

Become a Respite Carer



Who can be a Respite Carer?

Respite carers are everyday people from all walks of life.

We welcome respite carers from various backgrounds, ages, life experiences and skills, to help provide scheduled, short-term support for children and young people with a foster care family.

The most important things we look for in respite carers is the ability to provide a safe and nurturing home, and a desire to help children and young people develop and reach their full potential.

Respite carers can be:

- Single or have a partner
- Have children of their own or no children
- Be employed, not working, studying or retired
- Come from any cultural or ethnic background
- Be of any gender identity
- Practice any religion or no religion

Carer requirements:

- Must be over 21
- Have the time, energy and willingness to commit to the needs of a child or young person
- Be healthy
- Be an Australian citizen or a permanent resident
- Have a spare bedroom
- Willing to undergo background checks

What Do Respite Carers Do?

As a respite carer, you'll make a positive difference in a child's life and help ensure their full-time foster family can recharge to provide the best care and support.

Respite care is for short, usually pre-planned periods of time. Respite carers might care for a child one weekend a month or for a few weeks during school holidays.

Respite carers provide a 'normal everyday life', where the child or young person can attend school, participate in sport, hobbies, friendship groups and appointments.

Each child or young person will have things that they love to do, like going to the park, visiting the zoo, reading books, going bike riding, etc.

Respite care plays an important role in the family network, providing a stable home, so the child or young person can have every opportunity for success.

What support do Respite Carers receive?

Training

Respite carers are provided with a range of learning opportunities suited to their level of experience and the needs of children in their short-term care.

24/7 Carer Support

Access to support at any time of the day or night for advice, support and direction for a range of situations.

Financial Support

Receive a tax-free allowance to support the needs of children placed in short term respite care.

Specialist Support

Linked with specialist staff and carers where additional training is needed.

Steps to Become a Respite Carer

At Big Brown House, we are here to support you every step of the way. Our team will help answer any questions you have and talk you through the process.

To become a respite carer, you will need to be assessed, trained and approved, before you are authorised to provide care for children and young people in your home.

Some of these steps include:

- Visits to your home to conduct interviews
- A home safety inspection
- Attending training
- Gathering of personal references and medical references
- Applying for mandatory checks, including Working with Children Checks and National Criminal History Checks - required for all applicants and people in the household.

Carers are then matched to a local Foster Care family and the child or young person in need of respite care.



About Us

Big Brown House provides a range of services to support and connect communities and make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people.

We are committed to supporting safe, stable and nurturing homes, for children and young people who are vulnerable, so they can reach their full potential.

Supporting Communities Together

Contact Us

To find out more, please call us on 0437 223 164 or send an enquiry email to: info@bigbrownhouse.com.au

www.bigbrownhouse.com.au