

28 May 2009

Local kids need local foster carers in the Murraylands

There are currently 50 Foster Carers in the Murraylands and over 100 children in their care but there are more children waiting for foster families and there are foster carers needing respite to have an occasional weekend break. Although new carers have steadily volunteered over the years, the number of children requiring care has increased at a greater rate than the number of carers.

Locally, children need foster care when they are not able to live at home and when care provided by a relative or someone they know is not an option.

Becoming a foster carer is a valuable and vital step in supporting local children, so they can stay in their communities, where they have existing friends, supports and established routines.,

Foster carers can fit into many lifestyles and come in all shapes and sizes. They can be single, couples, sole parents and families, working inside or outside the home. They can care for children from just one weekend a month to many years.

ac.care recruits and supports foster carers throughout the Murraylands and has professional, caring staff to support local foster carers in their important work.

“Foster Carers are a largely anonymous group of compassionate people, from a cross-section of the community, who care deeply for the wellbeing of children and young people. Carers often need respite themselves. One of the greater areas of need is for new respite carers who can take a child for a weekend or a few days “
said Steve Mole, ac.care Manager Alternative Care Services.

End

Media Contact | Anne Hinkly-Tyler | ac.care Marketing Manager

P (08) 8724 9211 | F (08) 8725 5087 | M 0439 829 320 | E: anne@accare.org.au | www.accare.org.au

About ac.care

ac.care was formed in Mount Gambier in 1985, with one social worker, a part-time administration officer and an accommodation support worker. Today ac.care employs nearly 200 staff with current offices and community centres

*in Mount Gambier, Millicent, Naracoorte, Bordertown, Murray Bridge, Berri and Waikerie. More than 60,550 (FY07-08) people in the South East, Riverland and Murraylands of South Australia were supported through over 70 different programs and services that fall under one or more of ac.care's 7 goals: **alleviating homelessness | building communities | promoting learning | reducing poverty| sharing cultures | strengthening families | supporting children.***