



5 September 2017

For Immediate Release

SAMARITANS CALLING FOR LOCAL FOSTER CARERS

Samaritans is urging locals in the Hunter Region to consider foster care this National Foster Care Week as demand reaches an all time high.

“Every child deserves a home. Foster care is about providing a safe and nurturing environment for children and young people who are not able to live with their family. We are in need of people who are able to provide a safe home for vulnerable young people,” Samaritans CEO, Peter Gardiner, said.

Samaritans is a local support service that provides vital foster care services in the community, connecting young people with safe and happy homes to live on both a short and long term basis.

“Our out of home care team have identified a high need currently for carers willing to open up their homes to children aged 10 to 16.

“Our foster carers come from all walks of life – we have single people, empty nesters, older and younger people, and people from many different cultural and religious backgrounds. All want to make a difference- and they are doing just that by welcoming a child into a loving home,” Mr. Gardiner said.

Chenoa Tidey became a foster carer for Samaritans in 2016.

“I care because I want to make a difference. I want to make a change- my husband and I want to see children blossom and flourish and all it takes is one person- why wouldn't it be you?” Ms. Tidey said.

Samaritans offers full training, financial and emotional support to help meet the needs of the foster child for which you would be caring. A case manager also conducts regular visits to assist you in your role.

“Some children are in need of care for a few days, others for months and others stay in care with their foster family until they turn 18. As carers, we have been able to nominate the type of care that best suits our lifestyle and family.

“We can't change the whole world, but we can all do our little bit. We can change a few lives when we can and then they can go on to do the same,” Ms Tidey said.

If you've ever considered foster care, please visit Samaritans website to submit an enquiry and find out more about becoming a carer.

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Media contact: Media are encouraged to contact Laura Dawson and Samaritans Communications team on 4960 7157 or 0438 475 772 if they require an interview. Photo attached for use of Chenoa.