

2023

A HOME AND HEALING FOR EVERY CHILD

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023



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Adopt Change Annual Review and
Financial Reports can be downloaded at
[www.adoptchange.org.au/about us](http://www.adoptchange.org.au/about-us)

A full-page background image showing the silhouettes of two children, a younger one on the left and an older one on the right, holding hands and standing on a wet beach. The ocean waves are visible in the background, and the sky is a vibrant orange and yellow from the setting or rising sun. The children's reflections are clearly visible in the wet sand.

INTRODUCTION

In this 2023 Annual Review, we proudly highlight the remarkable progress achieved over the past year in our unwavering commitment to ensuring a Home and Healing for Every Child. This review is a testament to how your ongoing support helps us work toward our vision for a home for every child that is safe, nurturing and stable so that children can grow, learn play and thrive.

Many children and young people who do not grow up in a permanent family home have an experience of trauma, and need stability and appropriate supports to begin healing. We work tirelessly to ensure that all young people are supported to enable them to reach their full potential.

Through our supports, training, programs, projects and events we support children and young people and the families and communities who care for them. We also work with the government, child welfare sector, corporates, media and other supporters to create better outcomes for kids.

In 2023, together, we have continued to pave the way for a brighter future for our children.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout 2023 our community have grappled with a range of challenges, including the housing and mortgage crisis, plus the increased cost of living. The difficulties these issues can cause has made our work for young people and those who care for them more paramount than ever, and we're proud to share some of the highlights over the past year.



 **#THRIVE**
CONFERENCE | 2023



177 REGISTERED
DELEGATES AND SPEAKERS

A HOME AND HEALING FOR EVERY CHILD

This year our annual conference returned in person over two days at the **Sydney Cricket Ground**.

Keynote addresses provided by **Brenda Matthews**, *The Last Daughter*; **Candice Butler**, SNAICC; and **Ursula Elisara**, *Immerse New Zealand*.

MY FOREVER FAMILY NSW FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE WEEK PICNIC

held in Sydney to celebrate and support carers



700+  ATTENDEES

1,000+ **MYPACK** FIRST NIGHT BACKPACKS

prepared and provided to children entering foster care since 2020



Our continued partnership with **Aje clothing** to create bespoke Aje 'Bunnies', with proceeds from sales going toward supporting our work

Aje also donated **150+** 'Bunnies' for our **MYPACKS** to provide to children entering care

Aje.



LAUNCHED 
'A HOME AND HEALING FOR EVERY CHILD' PODCAST

12 EPISODES
across the year



1,023+
POTENTIAL CARERS
ATTENDED

137
Information Sessions on
"BECOME A CARER
FOR KIDS" across NSW



523
POTENTIAL HOMES
found in NSW this year



3,000+
potential homes found in
NSW since inception of
program

1,235
enquires received nationally
from potential carer homes



**MEDIA
COVERAGE**

across the year to raise awareness and shine the spotlight on the importance of child welfare, permanency and the need for all children to grow up in home-based care



800+ KEYS

sold in November as part of the
'UNLOCK A HOME FOR EVERY CHILD' campaign

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

In 2023, Adopt Change remains committed in its mission, one that echoes our unwavering commitment to ensure every child and young person experiences the security and stability of a nurturing home—a foundational cornerstone for their thriving future.

At Adopt Change we've devoted ourselves to sustaining comprehensive support for families to achieve this mission. We celebrate and support all types of families, whatever they may look like, with a focus on the wellbeing of children and young people and ensuring they grow up in a safe, secure and stable home environment.

Our collaboration spans across government bodies, sector stakeholders, individuals with lived experiences, dedicated carers and professionals nationwide, all united in affecting positive change and prioritising the welfare of every child in policy and decision-making processes. We act as a powerful voice for children and families; to advocate for their rights and raise awareness on the impacts of childhood trauma.

Throughout 2023, Adopt Change continued to advocate and support children and young people in care. States and territories across the nation have demonstrated their commitment to our goals and we continue to assert that Australia needs a unified, national approach to drive change most effectively.

This year we have continued to look at the impacts of impermanency and trauma and work to support families through workshops and online resources; research; pre- and post-adoptive supports; trauma informed supports; information and community events; as well as working with governments, departments and the sector to address issues surrounding permanency for children.

I extend my gratitude to our dedicated CEO, Renee Carter, and the remarkable team of Changemakers — our diligent staff, passionate Ambassadors, volunteers and steadfast supporters, with a notable mention to those organisations, groups and individuals who have supported us financially, in-kind or with pro-bono work. Together, they've worked tirelessly to forge a brighter future for children and young people in care.

Additionally, I'd like to express my appreciation to my fellow Board Directors. I'd like to thank Professor Paul Chandler, who completed his tenure on our board in December, and wish him all the best. I'd also like to welcome our newest Board member Anne King, who joins us with a wealth of experience in child welfare and a strong knowledge of the NSW landscape.

As we embark on the journey ahead, we remain committed to our shared mission of driving transformative change. I truly believe together we can achieve our vision - a home for every child that is safe, nurturing and stable so that children can grow, learn, play and thrive.

Victoria Buchan

Chair of the Board, Adopt Change



HISTORY OF RECENT EVENTS

2023

- National Permanency Conference returned in person
- Launched 'A Home and Healing for Every Child' podcast
- Continued campaign focus on children in non-home-based care

2022

- Purebaby 'Home' partnership
- Adopt Change campaign focus on children in non-home-based care

2021

- Launched Empower Change
- Next 3 years of My Forever Family NSW program commissioned

2020

- Launch of yearly National Recommendations Paper
- Launched Online Lounge Room project during COVID
- Moved National Permanency Conference online
- AJE campaign support commenced

2019

- Launched 'Simple Adoption' research at Australian Parliament House
- Launched Senate Inquiry findings 'Breaking Barriers' at Australian Parliament House

2018

- Parliamentary Friends of Adoption Group launched at Australian Parliament House
- My Forever Family NSW program commissioned
- MyPack program commenced

2017

- First National Permanency Conference, delivered annually since
- Launched #aHomeForEveryChild campaign, delivered annually since
- Launched 'Barriers to Adoption in Australia' research

2016

- State & Federal Government Commitment to prioritising permanency for children in out-of-home care

2008

- Start of Adopt Change via National Adoption Awareness Week

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

As we come to the end of yet another year it has been a privilege to work alongside an incredible team as we make progress towards realising our vision of a home for every child that is safe, nurturing and stable so that children can grow, learn, play and thrive. In the post pandemic and tough economic climate we have continued to support children and the families who care for them, and will ensure that we keep going to implement the improvements that we seek.

Adopt Change's purpose is to support children in need, particularly those in government care, foster care, orphans or children without families, and their carers, families and guardians. We continue to achieve this through providing resources such as My Packs (page 24) to support these at-risk children as well as providing support and resources to carers, families and guardians, with particular emphasis on understanding trauma and trauma informed practices and parenting. We also provide information to schools and the community on trauma informed support and advocate to find more family homes for kids across Australia.

In 2023, nationally there are almost **4,500 children and young people** living in alternative care arrangements such as residential group homes, hotels, motels, and caravan parks. Whilst designed to be short-term solutions, some children are staying in this temporary arrangement for more than a year. Our focus has been to address this critical issue and come together to find solutions.

To work towards this, this year the National Permanency Conference returned in person as **#THRIVE2023 A Home and Healing for Every Child** (page 18), and was held at the Sydney Cricket Ground across two big days. 177 registered delegates and speakers came together to discuss carer retention and recruitment, the importance of understanding mental health, overcoming non-home-based care and the over representation of Aboriginal children in care in Australia. We were joined by CEOs from peak organisations, government, thought leaders and those with lived experience to come together to address the plight of children in government care, particularly those in non-home-based care, and present tangible solutions to government.

The **My Forever Family NSW program** (page 9), operated by Adopt Change, has also continued to be crucial in our work in supporting carers of children and young people in out-of-home care, and finding more homes for kids. In 2023 we achieved a significant milestone - over 3,000 referrals for potential carer homes have been made across NSW since the beginning of the program.

Some of our other achievements include our annual My Forever Family NSW Foster and Kinship Care Week Picnic (page 14) held in Sydney to celebrate and support carers, with over 700 attendees enjoying a day of fun and celebration. Our community continued to rally lovingly creating hand knitted blankets for our Mypacks to assist children on their first few nights in care.



This year also saw the launch of the **A Home and Healing for Every Child Podcast** (page 25), where we brought talks and conversations with global thought leaders in child welfare and trauma to our community. Be sure to catch the complete first season where you listen to your podcasts.

Unlock a Home for Every Child campaign

In 2023, we continued our mission with renewed focus. With almost 4,500 kids in out-of-home care living in motels and residential group settings instead of family homes, some as young as two-years-old, we asked the community to help us unlock #aHomeforEveryChild.

Calling for action throughout November and December, we asked the community to 'unlock' more family homes for kids across Australia through opening their home to become a foster carer, or donating to support our work.

For the second year in a row we created a national list of potential carers from all states, allowing us to broaden our reach in finding homes all across the country. We were grateful to have the support of many of our Ambassadors who helped us share the message across TV and online. The campaign was also picked up by media including Studio 10, 10 News First and 2GB radio.

Thank you

I want to thank the entire Adopt Change team for making possible the work we do in supporting families and children in out-of-home care. They are instrumental in our achievements, and I am so grateful to work alongside each and every one.

I also want to thank our supporters. Whether through program and grant funding, financial contributions and donated items, advocates who amplify our cause, companies offering products and pro-bono services, the time contributed by our board members, Ambassadors, and volunteer Changemakers, the support we receive is crucial to our success. The assistance is invaluable in our mission to work towards #aHomeForEveryChild and is greatly appreciated.

Renée Carter
Chief Executive Officer, Adopt Change

ABOUT ADOPT CHANGE

OUR VISION

A home for every child that is safe, nurturing and stable so that children can grow, learn, play and thrive.

OUR MISSION

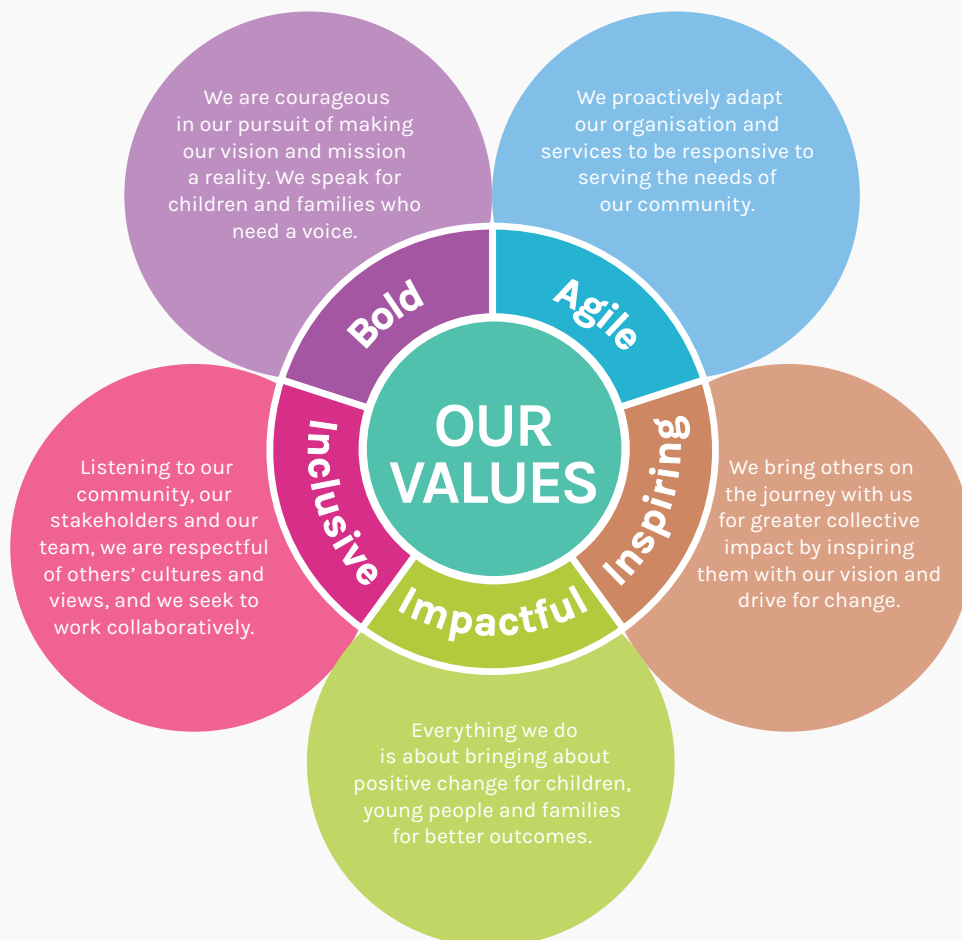
To support and educate families and communities in caring for displaced children.

OUR PURPOSE

Adopt Change strives to help vulnerable children in need. Particularly those in government care, foster care, orphans or children without families. Adopt Change also helps carers, families, and guardians.

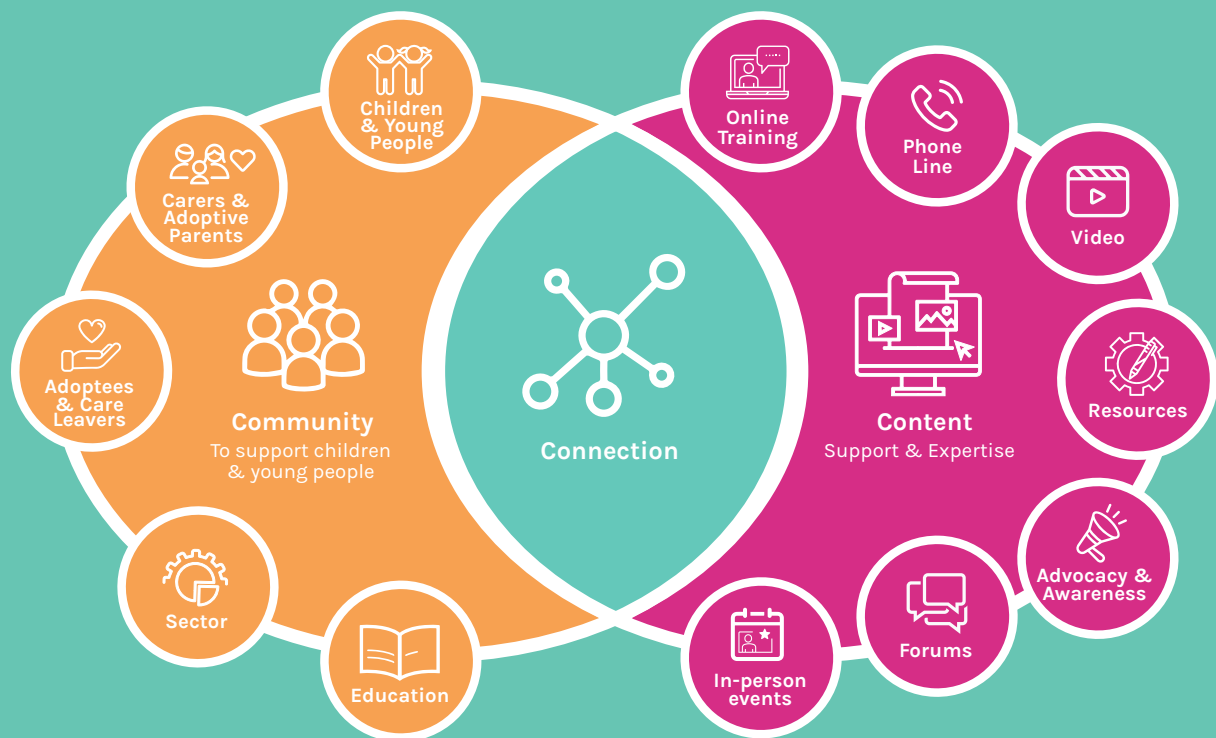
To do this, Adopt Change:

- Provides resources to support these children, including in times of crisis such as entering the foster care or out-of-home care system;
- Provides support and resources to carers, families and guardians of these children, with a particular emphasis on understanding trauma and informed practices and parenting for these children;
- Provides information to schools and the community on supporting these children and trauma support; and
- Encourages people to provide all children in need with access to a safe, nurturing and stable family environment to grow up in.



OUR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

In 2023 our team continued their work towards the goals of Adopt Change and A Home and Healing For Every Child.



Adopt Change Connecting and Supporting
Children, Young People and Families

In our work to ensure A Home and Healing for Every Child, Adopt Change provides a range of supports and activities.

These include:

- **Community supports and resources**, including
 - Operating the My Forever Family NSW program to recruit, support, train and advocate for carers of children who need safe homes. Carers and safe homes are identified through foster, kinship, guardian, or adoptive carers.
 - Providing information and guidance on permanent homes for children through adoption or other forms of permanency.
 - Offering trauma-informed supports for families (including adoptive and foster families), holding community events and online forums.
 - Providing MyPack first-night backpacks for children entering the out-of-home care system.
- **Education** through workshops, conferences and information sessions for professionals, parents and carers on topics including trauma-informed care; pre- and post-adoptive supports; and accessing the expertise of local and international educators, researchers and speakers.
- **Raising Awareness** within the community and through media of the risks faced by children who have experienced trauma and the necessity for children to have access to permanency and supports to create positive life outcomes. The annual #aHomeForEveryChild campaign in November is a prime example of our campaigns raising awareness around this issue.
- **Research** is used to contribute to understanding of the issues that children face, including the importance of permanency; support for infant care; the impact of trauma; pre- and post-adoptive supports for families and children; and topics surrounding adoption and permanency within Australia.
- **Collaboration** with the child welfare sector, policy makers, politicians and departments on the various issues surrounding permanency, child welfare and adoption through the provisions of consultancy and advisory services and input.
- **Advocacy** for:
 - Unified national child welfare and permanency
 - Accessibility and timeliness of permanency for all children
 - Integrating the voice of children and young people in decisions
 - Nationally supporting carers
 - Preparing for thriving care leavers
 - Trauma-informed, therapeutic services for all children in care
 - Data and information sharing between services and departments
 - Leading child welfare within communities



MY FOREVER FAMILY NSW

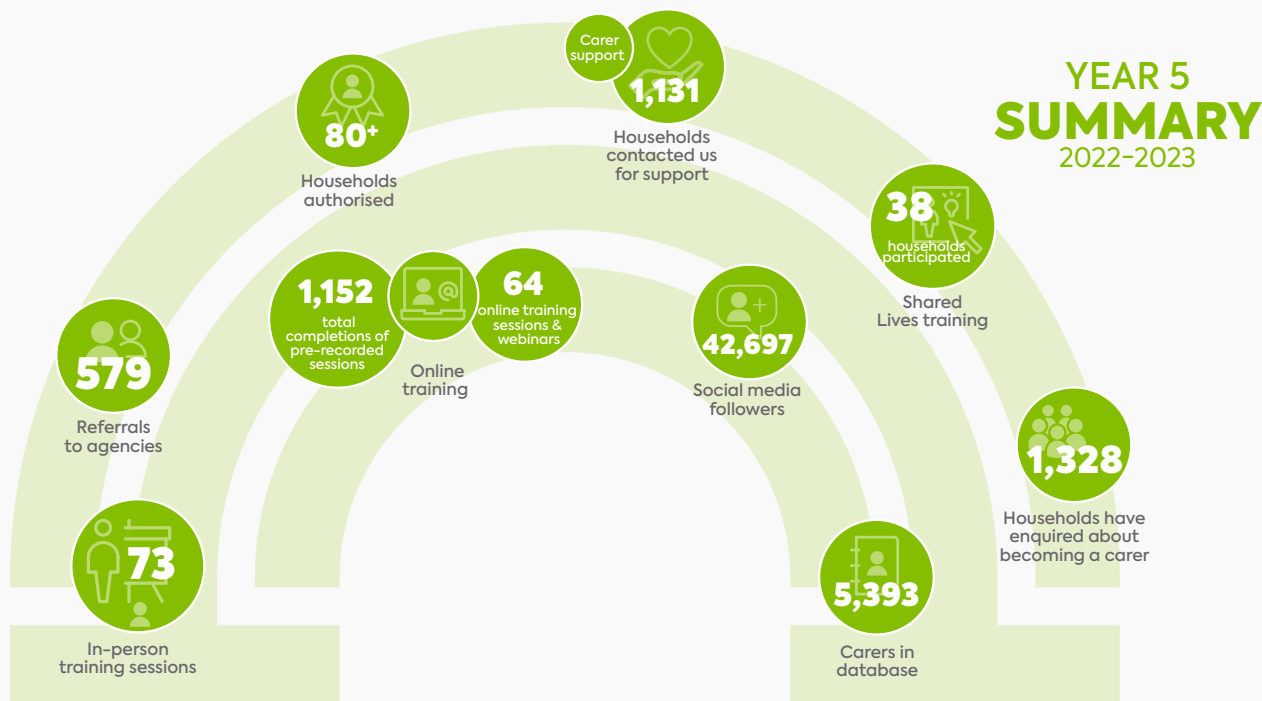
Currently, there are 15,223 children and young people in New South Wales (NSW) living in out-of-home care (OOHC). These children are unable to live with their families, whether for short or long-term periods and require secure, nurturing and stable environments to thrive.

My Forever Family NSW is committed to supporting those who provide care for children and young people in OOHC, offering the necessary support, training and resources to ensure optimal outcomes for children and young people in care, as well as the caregivers themselves.

My Forever Family NSW is funded by the NSW Government Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and is operated by Adopt Change. We are dedicated to equipping carers with the essential tools to care for and assist children who may have experienced trauma.

An initial point of contact for prospective carers, My Forever Family NSW offers comprehensive information and guidance throughout the entire authorisation process. In collaboration with DCJ and accredited foster care agencies across NSW, My Forever Family NSW provides supplementary recruitment services to identify potential new carer households.

My Forever Family NSW also offers training opportunities to authorised carers, and our dedicated Carer Support Team is accessible to assist carers throughout their carer journey. My Forever Family NSW also provides opportunities for carers to connect with one another, developing connected and supported carer communities throughout NSW.



A photograph of four children running away from the camera through a field of tall grass. The children are in the foreground and middle ground, with a dense line of trees in the background. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The children are holding hands and running joyfully.

15,223

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE IN NSW

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE ON GUARDIANSHIP
ORDERS INCREASED BY

↑ **1.6%** ⁽⁵⁵⁾
SINCE 2021

3,000

REFERRALS FOR POTENTIAL CARERS
MADE BY MY FOREVER FAMILY NSW
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM

2,625

CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE EXITED OOH
DURING 2021-22

“

*Thank you for your time and
for your useful suggestions of things
we could do to help us. It means a lot,
especially when I haven't had that so
far and have felt quite lost.”*

NSW Carer

“

*[Staff member] was
so wonderful and caring. Having
real life experience in this was so
helpful for her to provide advice
and understanding.”*

NSW Carer

CARER SUPPORT

Our Carer Support Team is highly qualified and knowledgeable, ready to assist carers through phone or email, offering information, guidance, and support. This includes assistance throughout the guardianship process, guidance on topics such as caring for children who have experienced trauma and casework support.

The My Forever Family NSW Carer Support Team imparts valuable knowledge and also encourages carers to establish or join local Carer Support Groups. This initiative aims to help carers build their own support network and connected and resilient carer communities.

This year, we received requests for support from 1,131 carer households. Assistance was provided through various means, including the participation of our Carer Support Team in Carer Reference Groups, organising training sessions and facilitating Online Lounge Rooms for carers to connect and exchange experiences.

TRAINING

My Forever Family NSW provides a diverse selection of training opportunities. These include live in-person and online sessions as well as online webinars which can be conveniently viewed at one's own pace. Our training programs ensure that carers feel well-supported, highly informed and adequately prepared to care for children and young people who may have experienced trauma.

During 2022-2023 we had 38 potential carer households attend our Shared Lives Training. For authorised carers we delivered 21 in-person training sessions and 25 online sessions.

Popular training topics have included The Carers Code of Conduct, Building Children's Emotional Awareness, Understanding Trauma and Planning Family Visits. Our in-person sessions have been held across the state, in areas such as Dapto, Taree, Orange, Mingara and more.

ADVOCACY

In pursuit of creating meaningful change within the OOHC sector, My Forever Family NSW strives to amplify the voice of carers. This is achieved through three primary goals:

- 1. State-wide carer survey:** A carer survey is regularly conducted, with results thoroughly analysed and subsequently shared within the sector and our carer community. This survey is a vital platform for carers to express concerns and insights.
- 2. Facilitating Engagement Opportunities:** We organise events such as forums to provide decision-makers with direct access to carers. These events enable decision-makers to gain firsthand knowledge about the most pressing issues affecting carers.
- 3. Carer Reference Groups:** My Forever Family NSW Carer Reference Groups actively engage with non-government organisations and the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). These groups collaborate to enhance quality of care for children and young people in OOHC, ensuring that carer perspectives are integral to the decision-making process.



“

I have been very well educated the last two months with the courses and webinars I have done. I had no idea what I didn't know as a carer, as my husband and I had very little to no training. I am going to be a better carer because of your courses and information you provide. Thank you.”

NSW Carer

“

The best thing is that we're not being preached too. My experience with My Forever Family NSW training has been sharing stories, strengths and ideas with another carer.”

NSW Carer



FINDING MORE HOMES FOR CHILDREN ACROSS NSW

In the 2022-23 financial year, My Forever Family NSW received a total of 383 enquiries from individuals interested in becoming carers. These enquiries stemmed from a series of recruitment campaigns utilising various media engagement strategies, online channels, and in-person information sessions.

Our campaigns were strategically designed to identify potential carers who could meet the specific needs of children and young people in care, considering diverse care types and geographic locations. These encompassed campaigns targeting caring for sibling groups and older children, as well as providing emergency and part-time care. There was also a focus on individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Members of the My Forever Family NSW Recruitment Team hosted information sessions both online and in-person across the state in various locations, including:

- Albury
- Armidale
- Byron Bay
- Dubbo
- Marrickville
- Newcastle
- Southwestern Sydney

These information sessions include a talk from a My Forever Family NSW representative about the process of becoming a carer, a DCJ representative about the current need for more carers and a carer guest speaker, with opportunities to engage with attendees and answer questions. Local agencies and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) are also invited to attend and speak with potential carers.

Our Recruitment Team support prospective carers throughout the journey to becoming a carer, from the moment they register interest right through to authorisation and placements – they are there every step of the way.

Radio advertising

across Hope FM and regional networks had the potential to reach over 350,000 listeners each week, while podcast advertising across Chat 10 Looks 3 received 70,000 impressions, with up to 110,000 listeners per episode.

Podcast ads across the Mamamia network, including Mamma Outloud, No Filter and The Quicky received 200,000 impressions.





CARER RESOURCES

My Forever Family NSW offers a comprehensive collection of free resources accessible to all authorised carers in New South Wales. In addition to our training sessions, we maintain a curated Resource Library, providing carers with guides, fact sheets, and information packs on a wide range of topics. These resources cover areas such as caring for children with disabilities, navigating the OOHC system effectively, understanding and responding to trauma, and much more.

Our training opportunities, webinars, eBooks, and audiobooks are exclusively accessible to individuals registered with our Carer Portal.

CARER SUPPORT GROUPS

My Forever Family NSW Carer Support Groups serve as areas for carers to connect, share their experiences and provide mutual emotional, social, and practical support. These support groups are organised by local carers, for foster carers, kinship carers, adoptive parents and guardians. Typically meeting monthly, these groups may convene either online or in-person.

Carer Support Groups offer carers a space where they can express themselves confidently, knowing they will be heard and embraced by fellow carers who have similar lived experiences. It is an opportunity to build resilience, gain fresh perspectives and parenting approaches, and forge enduring friendships.

Within these groups, carers often exchange valuable advice on handling various situations, including insight into local support services and helpful tips for their caring roles. Occasional guest appearances from experts in related fields provide additional insight into topics relevant to the caring experience.

Carer Support Groups are available throughout NSW, and carers can easily locate their local group by using the interactive map feature on the My Forever Family NSW website.





FOSTER & KINSHIP CARE WEEK PICNIC

Foster & Kinship Care Week in NSW was established in 1990 as an opportunity to thank foster and kinship carers for their incredible contribution, and to raise awareness about the need to recruit more carers. Foster & Kinship Care Week is held annually in the second week of September and is traditionally launched with the Sydney Picnic Day.

2023 was the 32nd year of Foster & Kinship Care Week, and the Sydney Picnic was held on Sunday 10th September 2023 in Penrith. Other regional events were also held during the month in the Hunter and Illawarra regions.

The Sydney picnic included a free BBQ lunch, a petting zoo, rides, jumping castles, laser tag, garden games and stalls from 15 different foster care agencies, with information and merchandise packs to give away. The event was a huge success, with over 700 attendees having a fun filled day.



“

Really enjoyed being able to say 'yes' to my kids. Another ride? Sure. Face painting? Ok. Ice cream? Yes. Times are tight and being able to be the yes mum was really lovely.”

“

It was great seeing our foster children having an amazing time and seeing their eyes light when they were given all the 'presents' (popcorn, fairy floss, gifts, food, drinks). It truly was amazing.”



“

Seeing the children having such a wonderful time and the huge smiles on them. We may not get to see other carers and their children due to distance and commitments as often as would like and the picnic provides a great opportunity to catch up with each other”



MEET SOME OF OUR CARERS

In the face of mounting economic pressure, carers have stepped up to provide safe, nurturing homes for children. From emergency care to part-time and long-term care, carers have provided consistent support to young people across NSW. These two carers have kindly shared their stories with us.



Emma

Emma and her husband have been carers for seven years and have inspired a new generation of carers in their family.

When Emma's sons were still young children, she and her husband decided to become foster carers after being inspired by a friend who was a carer. They saw children flourish under her friend's care and the importance of having community support for children.

Seven years later Emma and her family have welcomed 45 children into their home, with the outlook that if they have capacity, they will open their doors to children of any age, in any type of care.

Seeing a child change through nurture and home-based care has been the most rewarding aspect of becoming a carer for Emma.

"A child might come to us shutdown and scared and to see that child smile and grow in your care is motivating as a carer. What keeps us going is seeing kids in our care safe and happy and thriving."

Emma's decision to become a carer has not only been rewarding for her, but children who were previously in her care have reached out to affirm the positive impact being in a safe family home has had on their lives.

"You think once a child has left your care that you might not hear from them again. Three children who were in our care have reached out to say thank you for everything we did. One girl in particular said she had so many positive experiences in our care, and that it kept her on the right track"

Emma and her husband's decision to become carers has not only had a transformational effect on the children who have come to them via the care system, their choice to open their hearts and home to children in need has resonated intergenerationally. Their eldest son and his partner have moved into their own home and are now looking into becoming carers themselves.



Sam

After nine years in the police force, Sam was led to a new role after seeing a newspaper advertisement seeking people interested in becoming a carer.

Sam had always wanted to be a foster carer and as a single, working parent, part-time care suited her family unit best. Sam sees caring for children in out-of-home care as a way to continue supporting children in her community, and an opportunity for her daughter to connect with other kids in the home environment.

The most important thing for Sam as a part-time carer is showing a child that there are people and places outside of their long-term placement who are safe.

"As a part-time carer I enjoy showing children that there are other safe places for them, and there are people who care about them. Providing that safety and showing them that they don't have to be scared is what drives me."

Sam loves getting to know the children and preparing activities to suit their interests.

"When you're not their full-time carer you have the chance to plan ahead and make it into a bit of a holiday for the kids."

Providing care for children on a part-time basis also allows her daughter to experience life as a bigger family unit and learn crucial life skills.

*Stock images used

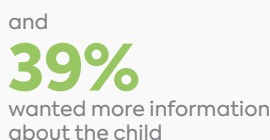
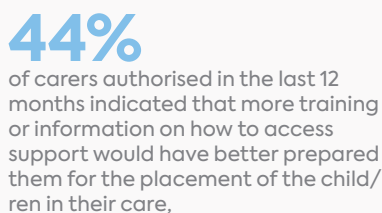
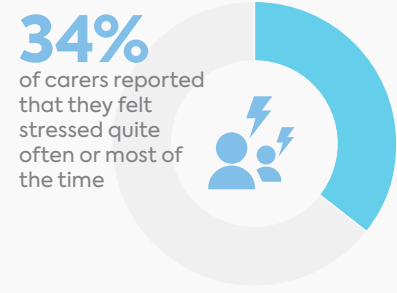
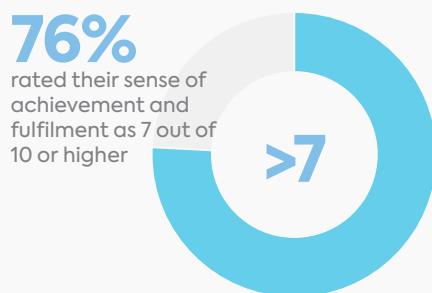
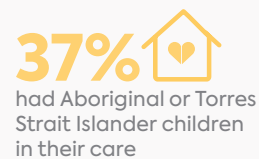
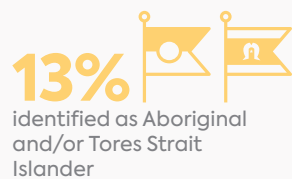
NSW CARER SURVEY 2022 REPORT OF FINDINGS

The biennial NSW Carer Survey is conducted to collect the views and experiences of carers across NSW.

Using close to 1,900 responses from carers across the state, the NSW Carer Survey 2022 Report of Findings provides important insight into the experience of carers in New South Wales.

Survey findings help to inform practice, programs and systems by providing clear and tangible directions for improvement in the out-of-home care sector moving forward.

Following the carer survey, My Forever Family NSW hosts the NSW Carer Forum on the alternate year, to bring together carers and sector decision makers to discuss the report findings, help guide practice and provide updates on what has improved or changed in light of carers' feedback the previous year.



To read the full report visit
www.myforeverfamily.org.au/about-us/carers-survey

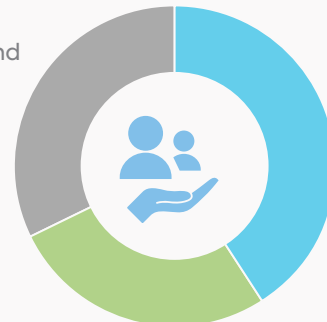


41% 😊

Reported they were very likely or likely to recommend becoming a carer

27% 😐
Neutral

32% ☹️
unlikely or very unlikely to recommend caring



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improve awareness and accessibility of support available to carers
2. Increase the number of Aboriginal carers and the availability of culturally appropriate supports for carers of Aboriginal children
3. Increase mechanisms to support agency accountability and communication
4. Ensure a blend of training delivery to enable participation and meet individual learning styles
5. Increase the availability of specific supports to address unmet carer needs



CARER SUPPORT NEEDS

The top three supports that carers reported they needed for the children and young people in their care were:



The most common supports carers reported being unable to access for children in their care in the last 12 months were:



What would make carers more likely to recommend their caring role?



More agency accountability



Better caseworker follow up



Improved financial support for medical and educational expenses



A HOME AND HEALING FOR EVERY CHILD

On 13-14 November 2023 we hosted our seventh Adopt Change National Permanency Conference - **#THRIVE2023 A Home and Healing for Every Child**.

Supported by governments across the country, **#THRIVE2023** focused on addressing the plight of Australia's most vulnerable youth – the over 45,000 children and young people currently living in government care, with particular focus on the ten percent (almost 4,500) not currently in a family home.

For the first time since the pandemic we returned in person, hosting the event at the Sydney Cricket Ground, with the number of seats in the iconic stadium a visual representation of the number of children in care around the country.

THRIVE National Permanency Conference has been delivered nationally since 2017, to call on government from each jurisdiction and federally to report on their commitment made in 2016 to prioritise permanency for children in care.

The event seeks better outcomes for children in care – in homes and schools across Australia. It provides opportunities to meet at the table with people from around the country also invested in contributing to positive change for our children and young people. The focus is critical for the growing number of children in care who all too often experience a negative trajectory while in care and after leaving care.

The two day conference was held in person with 177 registered delegates and speakers. Speakers included **Brenda Matthews**, Author & Speaker *The Last Daughter*; **Candice Butler**, SNAICC Board member; **Ursula Elisara**, Co-founder and CEO Immerse Charitable Trust; **The Hon. Amanda Rishworth MP**, Minister for Social Services; **Steve Kinmond AM**, Children's Guardian NSW; **Zoë Robinson**, NSW Advocate for Children and Young

People; **Tom Allsop**, CEO PeakCare Queensland Inc.; **Dr Lisa J. Griffiths**, CEO OzChild; **Gus Worland**, Director and Founder Gotcha4Life and **Jane Vadiveloo**, CEO of Children's Ground, plus government ministers and representatives, peak bodies, experts in child protection and lived experience advocates.

One of the key topics addressed at **#THRIVE2023** was the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the care system. **Brenda Matthews**, author of *The Last Daughter*, now a Netflix documentary, and SNAICC Board Member **Candice Butler** provided keynote addresses on this issue. We also heard from First Nations organisations Children's Ground about empowering children and families as a key to systemic reform, as well as Curijio on the lethality of loneliness and healing through connection.

Other key topics included overcoming the prevalence of non-home-based care, carer retention and recruitment, the importance of understanding mental health, trauma informed frameworks and education.

The conference was expertly hosted by our CEO **Renee Carter** and Head of Communications & Engagement **Michelle Stacpoole**, with Ambassadors **Joe Hildebrand** and **Zufi Emerson** MCing the event, which included a video welcome from our Founder **Deborra-lee Furness**.

Delegates participated in a national roundtable discussion, as well as providing feedback throughout the duration of the conference, to help shape our National Recommendations Paper to be released to government around Australia.

2 DAYS

177  
REGISTERED
DELEGATES
AND SPEAKERS

“

All children are precious and need a safe, loving, permanent home environment to thrive. We have been shining a light on this issue for over a decade, and while we are making progress in some areas, the numbers and circumstances that we are seeing today are still deeply alarming. Infants living in “pop-up orphanages” and motels with shift workers who are not trained in trauma-informed care is unacceptable.”

Deborra-lee Furness
Adopt Change Founder







#THRIVE2023 Sponsors:

Thank you to our Major Sponsor for the National Permanency Conference, Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS)

Thank you to our Supporting Jurisdictions and Sponsors including Government of Western Australia Department of Communities, Government of South Australia Department for Child Protection, Queensland Government, New South Wales Government, Key Assets (Australia), Life Without Barriers and Ozchild.

National Major Sponsor



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Supporting Jurisdictions



Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities



Government of South Australia
Department for Child Protection



Supporting Sponsors





NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

UNLOCK A HOME FOR EVERY CHILD

The 'Unlock a Home for Every Child' campaign ran throughout November and December this year to raise support and awareness for the children across Australia in need of a home and healing.

We asked our community and supporters to help us urgently find 4,500 homes for the children and young people currently in non-home-based care across Australia.

This campaign was particularly effective in driving awareness and raising funds to support our work towards ensuring a Home for Every Child and resources for children to heal and thrive. We received significant media coverage across the month, lifting our awareness and social engagement.

After the success of our dedicated campaign page in 2022 - ahomeforeverychild.org - we updated it with our new campaign messaging. Our focus was on finding more homes for kids, asking people to **help unlock more homes for kids across Australia** by:

- Opening their home to become a foster carer
- Donating to support our work and receiving a key as a token of their donation

For a second year we utilised our national 'Become a Carer' enquiry form for people across Australia to enter their details and find out more about opening their home. This information will then be distributed to relevant states, allowing us to grow our reach across the country.

This year we also created a campaign merchandise item - a key with a ribbon and tag - as the primary merchandise focus. This key can be used in multiple ways - as a keep-sake reminder, necklace pendant, or a Christmas ornament to hang on the tree.

A television advertisement and radio ad was also created utilising the 'key' motif to emphasise the urgent need for more homes for children and young people in Australia.

Deborra-lee Furness and **Renée Carter** were interviewed by Angela Bishop on **Studio 10** and **10 News First** on Network Ten to launch the campaign. **Deborra-lee** was also interviewed by **Deborah Knight** on **2GB Afternoons**.

Our ambassadors kindly showed their support and helped us spread the message, posting and resharing our content.

Our social media strategy extended across all platforms - Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok, ensuring maximum exposure.

Several businesses also showed their support, including **Morrow Sodali**, **Cappuccino** and **Carpentry Café** (Kingsgrove), **Pure Baby**, **Rosebud Café** (Castle Cove), **The Wandering Brew** (West Gosford) and **Kendal Clothing** (Orange) through stocking the keys in their shops and warehouses for staff and customers to purchase.

Over **470** enquiries from people interested in providing a home to a child in the past 2 years

800+
keys sold



SUPPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

A big thank you to the various businesses and corporates who supported our mission to find **#aHomeForEveryChild** in 2023.

AJE BUNNIES

We extend our gratitude to Australian fashion label Aje for their ongoing and invaluable support through the Aje x Adopt Change Bunnies collaboration. This collaboration stands as a testament to their commitment to making a meaningful impact.

The limited-edition bunnies are crafted from offcuts of previous Aje collections, with 100% of the profits of each bunny sold through their Aje stores and online going towards supporting Adopt Change.

Since the inception of this partnership in 2021, Aje has gone above and beyond also generously donating over 700 bunnies to our MyPack project, in addition to the significant funds they have raised for our work. These bunnies serve as comforting companions for children entering the care system, offering solace and a sense of security during challenging times.



The Moon Child by Geraldine Moran



THE MOON CHILD

A huge thank you to author **Geraldine Moran**, who chose to donate all proceeds from her children's book *The Moon Child* to Adopt Change, thereby contributing to our mission of providing support to the growing number of displaced children and the families who care for them. Geraldine penned 'The Moon Child' shortly after adopting her daughter Bella from an orphanage in China and it has since become a cherished bedtime story.

She hoped her story would inspire others, stating "*I hope children everywhere just enjoy reading a beautiful story of one little's girl's journey and hope it may strike a chord with other adopted children and their families – and their wider friends and communities.*"

MYPACK

1,100+

Mypacks assembled since 2020

148

Mypacks assembled in 2023

750+

handmade blankets donated since 2020



Students from Shelley Public School helping with our Mypacks

MyPack is an Adopt Change initiative providing first-night packs to children and young people entering OOHC.

Often children and young people enter the foster care system with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing. The first-night packs provide essential first-night items that bring comfort as they begin the tangible path to restoration and rebuilding.

MyPacks include items such as a hand-made blanket, pyjamas, underwear, a soft toy, toothbrush, toothpaste, water bottle, colouring book/pad and a pencil case with textas.

Due to the urgent nature of entering care, carers often aren't prepared with items for a specific age child at the last minute. By providing essential first night items, carers can focus on creating emotional safety and security to the child in those critical first few hours rather than shifting focus to material needs.

For the child something as simple as a drink bottle to keep beside the bed to avoid navigating a strange home for a glass of water in the dark can make a big difference to how well they settle into their new home.

We want to express immense gratitude to our Adopt Change community who continue to provide blankets and soft toys so that the children and young people know they are cared for. Your kindness is greatly appreciated and goes such a long way.

To date over 1,100 MyPacks have been assembled, delivered and distributed by Adopt Change across New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland and Victoria with support from organisations who have provided logistical and financial support such as the Tasmanian Community Fund, St George Foundation, Wood Mackenzie, Commonwealth Bank and local knitting groups including The Smocking Guild and Chew, Chat and Craft in Ballarat.

Adopt Change is continually looking for sponsorship or grants to provide MyPacks nationwide.

Every child deserves safety and stability, and as a society we have a duty of care to look after the most vulnerable members of the community.



A Home And Healing For Every Child PODCAST

In 2023 we launched the **'A Home and Healing For Every Child'** podcast, an Adopt Change podcast to help raise awareness in our goal to ensure every child in Australia has a home and access to healing.

There were **12 episodes** across 2023 for Season 1, hosting conversations including:

- Insights from global thought leaders
- Impactful conversations with experts
- Real narratives from those with lived experience

Topics include foster and kinship care, adoption, child welfare, trauma and healing.

The most popular episode of the year was **Episode 1: Renée Carter & Dr Bruce Perry - The importance of trauma informed inclusive environments in schools.**

Some headline guests include Dr Bruce Perry, founder Deborra-lee Furness, Professor Richard Rose, CEO Renee Carter and many more.

Search **'A Home and Healing for Every Child'** in your podcast app to listen now.

Episode list:

1. Renée Carter & Dr Bruce Perry - The importance of trauma informed inclusive environments in schools
2. BONUS: Preparing for thriving care leavers
3. Making sense of fragmented lives with Professor Richard Rose
4. BONUS: Ellia Green on culture, connection and identity
5. Integrating the voice of children & young people with April Dinwoodie & Zufi Emerson
6. BONUS: Daniella Park's Personal Story
7. Dr Jessica Pryce - Inclusive, equitable and effective child welfare
8. Helping kids in care get back on track at school
9. Lioness: Experiences as an adoptive mother with Sue Brierley & Lisa Sthalekar
10. Caring for infants in out-of-home care
11. Understanding trauma and its impact on healing with Dr Bruce Perry & Deborra-lee Furness



OUR FOUNDER, BOARD & CEO



Deborra-lee Furness Founder

Deborra-lee Furness is an internationally acclaimed actress as well as a passionate supporter of children and defender of their human rights across the globe. Deborra-lee's humanitarian work for children is a driving force in her life. It is her passion that children all over the world deserve to be in a loving family and be given every chance to live a fulfilled life and achieve their full potential. As founder of National Adoption Awareness Month (NAAM) and Adopt Change in Australia, Deborra-lee has been a driving force for improving adoption programs, procedures and legislation, and raising awareness and understanding of the issues of vulnerable children. Deborra-lee also co founded Hopeland in New York City, which pioneers innovative solutions and builds partnerships to prevent family separation, reunify children separated from their families and mobilise a movement of families to support children who are growing up outside of family care.

She is also Patron of the Lighthouse Foundation; Patron of the Bone Marrow Donor Institute; Patron of 16th Street Theatre and is the recipient of many acting and philanthropy honors inclusive of The Angel in Adoption award, by the congressional Coalition of Adoption in Washington DC. She also received the Orphan Ranger Award from World Wide Orphans, USA; 2014 New South Wales Australian of the Year; in 2017 was given the United Nations Women for Peace Leadership Award and in 2022 was made Officer of the Order of Australia.



Renée Carter Chief Executive Officer

Renée Carter is the CEO of Adopt Change and a passionate advocate for the wellbeing of children and young people, with a focus on children with an experience in the Australian child protection system.

Renée leads a team of Adopt Change Changemakers nationally, with major activities including the annual #THRIVE National Permanency Conference; the government funded My Forever Family NSW program to recruit and support carers; campaigns including 'A Home for Every Child'; MyPack first night back packs for kids entering care; Empower Change for providing education support to children in care; along with engagement with community, government, child welfare sector; and regularly sought to speak with media about child welfare, trauma informed care, permanency and adoption.

Renée has held roles on advisory committees including as a member of the Institute Advisory Group for the independent research centre - Institute of Open Adoption Studies (The University of Sydney); various government and cross-sector advisory groups and taskforces; and was previously Vice Chair of NSW Committee on Adoption and Permanent Care (COAPC).

She is a member of Australian Institute of Company Directors, with a background in communications and executive management, along with board level experience in corporate and not-for-profit sectors. Her experience includes three years as Chair of charity Child Abuse Prevention Service (CAPS), an organisation focused on early intervention, education and support of families and communities; and Managing Director of corporate, investor and creative communications specialists Designate Group.

Renée is committed to influencing child welfare policy and practice to deliver timely and effective outcomes for children so they can have better childhood experiences and a brighter future.



Victoria Buchan Chair/Board Director

As Director of Communications and Public Relations at the Nine Network Australia, Victoria Buchan has extensive experience in the corporate communications sector.

Previously Victoria owned and operated The Lantern Group and still retains a role as Director of the company that specialises in publicity and media relations in the entertainment industry. Victoria began her career as a journalist on the Daily Mirror before joining Network 10 as a publicist. She has worked with Fairfax, Fox Studios Australia and the Australian Broadcasting Commission where she was Director of Corporate Affairs. Victoria's journey with the adoption community began while working with Deborra-lee Furness and discovering the injustices involved.

She is inspired by those fighting for change and the rights of children to have a loving family. Since beginning this work Victoria has been touched by many people, including her own family and friends who have experience with adoption.



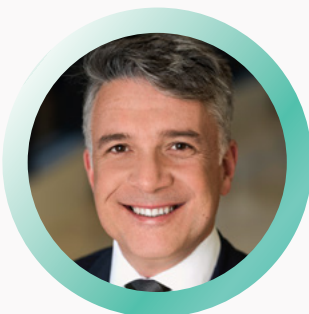
Helen Baker Board Director

Adopted into an Australian family from the Philippines, Helen brings her personal and professional experience to the Board. Helen is an Entrepreneur In Residence at The University of Melbourne and founder of an ed-tech company, Xolvit. Previously a Lead Client Service Director at Deloitte, Helen possesses over 20 years' experience in legal and professional services including owning and operating a legal recruitment company for over 10 years. When she's not running around after her 3 girls, Helen enjoys running marathons, and is currently studying a Masters of Entrepreneurship at the University of Melbourne.



Dr. Tom Bourdon Board Director

Dr Tom Bourdon is a leader and consultant who works with Diversity & Inclusion (D&I), social justice, LGBTQI, and education-focused organisations. Over the past two decades, Tom has served as Head of Inclusion & Diversity at Staples, Executive Director of Greater Boston PFLAG, and Director of LGBT Centers at UCLA, NYU and Tufts University. He has coached, trained and consulted with thousands of individuals in corporate, non-profit, education and government sectors and has been an Adjunct Professor at Merrimack College since 2013, teaching grad-level courses on diversity, social justice and identity development. Tom and husband Jimmy became parents through open adoption in the US. Having relocated to Australia in 2019, Tom hopes to increase education and awareness here around the positive aspects of adoption. Tom received his Doctorate in Organisational Leadership from Northeastern University, his Masters of Education from UCLA, and his Bachelor's degree in Business Admin from Babson College. He also holds a certification in Life Coaching from NYU.



Tom Imbesi Board Director

Tom became the Chairman of Deloitte Australia in May 2017 after serving as Managing Partner for Deloitte Victoria from March 2015 until May 2017. He is also a member of the Deloitte Asia Pacific Board and the Deloitte Global Board. Tom has 35 years' experience in auditing, both in Australia and in the USA and he has been a partner for 23 years. Tom specialises in the provision of assurance and advisory services to large ASX listed companies and is currently Lead Audit Partner for ASX listed Woolworths Limited and IRESS Limited. Tom also served on the Board of the Reach Foundation and was Chair of their Audit Committee.



Anne King Board Director

Anne has over 30 years of work in the community services sector, including 8 years working as Policy Director to various community services Ministers in NSW. Anne is committed to children living their best lives. Anne firmly believes and advocates that children do not belong in systems, rather than belong in families. Anne assisted Ministers in NSW passage a number of Bills through the NSW Parliament to improve permanency for children in NSW.



Catherine McDonnell Board Director

Catherine has been practising media and entertainment law for over 25 years and has actively served on the Board of various not-for-profit organisations for over eight years. Catherine brings significant corporate governance experience to the Board of Adopt Change and joined the Board to use her skills to improve the future for children needing families.



Mark Nixon Board Director

Mark is a Partner with Professional Services EY. He has a passion to assist those most vulnerable in our community coming from his public sector experience in the Senior Executive Service but primarily from his time as a NSW Police Officer. He saw first-hand the impacts of child abuse and poorer life outcomes for those who have suffered from abuse. Mark is committed to improving the life outcomes of children and young people and has been working in the sector for the past 15 years. He knows that every child deserves a stable home and to be loved and cherished. He sees Adopt Change as making a difference to the lives of children and young people through educating parents and advocacy, but above all by providing a home for life. Mark is married to Sarah and has two young daughters. He also spends time with his two older boys playing water polo with them. It's one of life's great pleasures playing sport with your kids.



Professor Paul Chandler's tenure as a Board Member ended in December 2023, after a period serving on the board and from prior to that, his instrumental involvement in the initial stages of the My Forever Family NSW program for Adopt Change. As a leading academic, Professor Chandler has provided extensive guidance and support to both the executive team and board.

Paul Chandler Board Director (retired)

Professor Paul Chandler, a proud Bidjigal man, was the first in his family to finish primary school. He graduated from Sydney University with a BSc in Psychology and a Master's in Education. He completed a Master of Science (in Psychology) and PhD in cognition and learning, the first Aboriginal person to receive a PhD from UNSW. Paul worked with the Australian Research Council often travelling interstate and overseas to teach and research. He served two terms as Head of the School of Education at UNSW and was recognised as one of the top 10 Scientists in Australia. He joined the University of Wollongong (UOW) as Dean of Education in 2007, the first Aboriginal Faculty Dean in Australia. During this time Paul and Michelle became foster carers for two siblings, aged two and six weeks, which they describe as the most joyous time of their lives. Paul was the visionary behind the Early Start Project and was Executive Director in the planning stage. He was Pro-Vice Chancellor (Inclusion and Outreach) at UOW overseeing their Aboriginal Centre (WIC), the Inaugural Aboriginal Strategy and Reconciliation Action Plan. Now semi-retired Paul is back at UNSW and numerous government and private boards to bring about positive social change. He also Chaired the My Forever Family NSW Advisory Committee for three years.

CHANGEMAKERS

Adopt Change Changemakers are passionate about bettering the lives of children, young people and families across Australia.

Thank you to our Changemakers in 2023 who have made an invaluable contribution to Adopt Change through assisting with our November **#aHomeForEveryChild** campaign, Mypacks, **#THRIVE2023** and spreading our message to find A Home For Every Child.

Our Changemakers include Volunteers, Ambassadors, Influencers, our Board and staff team, who all work towards our shared vision of every child having access to safe, nurturing and stable homes.

CALLING ALL CHANGEMAKERS!

Are you a great project coordinator? Are your admin skills unmatched? Maybe you love to get involved in events? Wherever your talents lay, we'd love to have you on the team. Contact us at changemakers@adoptchange.org.au to find out more about volunteering with Adopt Change.

Thanks to the help of our Changemakers we're able to continue our work in making a difference to the lives of children and young people and creating **#aHomeForEveryChild**.

- Sign up to our community to receive updates, newsletters, event invitations and learn how to support our mission. You can also follow us on social media and share our message and campaigns.
- Our Changemakers volunteer their time and skills in a variety of ways, such as social media support, content writing and event support. If your place of business allows volunteer hours for staff, you can join us for larger projects helping to assist in positive change for children and young people.
- Enquire with us about opening your home and your heart to a child in need by becoming a foster carer or adoptive parent. We need all types of carers for all kinds of children, from part-time through to permanent care.
- Donate to support our work. All donations are tax deductible and underpin our work towards more safe and nurturing homes for kids.
- Knit a blanket for our MyPacks, the first night backpacks for children entering foster care.



**Want to
get involved?**

Enquire about joining our
Changemakers team
changemakers@adoptchange.org.au



MEET SOME OF OUR CHANGEMAKERS

Zufi Emerson and Joe Hildebrand are two Adopt Change Ambassadors making a difference.



Zufan (Zufi) Emerson
Ambassador

Zufi's support and dedication as an Adopt Change Ambassador has been unwavering over the years and she has been instrumental in helping us spread awareness about A Home For Every Child.

Zufi's family was formed through adoption - she was born in Ethiopia, as were her two younger brothers. Adoption was the last chance for them to thrive and by each of their first birthdays they were calling Australia home. Now as an actor, (Actors Centre of Australia) writer (Run Girl, SBS) and host (CloseUp), it's clear both a permanent home and loving family enabled her to focus on being a kid and doing what she loved most. She is frustrated our care system remains laden in bureaucratic red tape meaning other children no longer have this same chance.

She's gutted that in our own backyard programs like the one their family was formed through closed its doors, there's an ever growing over-representation of Aboriginal children in the care system and devastated to know there's enough children in out-of-home care in Australia today to fill a stadium.

Zufi continues to support Adopt Change because she knows first hand when children are taken out of the 'too hard' basket their trajectories drastically change for the better. She remains adamant there are several global issues that are complicated to solve, but **'A Home For Every Child'** should be a unanimous no-brainer.

"I am thrilled to support Adopt Change in their research and advocacy as they lobby for their mission of A Home For Every Child to become a reality."



Joe Hildebrand
Media Ambassador

Joe Hildebrand is a dedicated Media Ambassador for Adopt Change who has continued to support and share our message through his experience as a journalist and radio host on 2GB. With absolute passion, Joe champions the importance of a safe and stable home for all children, a belief rooted in his own upbringing and experiences. Joe was raised in Dandenong by a single mother and has an enduring commitment to child welfare and alleviating the challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness.

Beyond his advocacy for Adopt Change, Joe also extends his commitment to various other charities who are dedicated to supporting children and addressing the issues around homelessness.

While residing in the vibrant city of Sydney, Joe finds his anchor with his family which includes his wife Tara and their three children. Professionally, he serves as a prominent columnist for the Daily Telegraph and News.com.au and a commentator on 2GB and Sky News.

"As soon as you become a parent you instantly realise that children are the most important thing in the universe and there is nothing more vital for them than a loving and secure home. The fact that there are thousands of kids in a country like Australia who are crying out for that love and stability is frankly unbearable...That is why what Adopt Change does is so phenomenally important and why I am incredibly humbled to support them in any way I can."

MEET OUR STAFF

From its beginnings as an initiative run by our Founder and volunteers, then a couple of staff, Adopt Change has grown the team to undertake our vital task of ensuring all kids have safe and stable family homes. With a wide range of skills and backgrounds, a number of our team join us with a personal connect to OOHC or adoption. Roles across the organisation include program operations, new carer recruitment and support, training and events, communications, marketing, policy, advocacy and administration.

Adopt Change has a great team of employee Changemakers. Meet some of our team:



Lily Allsep

Media & Communications Manager

Lily Allsep is the Media and Communications Manager for Adopt Change. She joined the team in 2022 and has over 10 years experience in communications, marketing and social media. In her role Lily oversees media and communications for Adopt Change and My Forever Family NSW, focussing on increasing awareness, marketing recruitment campaigns and gaining media coverage. She manages the Media and Communications team to ensure all communications and media across the organisation are consistent, working towards the Adopt Change vision of a home for every child that is safe, nurturing and stable so that children can grow, learn, play and thrive.

"I'm proud to be part of the Adopt Change team of Changemakers. I work and learn from so many incredible people who all share a passion and dedication for helping children in out-of-home care. Together I hope that we can make meaningful change and find #aHomeForEvery Child."



Gayler Slater

Carer Recruitment Officer

Gayle is a Carer Recruitment Officer for My Forever Family NSW. She has worked in administration roles over the past 30+ years, and has been working for My Forever Family NSW since 2019. As part of her role, Gayle is the first point of contact for that initial enquiry people make seeking to provide a home for a child in care, and wants to make sure they are greeted with warmth, understanding and information to help them navigate the carer journey.

She is also involved in many other aspects of the recruitment process including hosting Online Information Sessions, the Foster & Kinship Care Week annual picnics, fundraising and promoting awareness of My Forever Family NSW to the community.

"I love working for this organisation as it brings hope and change for children and families - and the privilege is I get to be a part of that process. I'd like to think that I am making a difference in a child's life and helping them have a brighter future."



IN THE MEDIA



Adopt Change regularly engages with Australian media to keep permanency and safety for children and support for carers on the national agenda.

We are regularly in the media in national, state and local articles discussing OOHC, adoption, child welfare, support for carers and system reform. Through advocating for trauma informed school supports with education focused media outlets to connecting journalists with carers to share their lived experiences, we strive to keep the importance of providing a stable home and therapeutic supports for children and young people with a trauma experience in the news.

Proactive engagement with the media has resulted in Adopt Change and My Forever Family NSW being approached by media outlets for multiple appearances to comment as an authority in the space.



Media articles and interviews can be viewed on our website

www.adoptchange.org.au/news-stories/

Some of the media outlets that Adopt Change and My Forever Family NSW appeared on in 2023 include:



SBS

7 News

The Australian

6PR Perth

Studio 10

10 News First

ABC Radio National

The Advocate

Region Riverina

Education Daily

The Point

ABC Radio Central Coast

Triple M Central Coast

Blue Mountains Gazette

Coast Community News

Nine News Central Coast

ABC Western Plains (Dubbo)

ABC Goulburn Murray

ABC Albury

Triple M Albury/Wagga

Triple M The Border – Murrumbidgee

Mudgee Guardian

Border Mail

ABC Newcastle

Daily Liberal

ABC Radio Sydney

Triple M Newcastle

NBN Lismore

Newcastle Herald

ABC News

Illawarra Mercury

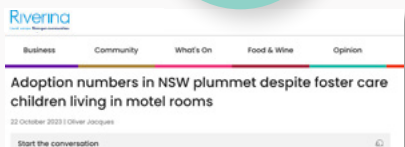
Mirage News

7 News Sydney

ABC Dubbo

2GB

ABC Drive



NSW inquiry to hear from children forced into motels, hotels due to shortage of foster carers



#A HOME FOR EVERY CHILD



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