



Newsletter | May 2019



My Forever Family NSW

Welcome to the May edition of the My Forever Family NSW Members' Newsletter.

We're excited to announce we have launched the **My Forever Family NSW** on-line library. It is a collection of ebooks and audio books available for loan to My Forever Family NSW carers, potential carers and agency contacts. See more details below on how you can access this great resource.

Did you know expressions of interest are open for people wanting to join Carer Reference Groups (CRG)? Get in quick before it closes on 1 July. Full details in this edition.

We're always looking for great carers to inspire others. If you'd like to chat to us about your experiences, please drop us a line. We're always keen to showcase positives in our foster care community.

Thank you for being part of the My Forever Family NSW journey, and caring for kids.

Peter Goslett

Head of Operations & Advocacy

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Grassroots campaigning is still one of the most effective ways for communities to sit up and take notice. Recently we asked primary schools and local councils in NSW to spread the word about the need for carers across NSW. The following schools and councils included the foster care announcement in their newsletters:

- Narrabri Council
- Gymea Bay Public School
- Chillingham Public School
- Kurrajong North Public School
- Fingal Head Public School
- Otford Public School

If your local council and/or school is featuring the **My Forever Family** announcement, let us know so that we can thank them.

Every gesture helps, and we greatly appreciate the effort of these schools and councils.

NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK

My Forever Family's competition for National Families Week has just wrapped up. We had some truly heartfelt entries and picking a winner is going to be a difficult task. Keep an eye on our social media, and your email, as we'll be announcing the winners within the next couple of days. Thank you to everybody who entered and good luck!



WESTERN NSW ROADSHOW

Our Western Roadshow is going strong, with the team already having visited Mudgee, Dubbo and Walgett. My Forever Family will be travelling around Western NSW until the end of June, so be sure to check our website for the dates we'll be in your area.

Roadshows across the rest of NSW will commence in July so keep an eye on the website for these announcements.





MY FOREVER FAMILY ONLINE LIBRARY

Welcome to the My Forever Family Online Library!

The My Forever Family NSW Overdrive library is a collection of ebooks and audio books available for loan to My Forever Family NSW carers and agency contacts. If you have provided your email address to My Forever Family you will be able to access the library.

Login Information

1. Follow this link: [My Forever Family Online Library](#)
2. Enter the email address that you have given to My Forever Family
3. Password: myforeverfamily

Users can borrow up to three items at a time, for a period of 21 days. If an item is already on loan, place it on hold and you will be notified once it is available.

The books will open in your browser, or you can download the OverDrive app to download the books in eBooks format. The app is available on iTunes for Apple devices and Google Play for android devices.

Use the search function to find books you are interested in. If a book you are interested in borrowing is not currently available to My Forever Family users, click on the "Recommend" button. We will add the book to the collection if it meets the needs of a number of carers.

If you have any problems logging in or using the library, please **email** or call **1300 782 975**.



MFF TRAINING CALENDAR 2019

Our **training calendar** to July 2019 is now up on our website. Have a look at what training is available in your area and book your place online.

Information about Carer Support Groups around NSW is now located on our website. If you are involved in a group that we are not aware of please contact us and we can add your contact information and meeting dates.



EMERGENCY CARE

It is preferable for emergency carers to be at home

Carers for emergency care would preferably be at home the majority of the time; as calls for an emergency placement could come at any time of the day or night, seven days a week for a child of any age. Being an emergency carer means being open to all possibilities surrounding this. Emergency Foster Carers have a very important part to play in helping children feel safe and secure during what is likely to be a stressful and difficult time for them.

Emergency care is needed for children and young people 9-18yrs.

A lot of carers would like to provide care for babies or 0-4yrs. There is a great need for emergency carers that would care for a child or young person of the age of 9-18yrs. Emergency carers need to be available 24/7 to get a call and ready to take on a child or young person at any time of day or night, through the week or weekend.

What is important about emergency care?

Children and young people are only taken into care when they absolutely have to be for their protection. This often happens quickly and therefore emergency care is required.

Providing this emergency care is one of the most important things that a person can do for a child or young person in care. The child or young person is confused and afraid; they need comfort and security. If you are able to be there at this time for a child or young person and respond to their needs they will have an experience of safety in a world that has been less than safe for a long time. This simple experience of safety for the child or young person is bigger and more important than someone who has not been in that situation can ever conceive.

This is one of the biggest contributions anyone can make to a child's life.

BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

Reap the benefits with MFF discounts!

Authorised foster and kinship carers, guardians and people who have adopted children from out-of-home care can be entitled to some great discounts when they shop!

Join today!



SPREAD THE WORD IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Help others to consider the foster carer path, we have over 17,000 children and young people in the foster care system in New South Wales.

Please download our posters and pin them on noticeboards in your local community groups. We also have ads you can include in school, community groups and local council newsletters. Grassroots action is the most effective!

If you need ads in picture format (jpg) please email us.

TELL US YOUR STORY!

Why did you become a carer? Do you speak another language? Are you a city carer? Regional carer? Do you have a child in care or a sibling group?

We'd love to hear from you, whatever your story. Please tell us about your experience as a foster or kinship carer, guardian or adoptive parent.

We are looking for real stories from all types of people. Your story will inspire others to open their homes and their hearts to a child.

All stories will protect your identity and that of the child/children mentioned. Please send your story (up to 300 words) via evelyn.santoro@myforeverfamily.org.au

MYTH BUSTING!

Myth: The MFF support line is only to be accessed after a carer has fully exhausted all avenues with their agency in relation to a particular issue..

Truth: This is not the case. The MFF support line provides perspective and advice to facilitate clearer communication and expectations between carers and their agency. Our focus is the same as the agency's focus; to support carers, so that they are able to provide the best possible care for children and young people. In fact the earlier you contact the MFF support line in relation to a particular issue the better. Trained staff on the support line will be able to discuss what would be a reasonable expectation in relation to your particular issue and how to best achieve an outcome in collaboration with your agency.

CARER
SUPPORT LINE
1300 782 975
Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

CARER
SUPPORT 
enquiries@myforeverfamily.org.au
myforeverfamily.org.au



**My Forever
Family NSW**

The My Forever Family NSW newsletter is produced by the Communications team.

Disclaimer: The information and advice provided in this document/website is general information. It may not apply to a particular case, and as such, must not be taken as legal advice.