

Media release
4 January 2010

Culturally Caring Communities

This month the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (The Centre) in conjunction with the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) is spreading the word of the need for foster carers for indigenous children.

Around Victoria there are simply not enough indigenous foster carers to provide care to indigenous children in need. VACCA and The Centre are putting the call out to all Victorians, asking them to think about whether they could provide temporary care to an indigenous child while they are unable to live at home.

"Foster carers are vital to the continuing growth and wellbeing of these children," The Centre's Policy and Project Leader for Foster Care Josh Fergeus said today.

"They give thousands of our children and young people a second chance at life, giving them positive futures that they would otherwise not have."

Victoria is currently experiencing a shortage of foster carers to provide safe and supportive temporary homes to children who are unable to live with their birth family.

"We need carers who can assist these children in maintaining that feeling of connection with their community," the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency's Program Manager for Out of Home Care North-West Julie Toohey added.

"These children not only need a safe and loving home environment but carers who can help foster their sense of identity."

The Centre runs a 24 hour hotline service for the public who are interested in foster care or gaining information about foster care on **1800 013 088**. People can also visit www.fosterabrighterfuture.com.au for information.

For media enquiries and interviews:

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