



Mildura Family Picnic

8 September 2013

Foster Care Week 2013 will feature the Mildura Family Picnic this Sunday.

The event brings three local agencies together in the MDAS Community Garden, where foster carers and the community will have for a BBQ lunch and enjoy activities, games and entertainment.

As well as celebrating the contribution foster carers make to our community, Foster Care Week aims to raise awareness of some major issues impacting Victoria's out-of-home care system.

This includes addressing the massive shortage of foster carers needed to accommodate the growing numbers of children unable to live at home.

Victoria's foster carers are also using Foster Care Week as a platform to urge our policy makers to recognise the value of the care they offer our community's most vulnerable children.

They are keen to see fostering reimbursement rates raised to cover the costs associated with raising children in state care, and foster carers given a more respected role in the care teams that manage the needs of the children in their care.

These simple improvements have been proven to dramatically improve outcomes for children in foster placements, while ensuring that carers feel supported and able to offer the care that these traumatised kids require.

To improve the lives of these children that cannot live at home, we desperately need to raise the profile of foster caring, recruit more carers, and improve retention rates by supporting those already within the system better.

If you would be interested in becoming a foster carer, please call the Foster Care Hotline on 1800 013 088.

The Family Fun Day will take place in Mildura's MDAS Community Garden from 11am until 3pm.

It is a collaborative celebration being hosted by local agencies Mallee Accommodation and Support Program, Mallee Family Care and Mallee District Aboriginal Services. There are currently 360 active foster households in Victoria's north-west.



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