What is Foster Care?

Foster care is care provided by caregivers in their own homes, for young people who, for a range of reasons are unable to live with their natural families.

Who are the young people in need Foster Care?

Foster care may be required for children and young people from birth to 17 years of age, for a number of reasons, including the death, mental or physical illness of family, lack of family supports, family conflict and breakdowns, being abused or neglected or drug and alcohol addiction.

Who can be a Bridges caregiver?

Bridges are looking for all different types of families and households to be caregivers. Caregivers can be individuals, couples, male or female, or families. Caregivers can work part-time, full-time, retired, studying, or be at home full-time.

What is important is that caregivers can provide a safe, caring, supportive, and stable environment for the young people in need. Bridges is forced to decline placements for young people on a daily bases due to the shortage of caregivers.

Types of foster care placements:

- Emergency Placement (Up to a week)
- Respite Care (regular short stays eg. a weekend per month)
- Short Term Placement (Up to 6 months)
- Long Term Placement (6 months+)

What's involved in the caregiver recruitment process?

- Enquire and register your interest
- Participate in an information session
- Lodge an official application form and screening check form
- Participate in Foster Care training and assessments which consist of 8 modules
- Summary report and recommendation submitted to the approval panel
- Approval is granted for a period of 12 months and is reviewed annually

Program workers provide on-going support, supervision and training to caregivers and young people, including a 24 hour, 7 day a week on-call service.

To find out more information please call us 9742-6452 and ask to speak to one of us in the Bridges Foster Care team.
Werribee Support & Housing