

# What decisions am I responsible for as a Foster Carer?

**Caring for WA's most vulnerable children is a very important role. A dedicated Wungening caseworker will be assigned to support you and your family to navigate the journey together.**

Carers face everyday decisions that all families make about children and young people, and it's important that you feel confident to make these decisions in a regular, timely and appropriate way for the children in your care.

A child's personal circumstance, such as age, maturity, past trauma or disability, may affect the way in which decisions about them are made. For some children, there will be circumstances that require specific approvals as a result of their Care Plan, or through a Court Order under the Children and Community Services Act 2004 (WA). When in doubt, you should always speak with your caseworker.

A useful document that has been developed to explain different

examples, is '**Who Can Say OK in WA?**'. This guide for carers provides general guidance about who can make everyday decisions about a child or young person in care.

When in doubt, your dedicated Wungening caseworker will be available to provide guidance and help make decisions together.

**MYTH:** I need to pay for everything the foster child needs/ will not receive any financial support.

**FACT:** Just as foster parents receive a robust support community for their emotional needs, there is also funding available for foster parents. This financial support takes the form of regular payment (non-taxable reimbursement, but the amount received changes depending on factors like location and care). This also goes for the 'establishment allowance,' a one-off flat fee received when a foster child arrives for the first time, which will vary in amount depending on need. Overall, foster parents should not anticipate making a profit off their new role, however there is fiscal assistance available for those who need it.

**Keeping our kids in care safe and connected  
– to family, community and culture**

To learn more or become a community Foster Carer visit:  
[www.wungeningNBM.com.au](http://www.wungeningNBM.com.au)



# FAQs

## Do I have to stay at home if I become a Community Foster Carer?

No! Many of our foster parents work outside of the home, either full-time or part-time, and find childcare for their children and their foster children. We support foster carers who work full-time, part-time, casually or not at all.

## Will I be responsible for all health and medical attention?

Children living in out-of-home care will often have greater physical and mental health needs than other children. It is important carers check with their Wungening worker regarding payment arrangements prior to accessing physical or mental health treatment for children. It is also important that the child's Child Protection Worker has knowledge of, and is informed of, the outcome of any medical or health appointments.

## How will I navigate playdates and the child's friendship?

Carers can give consent for everyday activities, such as sleepovers at a friend's house. Prior to giving consent, a carer must make all efforts to ensure that a child will be cared for in a safe environment. This should include meeting with the adults who will be responsible for caring for the children.

## Will I need to change the way I do things at home currently?

Each household has different rules and ways of functioning. It is important that carers can make everyday decisions for children in their care, to keep them safe and supported and allow a household to keep running.



## Child Protection Acknowledgement

Wungening acknowledges that Child Protection has historically been a hurtful and traumatic experience for many people across our Community. We are proud to be part of the story shifting those experiences.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we deliver services to our communities across the Noongar Nation. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present and acknowledge the ancient connection they hold with their Country. We are the proud and strong descendants of the oldest living Culture in the world.

### General Enquiries

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### Follow Us:



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