

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## GEELONG COMMUNITY HELPING VULNERABLE KIDS

Within Victoria more than 6200 children are unable to live at home.

The vast majority of these kids depend on generous members of our community to welcome them into their homes, where they are given a second chance at a safe and healthy upbringing.

Our out-of-home care system relies on a dedicated group of selfless volunteers. These volunteer foster carers receive little recognition and support, and are required to heavily subsidise the provision of care to kids that can't live at home.

While Victoria's out-of-home care system is facing major challenges, advances are being made in the understanding of childhood trauma. This knowledge is shaping 'therapeutic' approaches to out-of-home care, where difficult behaviours are understood from a trauma-informed perspective.

On August 13th foster carers from Geelong and surrounding areas are meeting to learn about the impacts of trauma on young people and develop strategies to help heal their mental scars.

This workshop – organised by the Foster Care Association of Victoria, along with Geelong-based agencies MacKillop Family Services and Glastonbury – is part of a series of regional training events to enhance the skills of Victorian foster carers.

While demand for foster care placements in Victoria is growing, there is a significant shortage of carers. If you are interested in becoming a foster carer, call the Foster Care Hotline on 1800 013 088.

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