



Child protection is more than child removal

MEDIA RELEASE

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With the launch of National Child Protection Week, the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare has reminded the community that protecting children is about more than removing them from abusive and neglectful families.

Chief Executive Dr Lynette Buoy said Australian communities needed to work together to prevent children experiencing the trauma of exposure to drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence that have spiralled out of control.

"Where families are unable to care for their children, this nation has an obligation to give foster carers and kinship carers in the community the support and resources they need to provide those young people with a family," Dr Buoy said.

Children and young people need to be protected from harm, and supported to find their own place in the world, with independence and a sense of identity. The right caring adult can play a vital role in this process.

"One way that a member of the community can support the development of strong, independent children and young people is by becoming a foster carer," Dr Buoy said.

Throughout September, the Centre is running an awareness campaign Rainbow Hair for Foster Care, to let the community know about the need for more foster carers in our community.

"If we do need to protect children by removing them from their families, we need well-resourced foster carers and kinship carers who are able to give kids in care the same rights, expectations, and opportunities as their peers."

"This means we need more commitment from the state government to these dedicated individuals, and better funding structures for the community service organisations who support Victoria's carers."

Visit www.fosterabrighterfuture.com.au to find out more about becoming a foster carer.

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