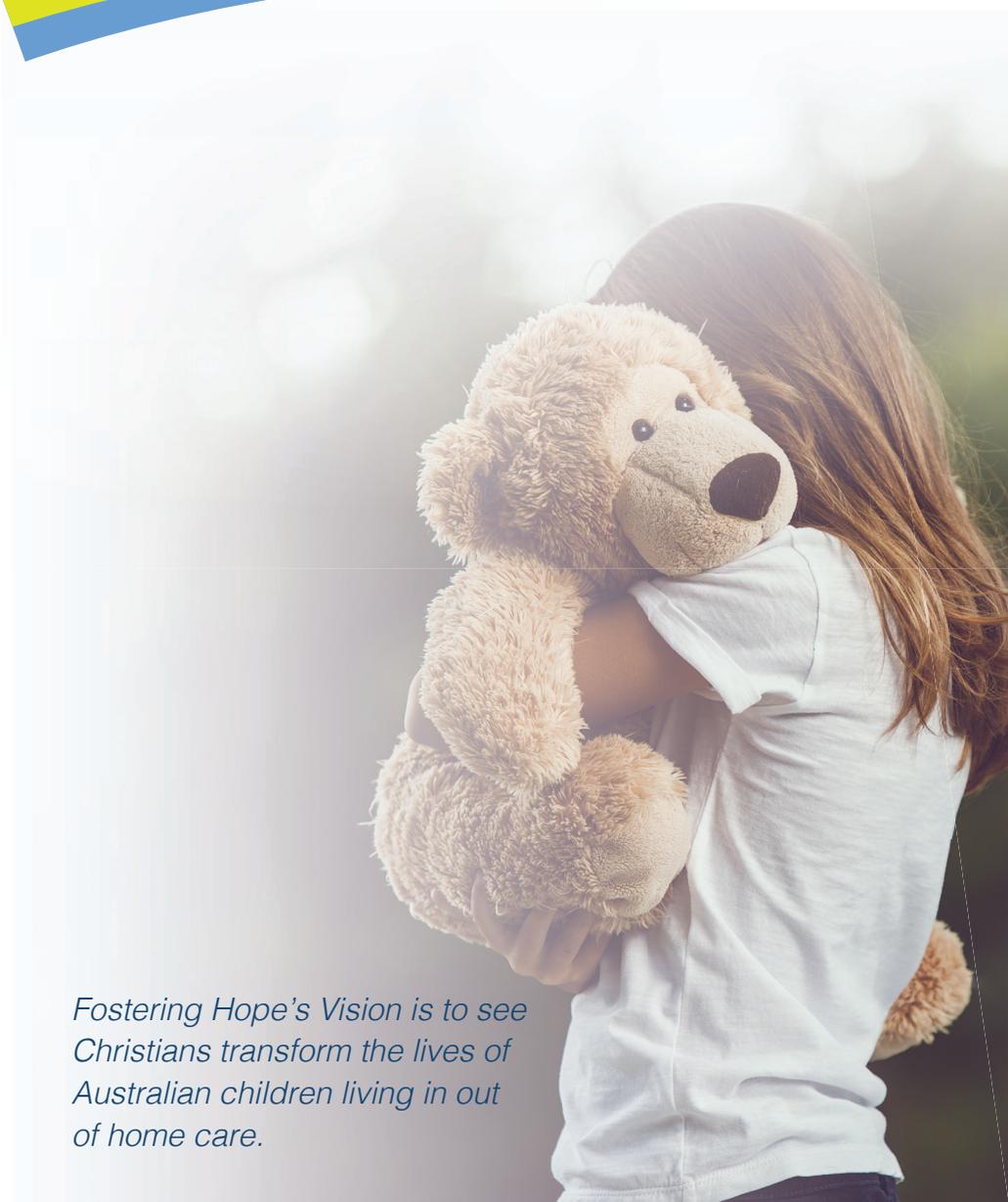
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w : [www.fosteringhope.community](http://www.fosteringhope.community)

fb : [fosteringhope community](https://www.facebook.com/fosteringhopecommunity)

# Fostering Hope

caring for kids in care



*Fostering Hope's Vision is to see Christians transform the lives of Australian children living in out of home care.*

# Fostering Hope

Fostering Hope is a Christian organisation that believes that adoption into God's family is the core of the gospel and that God has called Christians to live out "true religion" by taking care of the vulnerable children in our community by opening their hearts and homes to children living in out of home care (OOHC).

**We believe** that Christian foster and kinship carers are local missionaries, responding to the love of God in their lives to show God's love to children, birth families, and child safety workers navigating an overwhelmed system.

**We believe** through God's strength and prayer, Christians can change the life trajectories of the children in their care and provide healing and hope.

**We believe** God has positioned the church to support these Christian families and the foster children in their care, encouraging foster care as an important local mission of the church.

Fostering Hope's work comes from the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. It is a calling for all Christians, regardless of denomination or tradition. If the church found homes, and not just any homes, but homes in community, homes that are healing, homes that are hopeful and respectful of birth families, and homes that lead to eternal transformation, it is a mission that could transform the church in Australia.

## **Fostering Hope does this by,**

1. Opening the eyes of the church to God's heart for local vulnerable children;
2. Recruiting and equipping, and supporting Christian families to provide life transforming care to children living in out of home care; and
3. Supporting Christian carers by connecting them in communities of fellowship, prayer, and practical support.



## What does God say?

The Bible makes God's heart for the vulnerable and in need abundantly clear. Just as we as Christians have been adopted into God's family through the sacrifice Jesus made for each of us, He calls us to show the same sacrifice for the vulnerable. God is a father to the fatherless, the defender of the helpless, the rescuer for the vulnerable in need of love. Fostering is a picture of God's love on display to the world, it is putting the lonely into our families and church with no expectation on the outcome, but trusting God with the process.

## Transformation

At every step, fostering is transformative. People are called to foster or kinship care to provide transformative love to children in need of a home. We pray and hope children find belonging, acceptance and joy, so their lives may be different. Fostering also transforms the lives of individual carers as they become a family for a child who needs one and rely on God's strength to navigate the uncertainty and hard times. It transforms relationships with birth families and workers. It also transforms our churches as they become places of acceptance, healing, and a family for children who need them.



## The need

Children are removed from birth parents when they are considered at risk or have been abused or neglected. This may require short or long term care.

In Australia the number of children entering out of home care each year is increasing and there is a net deficit of carers. Foster and kinship carers are people formally approved to provide homes for children in care. **Both situations are inviting messiness and brokenness into your home.**

We need more foster and kinship carers in Australia

Carers need more support - as the challenges are many and complex.

Children need acceptance and people to believe in them so they can heal.

The church is ideally positioned to meet this need.