



Family Contact Service

Respite support for kinship carers

Kinship carers are vital in child protection situations and taking care of the carers is important too. Our Kinship Carer Respite Service supports carers by allowing them time alone to rest and recharge after the intense demands of their role.

Family Contact Service offers an in-home respite service for children in kinship care situations, meaning that children have the security of a consistent respite carer in the familiarity of their own home, whilst allowing carers an important break.

Alternative respite options include weekends away or respite care in a contingency house. Carers might like to take advantage of our respite service for a variety of reasons. It might just be for a few hours a week to allow them uninterrupted time to complete errands such as shopping or to spend some much-needed time with their partner. Carers may also need extra support during more intense periods, such as school holidays.

One of the main needs identified by kinship carers is respite from caring. Every year,

approximately 14% of kinship carers are forced to cease performing their caring roles for various reasons but often due to a lack of support. Family Contact Service is committed to providing a stopgap for kinship care families in need of support. Please be advised a brochure and application for Kinship Carer Respite is being developed, at this time please add information to the FCS Application for Time Spent/Access/Foster & Kinship Carer Respite in sections relevant and at the end of the application there are three empty text boxes to type extra information into.



Contact

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Family Contact Service

Respite support for kinship carers

- Available 365 days per year, except Christmas day depending on staff availability.
- We cover all areas of Melbourne, Geelong and rural areas in Victoria.
- Handover and pick-up service offered.
- Time spent/access supervision court reports provided on request.
- Supervisors can give evidence in court if subpoenaed with an hourly rate charged.
- Organisation providing supervisors for time spent/access supervision for the Family and Children's Courts.
- Respectful, private and confidential service to families.
- Minimum time for supervision is two hours.
- Our focus is protection for children from harm during contact in line with the Child Safety Standards under the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*.
- We are a private organisation that offers innovation and creativity, Let's create options together.

ABOUT OUR STAFF

- Qualified supervisors with training specific for your needs.
- Currently 27 qualified and industry experienced staff members.
- All staff have either welfare, human services or social work qualifications and other relevant industry qualifications.
- All staff have a current working with children check.

Family Contact Service provides experienced and qualified time spent/access supervisors for supervised contact. Family Contact Service is a Child Safe Practice organisation.

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