



**Gareth Ward**

Minister for Families and Communities  
Minister for Disability Services

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **FINDING FOREVER FAMILIES FOR VULNERABLE KIDS**

Finding safe, loving and permanent homes for vulnerable children is the focus of Foster and Kinship Care Week 2019, with new figures revealing 350 new carer households are required to meet demand across NSW.

Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services Gareth Ward said children need loving homes to help them thrive and encouraged more people to become foster or kinship carers, guardians or adoptive parents.

“I have met so many inspiring people who have opened their hearts and their homes to children and young people who need love, care and protection,” Mr Ward said.

“These selfless and dedicated people should be celebrated and commended for their passion and acts of extraordinary charity.

“But my message is clear – we need more of you.”

The NSW Government is strengthening assistance for foster and kinship carers through the \$7 million program, *My Forever Family NSW*.

Established last year, the program aims to provide information, education and support to carers with 390 people referred for assessment and training in 2018-19.

“*My Forever Family NSW* is giving carers the support they need to ensure children reap the benefits of permanency in their lives,” Mr Ward said.

“We recognise the importance of keeping Aboriginal children connected with their culture, their family and their community. If you’re an Aboriginal family interested in caring for a child, I encourage you to contact My Forever Family.”

All sorts of people can become carers and provide a range of services, including respite or emergency care, through to a permanent home for children in need through open adoption or guardianship.

For more information on how to become a carer contact *My Forever Family* on 1300 782 975 or visit [www.myforeverfamily.org.au](http://www.myforeverfamily.org.au)

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