

## MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Community Services  
The Hon. Linda Burney MP



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### NEW WEBSITE TO RECRUIT MORE FOSTER CARERS Foster Care Week 13 to 19 September

A pioneering new website designed to recruit more foster carers in NSW was launched today by the Rees Government in partnership with the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA).

This partnership means that people can find out about becoming foster carers for either the Government or non-government organisations and get started on their way to looking after children in need.

Minister for Community Services Linda Burney and CEO of ACWA Andrew McCallum launched the website, [www.fosteringnsw.com.au](http://www.fosteringnsw.com.au) at the annual Foster Care Week carnival held at Olympic Park, Homebush.

Ms Burney estimated around 1000 foster carers and their children attended this year's carnival, a free event organised by ACWA and funded by NSW Community Services where families can have a picnic and some fun.

"The carnival is an opportunity for the Government and the NGOs to thank their foster carers and give them a day off," Ms Burney said.

"With the increasing numbers of children entering the child protection system, the Government is ramping up its campaign to recruit more foster carers.

"We need more individuals and families to open their hearts and homes to children and young people who cannot live safely with their own families," she said.

"At present, we have more than 2,500 foster carers in NSW but the number of children entering care continues to spiral. There are currently over 15,000 children living in out-of-home care."

Ms Burney said the new *Fostering NSW* website will help the Government raise the profile of fostering and recruit more carers to care for vulnerable children.

"With dozens of different foster care agencies online, finding the right facts on the matter can be difficult and confusing. For the first time, we have a website that has all the information people need to know about fostering on one site," she said.

"Our research showed that the internet is one of the main sources of information for prospective carers.

"The website, which was developed with extensive consultation with NGOs, has independent advice on fostering with government and non-government out-of-home care sectors.

"It will make it easier for people to register their interest in becoming a carer and includes convenient links to all foster care agencies in NSW.

More/...

“There will also be comprehensive information on the different types of foster care arrangements, ranging from short-term respite care to permanent care,” Ms Burney said.

Mr McCallum said the new website is the result of a partnership between the Government, ACWA and other non-government agencies.

“It is a great example of the new collaborative approach towards child and family wellbeing that is emerging under the NSW Government’s *Keep Them Safe* reforms,” Mr McCallum said.

“ACWA is pleased to see the Government take on recommendations from the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection, which highlighted the need for a shared approach to child protection.

“This website is in keeping with the spirit of the report and is a positive step towards NGOs working closer with the Government to ensure children and families in NSW are well protected and supported.”

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