



FOSTER CARE

Information Booklet

**CARERS DON'T
HAVE TO BE
EXTRAORDINARY...
THEY JUST HAVE TO
WANT TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.**



*You can make a difference.
Keep reading to learn how.*



Glenhaven

Family Care

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WHAT WE VALUE

The things we believe that help make this organisation extraordinary.

VISION

Stronger families and individuals engaged in community and supported to realise their potential.

MISSION

Supporting and equipping children, young people, individuals and families within a caring environment by providing innovative programs, partnerships and advocacy.



OUR KEY VALUES



COMPASSION



HOPE



RESPECT



INTEGRITY



SUPPORT



GET TO KNOW US

Glenhaven Family Care is a not for profit, Christian, community service organisation committed to caring for, strengthening, enriching and equipping individuals and families for 60 years in Tasmania. We work in partnership with Government, Families, Foster Carers and other Community Partners to deliver a diverse range of support services.

We are passionate about stronger families and individuals engaged in community and supported to realise their potential.

Glenhaven operates the following programs:

- Temcare (Emergency & Respite Out of Home Care)
- Glenhaven Foster Care Program (Long Term Foster Care)
- Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS)
- Kentish House
- Disability Services
- Safe Haven (Therapeutic Residential Program)

THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A CARER



STEP 1

Application & Info Session

We will call you to set up an Information Sharing Session at your home. Our friendly recruitment team will attend this visit to chat about the roles and responsibilities of Foster Care.

STEP 2

Checks

We will process all the necessary background and safety checks.



STEP 3

Conversations & Training

Staff members will set up a further four interview conversations with you. This is the Step By Step assessment which is used in most states of Australia to assess foster carers of all types. If there are any concerns for your assessor throughout the assessment, they will let you know.

You will be invited to attend the Shared Lives Training: This consists of 9 modules and is compulsory for all foster carers. Training is provided with flexibility to suit applicants' needs .



FINAL STEP

Accreditation

You will be advised when your assessment is fully complete, and given the opportunity to read and agree to your final summary report. If your application is not approved you may appeal the decision.



FOSTER CARE TYPES

Glenhaven offers Respite, Emergency and Medium to Long Term Foster Care. Staff will discuss with carers which type of caring best suits their lifestyle and circumstances.

Respite Care

A short term placement designed to give families a break and provide a positive experience for the child or young person.

1 - 28
Days

Emergency Care

A short term placement where there has been an emergency such as a family crisis or where the child has been removed by Child Safety Services.

1 - 28
Days

Medium to Long Term Care

This is an extended placement for children and young people through Child Safety Services who are on care and protection orders.

1 month -
18 years

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

01

ACCOMMODATION

Your home must be a safe environment for children and young people, and have adequate space. We will undertake a comprehensive housing check.

03

HEALTH

Physical and mental health will be explored during the assessment. This will include a medical questionnaire which needs to be completed by all adult applicants and their doctor.



02

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Applicants who are working part or full time may still become foster carers. Placements are made according to age/need of the child or young person. Carers will receive a non-taxable reimbursement to assist covering the costs of the placement.

04

AGE

Age is not a barrier. We do prefer our carers to be over the age of 25, however our recruitment team will consider the life experience of each individual applicant. Consideration is given when placing a child long term to ensure the carers can continue care until that child reaches independence.

CONT.

05

CLEARANCE CHECKS

Some of the checks that are required:

- National Police check
- Working with Vulnerable People Check
- Child Safety Check
- Home Safety Check

07

CARING SKILLS

Assessments will explore your readiness for the role. Areas of consideration will include your ability to draw on personal experience, work within a team and your ability to promote positive self development in children.



06

CULTURE

Like our community, we need diversity in our care team. Children requiring care have various cultural backgrounds and where possible we try to place them with families that share a connection or understanding of their culture and diversity.



POLICIES TO CONSIDER

These guidelines apply to all Foster Carers of Glenhaven Family Care



HEALTH AND HYGIENE

We need to ensure children are placed into homes that provide safe healthy environments. Our policy on health and hygiene includes universal infection control, a smoke free environment and compliance with health and hygiene standards.

DISCIPLINE

Carers need to work closely with their support staff to develop appropriate discipline strategies. Behaviour management and discipline will be explored during the training carers undertake, however it is important to know that physical punishment of any kind is not acceptable in a foster care placement.

BIRTH FAMILY CONTACT

Applicants must demonstrate an understanding of the importance of children maintaining connection to their birth family. All carers should be supportive of contact and work closely with their support team to ensure this.

Once you are accredited

GLENHAVEN TAKES PRIDE IN SUPPORTING OUR CARERS, WE WILL OFFER YOU:

- 24/7 On-Call Support
- Friendly staff available to chat
- Ongoing training opportunities
- Annual reviews
- Long term placements will be supported by regular catch-ups
- Social opportunities, connection to other carers and your support staff
- Monthly Carer Support Group morning tea.

NORTH WEST OFFICE

Located:

41 Clayton Rd, Ulverstone, Tasmania 7315

PO Box 657, Devonport, Tasmania 7310

Phone: 6425 1144

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NORTHERN OFFICE

Located:

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