

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOSTER CARE WEEK 2013

September 8-14

A celebration of the contribution foster carers make to our community

Foster Care Week 2013 is less than two months away. This week-long celebration of foster care will showcase the massive contribution foster carers make to our community, while raising awareness of badly needed system improvements.

The week will feature a wide range of activities to celebrate this vital, but often unrecognised work. Events are planned in regional centres across Victoria, and the week will close with the FCAV Annual General Celebration (meeting) at Parliament House.

The Annual General Celebration will feature guests from all sides of politics, the Commission for Children and Young People and more.

Foster Care Week 2013 comes at a defining time for home-based care in Victoria. Demand is growing, but numbers of carers are not. Carers desperately need improvements to the supports provided to help them raise some of the most traumatised children in our community.

Foster families are calling for reimbursements to be raised to match the actual costs incurred delivering care. Just as fundamental is the need for improved access to health services for the kids in foster care, better access to agency caseworkers for carers, and dramatic changes to processes around the assessment and placement of foster children.

Regional Foster Care Week activities will take place in Wodonga, Warrnambool, Ballarat, Geelong, Mildura, Frankston, Sale, Bendigo, Ballarat, Leongatha and Morwell.

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