

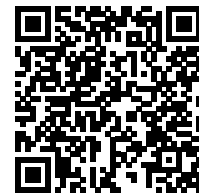


How to get in touch

To speak with a Fostering Connections team member please call **1800 182 178** (9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday)* or

Email **fosteringconnections@communities.wa.gov.au** or

Use the online enquiry form on our webpage at **wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-communities/fostering-connections**



* For urgent enquiries outside of these times please contact Crisis Care on 1800 199 008. Crisis Care provides Western Australia's after-hours response to reported concerns for a child's safety and wellbeing and information and referrals for people experiencing crisis.

Other helpful contacts

The **Foster Care Association of WA** is an independent organisation that supports Foster Carers and advocates on their behalf.

Call: 1800 497 101 or **visit:** fcawa.com.au

Family Care Support Services provides in-home practical support for family carers and ensures they are equipped to provide safe, stable and connected care for the children in their care.

Visit: www.wa.gov.au

OurSPACE WA is a free state-wide counselling service for Communities' foster and family carers who require some extra support.

Call: 1300 381 581 or **visit:** professionals.childhood.org.au/prosody/2020/11/empowering-carers-with-space/



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

Fostering Connections



What is Fostering Connections?

Fostering Connections is a centralised service provided by the Department of Communities for all foster and family carers in Western Australia who are looking for information and advice about the services and supports available and to provide feedback on what is or isn't working for them.

The service is also open to staff seeking guidance on fostering practice and process, interpreting policies and procedures or general support.

By connecting with carers and staff across WA we are looking to gather feedback and suggestions on improving the services and supports available to carers.

The Fostering Connections service sits alongside the support already provided to carers by the Department of Communities' districts, Out of Home Care providers, Foster Care Association of WA and funded support services.



Who we can help

The service is available to:

- All foster and family carers registered with the Department of Communities and Out of Home Care (OOHC) providers, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO).
- Significant Other carers, registered with the Department of Communities.
- Communities' and OOHC Staff seeking advice on fostering practice and process, interpreting policies and procedures or general support.
- Anyone who would like to provide feedback and suggestions for improvements to supports for foster and family carers.



What we can help with

The Fostering Connections team is ready to help with your questions or feedback around:

- **Financial supports.** These may include subsidy payments, special needs loading, carer reimbursements and case support costs.
- **Practical supports.** For example, help with food or equipment for children.
- **Emotional support.** We can direct foster carers and their families to the free, confidential counselling services available to them.
- **Clarification on policy or practice guidance.**
- **Learning and development.** We can inform carers of the learning and development opportunities available to them.
- **Information on the supports available for the child or children in your care.** For example, KidSport or camps.
- **General enquiries or support needed.**

How we can help

Depending on the query or information sought, the Fostering Connections team may;

- Seek information on your behalf from other teams within the Department of Communities.
- Connect you with other teams or agencies to provide you with the service or information you require.
- Record your feedback on improving services and supports and contact you for further information if required.

