



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Tuesday, 4 July 2017*

### **SHOW YOU CARE: BECOME A FOSTER CARER**

Marist180 is appealing to those in the Catholic community to lend a helping hand to young people in need by becoming a foster carer.

**With the number of children in out-of-home care in NSW increasing by almost 60 per cent from 11,843 to 18,659 in ten years, the system is facing a serious shortage of foster carers.**

And that's why the Western Sydney service provider is stepping up the call to turn this shortage around and change lives for the better.

Marist180's Foster Care Manager, Hayley Clisby said caring for young people has been at the heart of the Marist tradition for generations.

"This year is the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Marist Brothers and in this tradition we are calling on the community to show their support for young people in need," said Clisby.

"Marist180 is inspired by the spirit of St Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Community.

"He went out into the world to give hope, education and love to young people in need – without judgement, conditions and limits.

"Inspired by Mary, we are calling on Marist alumni and other Catholics to join us in the Spirit of Family and consider foster caring for a teenager in need."

**Marist180 is setting the goal of offering 20 additional teenagers caring homes in compassionate and open hearted households by Christmas.**

"Catholics come from many different ethnic backgrounds and often our families are multi-cultural," said Clisby.

"So we are putting the call out there and hoping to get 20 additional teenagers in caring homes by Christmas.

**"Every child deserves a loving home and we are calling on the community to find it in their heart to help a young person in need."**

Ms Clisby said potential carers can be put off by incorrect negative perceptions, concern about support structures or cost of living issues, but said assistance is available.

"Teenagers need a fair bit of guidance growing up as it is, and foster parents can be a real positive influence to guide teenagers who really need it and will really benefit from it.

"And Marist180 will always be there to guide foster carers, and give them the support and necessary training needed.

“We encourage the families out there thinking about it, to give us a call and help a teenager in need.”

**If you'd like to talk to someone about a foster care opportunity, or some of the young people we are currently seeking to place please call Amera on 9672 9227 or visit: [marist180.org.au/foster-care/foster-carers/](http://marist180.org.au/foster-care/foster-carers/)**

### **Can I become a foster carer?**

- Over 25 and an Australian citizen
- Single, married, de-facto or same sex couple
- Desire to help children
- Good physical and emotional health
- Stable and secure home environment
- Working full time, part time or not working
- Completed IVF more than 12 months ago
- Prepared to undertake Criminal and Working With Children checks
- Full drivers licence
- Consistency in setting boundaries for behavior
- Willingness to attend ongoing training
- Ability to maintain confidentiality of information
- Energy, patience and a good sense of humour
- A non-judgement approach to working with the birth family
- Experience in caring for children
- Support from Family members
- A spare bedroom

**Media contact: Nick Trainor 0407 078 138**