



# **FOSTER FAMILIES CHARTER OF RIGHTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

The Foster Families Charter honours carers (foster, family and significant other carers) and acknowledges the important role of all members of a foster family who contribute to the care of children and young people in out-of-home care.

## **VISION**

To provide safe, nurturing and competent care that meets the needs and best interests of children and young people through the support and commitment of the care team<sup>1</sup>; this includes a child or young person's foster family.

## **COMMITMENT**

We will achieve our vision through strong partnerships between foster families, families of children and young people in out-of-home care, government and government-funded agencies, local businesses, voluntary groups and the community.

## **VALUES & BELIEFS**

1. All children and young people will receive a safe and nurturing environment in which to grow, develop and fulfil their potential.
2. Foster families are valued for their vital role in the community and for their contribution to a child or young person's care team. Foster families who are supported, valued and respected have a greater opportunity to provide safe, nurturing and competent care for children and young people.
3. Belonging and identity are important for children and young people to achieve good life outcomes and foster families support their connections to family, community, culture and country.
4. Culture and religion are of value to children and young people, foster families and families, and their expression and experience will be supported.
5. Children and young people are recognised as an integral part of the community and our investment now, strengthens the community of the future.

*The Foster Families Charter was updated by the Foster Care Association of Western Australia in collaboration with the Department of Communities (November 2018).*

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<sup>1</sup> The Care Team Approach Practice Framework – [online]  
<https://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/Resources/Documents/Policies%20and%20Frameworks/Care%20Team%20Approach%20Practice%20Framework.pdf>





## **CHARTER OF RIGHTS**

1. Foster families have the right to be respected and recognised as having a significant relationship with the children or young people in their care. This means foster families will be important members of the care team, working together with other care team members in the best interests of the child or young person, including decision making processes.
2. Foster families have a right to timely and readily available support. This will include debriefing following a critical incident, practical assistance and resources to enable them to fulfil their role.
3. Foster families have a right to post-care support when children or young people leave their care and opportunities for further contact where the relationship is valuable to the child or young person.
4. Foster families have the right to continued learning and development opportunities to enhance their capacity to provide safe, nurturing and competent care.
5. Foster families, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, have the right to freedom of expression of culture and religion.
6. Foster families have a right to be treated in a culturally appropriate manner.
7. Foster families have the right to be informed about grievance processes and have their concerns acknowledged with opportunities for resolution.
8. Foster Families have the right to have their own lives recognised beyond their role in the lives of children and young people in their care.

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