

National Foster Care Conference 2010

Best Practise Wisdom

Valuing the knowledge, skills and experience of accredited carers by engaging them as employees to assist with publicity, recruitment, support and retention of foster caregivers in Home-Based Care



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The Salvation Army Westcare manage three Home-Based Care programs in the North & West region of metropolitan Melbourne caring for up to 90 babies, children and young people in any one night

Melton Foster Care (MFC) – funded to provide 38 placements for babies & children aged 0-12 years of age

Adolescent Community Placement (ACP) – funded to provide 41 placements for adolescents aged 12-18 years of age, including general, intensive and complex care

Circle Program – a therapeutic foster care program funded to provide 4 placements for babies, children and adolescents aged 0-18 years of age



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The Salvation Army Westcare currently have 66 accredited and active caregiver households across the 3 home-based care programs

Melton Foster Care – 24 caregiver households

Adolescent Community Placement – 35 caregiver households

Circle Program – 7 caregiver households



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In 2008 it was decided that if Westcare was to go forward and increase their caregiver numbers and support and retain current caregivers they needed to be innovative and implement best practise wisdom with the engagement of 2 active, accredited and experienced caregivers from the MFC and ACP programs for 7.6 hours respectively each week worked flexible over 2 days



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The Salvation Army Westcare have always been innovative in their practise, having a strong focus recognising the value of caregivers, with carers actively engaged and reimbursed in facilitating initial caregiver training, **'Shared stories, shared lives Victoria'**, with 4 caregivers participating in Train the Trainer so they were qualified to facilitate initial foster care training to new and potential caregivers with program staff



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Tasmania 27th-29th August 2010
Gail Walton

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Tasmania 27th-29th August 2010
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