

Monday, April 18, 2016

## **MEDIA RELEASE**



### **Ringwood foster carers find their voice**

The Foster Care Association is bringing a group of eastern suburbs foster carers together to learn new strategies to care for vulnerable children and themselves experiencing grief and trauma.

World renowned child psychologist Richard Rose has developed the training for the Foster Care Association of Victoria.

Foster Care Association CEO Katie Hooper said, "This training is so important for foster carers and to help children experiencing severe trauma and grief."

"Foster Carers are amongst the most generous people in the community, but they need more help with strategies to manage the needs of young people in their care."

"We hope the upcoming state budget includes funding for more foster care specific training, and an increase to the Victorian foster care allowance," she said.

Currently the Victorian allowance lags behind other states by as much as \$4000 per annum <http://www.savefostercare.org.au/about>

**Foster carer story** - Katie Hooper and her partner Scott have been carers in Healesville for 3 years. They have cared for eight children and young people over this period. From a 6 month old who they cared for overnight to an 18 month old and his 5 year old sister who were with them for 4 months. They also cared for a 13 year old girl who went to school locally. Currently, they are regular respite carers for two children who live long term with their grandparents. Katie and Scott love spending time with these children, giving the grandparents a break and taking the children to the Healesville Sanctuary, sharing new culinary experiences with them and playing board games.

There will be over 30 foster carers at the training on 19 April at the Maroondah Federation Estate. [To download the flyer, click here for more information.](#)

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