

Media Release

For immediate release

3 July, 2019

Impact a child's future for a short time or a lifetime

Today CatholicCare Wollongong officially launched Fostering Futures, to find foster carers who can help turn a vulnerable child's life around.

CatholicCare has been proudly providing Foster Care services for over 25 years and in that time have helped hundreds of children into safe, secure families. The program is appropriately called 'Fostering Futures', capturing the essence of hope, possibility and a positive pathway to the future for children who at no fault of their own, find themselves in foster care.

Michael Austin, Director of CatholicCare said, "today we are launching not so much a new CatholicCare program, as a new direction. This new direction emphasises identifying pathways for children to achieve more permanent outcomes through restoration to their family where this can be achieved, or through adoption, guardianship or long-term foster care."

"For children and young people who've come into care, the effects of abuse, neglect, trauma and loss are far-reaching. But they deserve an equal chance of achieving a good quality life just like every other child," Mr Austin continued.

CatholicCare as well as the children and young people in foster care need people in the Illawarra region to put their hands up to become carers.

Daniel and Jenny Norris first became carers over 8 years ago, to two-month old Lachlan. Several months later it became known to them that Lachlan's two older brothers were also in foster care and in need of permanent carers. They didn't hesitate to put their hands up. "We had the space, and we had the opportunity to give them a stable life," Daniel said.

The Norris family have since adopted the three boys giving them a permanent home. "We knew it was the right thing to do; we've been able to keep three little ones together," said Jenny.

Sandra and Michael Dent have been carers with CatholicCare for over 11 years and have provided a safe and caring home to over 16 children in this time.

"We felt that we just had more to give to someone less fortunate. Both Michael and I have grown such better people for doing what we have done [becoming carers]", said Sandra.

"It's given our whole family a better understanding of each other...and it's bought a unity about us all, it's just so rewarding," said Michael.

The Fostering Futures launch event is being held today (3 July) at City Beach Function Centre from 4:30 pm. Official proceedings to commence from 4:50pm.

*For more information please contact Trish Cooney on 0417 200 139 or trishc@catholiccare.dow.org.au
Carers are available for interview at the launch or post event. Photos from the launch are available upon request.*

CatholicCare is the Social Services Agency of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Wollongong, supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.