

**BURRUN DALAI OUT OF HOME CARE &  
FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE**

(Burrundalai Aboriginal Corporation Incorporated)

**Perspective Foster  
Carer  
Package**

# Welcome To Our Team

*The staff and board of governance would like to welcome you to our service.*

*The information enclosed is intended to provide you with an overview of what we do and in a special way what you could do by working with us as carers.*

*This information will help you to understand Burrun Dalai and to appreciate what a carer can offer to Aboriginal children and young people. With Burrun Dalai you will not be working alone. We will train you for your role, administer carer payments and support you when you need it. It is still true that the main role of caring for a child or young person will be yours. There will be many times when most of the responsibility will rest with you and your family but one of the most important things anyone can do is help a child or young person at a moment of difficulty.*

*By the term 'carer' we refer to anyone who provides care or support to a child or young person. Burrun Dalai's foster care programs consist of short, medium and long term care but may alter depending on circumstances with the child and their natural family. Burrun Dalai staff advocates with Community Services on behalf of the child or young person to arrange ongoing contact or possible restoration with their birth family.*

*There are many types of care and carer's. In the end you may find that the job is not for you. You need to be sure you want to do it and feel confident that you are able to do so. It's a very big commitment.*

*We like to talk through the carer's role and ask you to work with us on deciding if it is the role for you. We do this by conducting home visits, where experience staff will come and discuss any questions you might have regarding Out of Home Care and start the assessment process.*

*Burrun Dalai assures you that it will maintain the rights of all clients to confidentiality and privacy in all its activities. Burrun Dalai will develop clear protocols for sharing information with outside agencies on a need to know basis*

*If you feel you would like a home visit then please contact our team on (02) 65621913, who will book a suitable time to come and see you.*

# Burrun Dalai's Vision

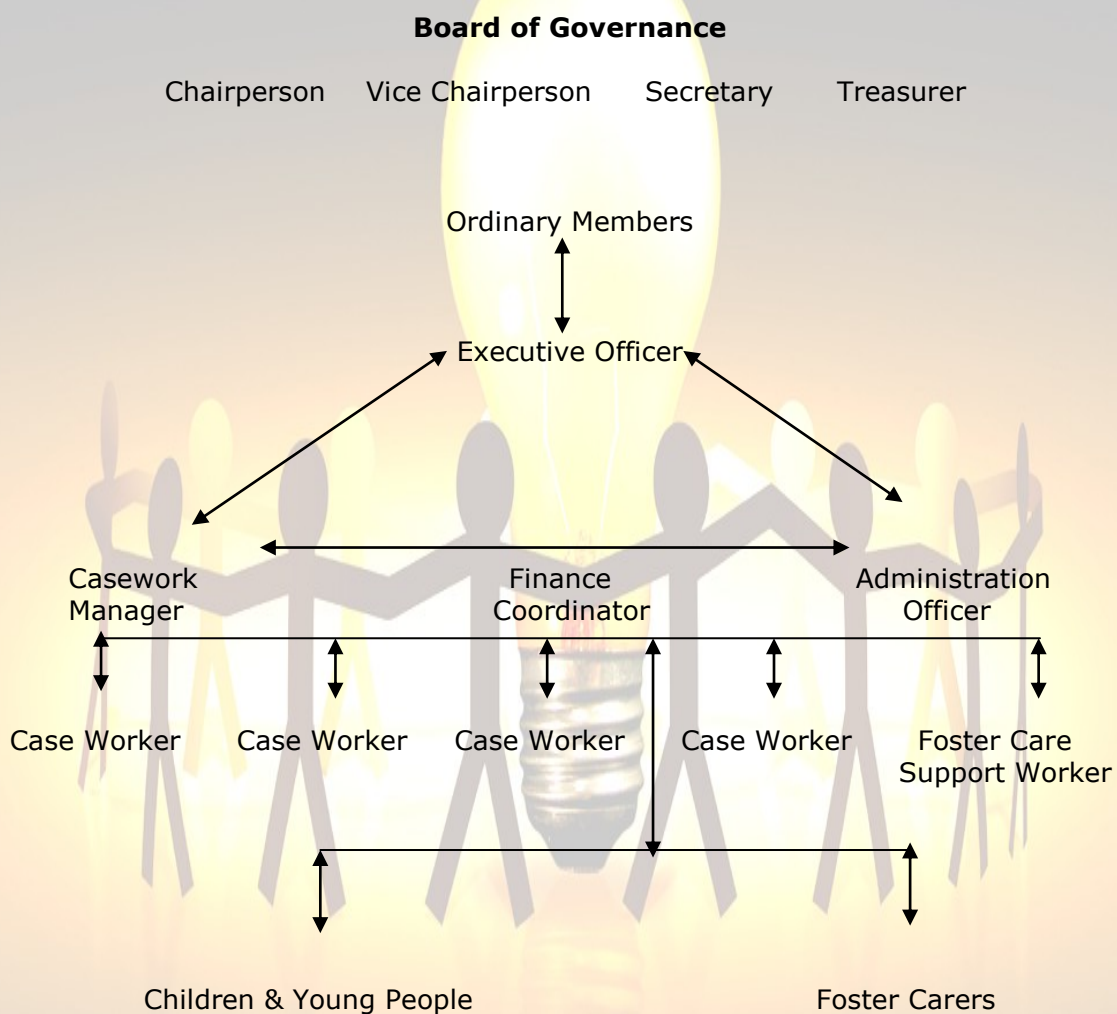
Burrun Dalai's Vision is to maintain Aboriginal family values that have traditionally involved the extended family members and community members in the care and development of children. That's why it is important that our carer's or one carer in a family is Aboriginal. There is nothing new in what we are doing, but we must recognise that supporting families in today's society can be very difficult.

This is where Burrun Dalai comes in . . .



(Out of Home Care or Foster Care are terms used, when another person will provide the care of the child/young person, when the birth parent/s are unable to provide for their child or young person themselves, for various reasons.)

# BURRUN DALAI OOHHC & FSS



**Aboriginal Communities**

# Burrun Dalai's Objectives

- To support Aboriginal families & their children by providing respite and crisis care



- To assist in keeping children and young people in their families and communities



- To provide out of home care as a last resort and only when such care is in the best interest of the child or young person



- To limit foster care to the shortest time where possible so as not to jeopardise family relationships



- To support the foster family to provide the best possible care to best meet the unique needs of the child or young person



- To protect children and young people from abuse and exploitation by offering a place of safety in times when it is needed



- To meet the child or young person's physical, social, emotional, educational, and cultural needs whilst within a Burrun Dalai program

# Burrn Dalai Service Area

Burrn Dalai services the Kempsey Shire and right up the coast to Nambucca Heads. It's area takes in all the Aboriginal Communities of the Macleay Valley including Kempsey, Greenhill, Burnt Bridge, New Burnt Bridge Pipers Creek road, South and North and East Kempsey, Bellbrook, South West Rocks, Frederickton, Hat Head, Crescent Head, Stuarts Point, Macksville, Bowraville and Nambucca Heads.

## Macleay Valley



# What Makes A Good Burrun Dalai Carer?

Foster Care is for a planned period of time, there is respite care, long term, medium term and short term care. Matching children and young people with the right carers is very important. We need different types of people who will be able to meet different needs. The following characteristics are important for all our carers:

- Maintaining and support cultural identity and attachments
- A commitment to providing good care for children and young people emotionally and physically.
- A good understanding of why children come into care and about their needs.
- Good relationships with other adults, young people and children.
- Good parenting skills based on understanding the needs of children and young people.
- Homes and families open to others.
- Willingness to provide a warm, trusting, nurturing and caring environment.
- Ability to provide a safe, clean and healthy home environment.
- Willingness and commitment to attend to the child's/young person's needs when in care. For example: medical and educational.
- Ability to remain calm and have a good sense of humour.
- Ability to work in a team partnership with Burrun Dalai staff and other service providers, in caring for children/young people.
- Willingness to make a commitment to personal training and to developing skills.

You may not have all of these characteristics but that is what our assessment and training process is for. During the training you can make your own judgement about your suitability for particular tasks as you work with us. We will help you develop the right skills.

All carers need to have a police check. This is required for all people providing care. If you have had a minor offence in the past this should not prevent you from applying. Burrun Dalai will assess each case on its own merits.

# The Benefits of Becoming A Carer

There are clearly great benefits for children, young people and their families who we assist through out of home care. For many children & young people the right care can help them get on with their lives and feel good about themselves. There are also benefits for you and your family in providing care.

## Benefits to those who provide care



- ⇒ Positive assistance for a child or young person and their family at a time when they really need it
- ⇒ Helping the child to develop new positive, safe, relationships
- ⇒ Building the child's self esteem and hope for the future
- ⇒ Enabling the child to view the world in positive hopeful way
- ⇒ Allowing parents and children to become aware of their choices
- ⇒ Helping the child to develop healthy problem solving skills

## Benefits to you and your family

- ⇒ A feeling of satisfaction in giving to your community
- ⇒ Knowing you have helped a family, a child or young person when they needed it
- ⇒ Maintaining cultural values
- ⇒ Learning to manage what is different-sometimes challenging but always rewarding
- ⇒ Learning about care through ongoing training and support
- ⇒ Developing new relationships for yourself and family skills





# Carer Rights & Responsibilities

A Carer has rights as well as responsibilities . You cannot be asked to do things beyond your capacity and Burrun Dalai will help you work out how to manage each challenge.

As a Carer you have the right to:

Be given information about the child or young person in your care that is relevant for you to decide whether you can accept the placement. Burrun Dalai will provide this in line with its confidentiality policy.

Say "no" to a proposed placement

The right to a suitable placement, with consideration of personal preference, temperament, life experience and employment background.

Participate in the decision making process, e.g. attend case conferences.

Make certain decisions regarding the day-to-day care and control of the child or young person.

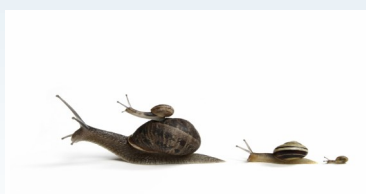
In some circumstances, be indemnified if the child or young person placed by Community Services in your care causes deliberate or accidental loss or damage to property or personal injury to you as a carer.

Receive information about foster care services that can support you in your role as a carer.

Receive help to access community services or local supports so that you can better meet the needs of the child or young person.

Be informed about how Burrun Dalai decisions may be reviewed and how you can make a complaint

Be provided with an allowance to assist you to provide for the child or young person.



# Expectations of Carers

Carer's should be prepared to meet the following important expectations about how you respond to the child or young person.

Confidentiality of information relating to the child or young person and family.

Involving the child or young person in your day to day family life.

To be patient, perceptive, flexible, creative and resourceful.

To be a positive role model to the child or young person.

To manage and supervise the child's behaviour.

To maintain communication with the child.

To attend training sessions when this is required.

To be committed and reliable in terms of the plan for the child/young persons future.

To give Burrun Dalai notice if any circumstances change

To be non-judgmental about the child or young person.

To conduct oneself thoughtfully and to treat children with dignity and integrity.

To report any incidents or concerns to Burrun Dalai as soon as possible.

To work as a team member in providing care for the child/young person, keeping in mind that others need to work with the child and family as well.

To have an understanding of and abide by Burrun Dalai's policies and procedures.

To promote positive relationships between the child, the child's natural family and Community Service.

To maintain the child/young persons culture and identity.

# Making a Decision on a Carer's Role

The decision about becoming a carer is a big one but each person must consider the following:

Carer's don't need to have a mansion but must have adequate room in their homes, and maintain a hygienic, healthy and safe environment for the child/young person.

If transporting children, carer's vehicles must be insured and where necessary suitable vehicle restraints fitted.

Carers must have an understanding of Aboriginal culture and use appropriate language practices.

If necessary, some carers may be asked to make small alterations to their home regarding safety issues.

Carer's must be willing to obtain a First Aid Certificate. Training for this will be provided by Burrun Dalai.

Carer's must be willing to undergo the initial assessment and training prior to being accredited as a carer and also endeavour to attend all on going training.

Any children in the family must be aware of the parent's intentions to have children or young people in care in the home and must be willing to cooperate with this.

All Carer's, and anyone over 14 living in the home must be willing to undertake a criminal record check..

Carer's Must understand that to become a Carer you do so in the best interest for the child or Young person and not for financial gain.

# Why Become A Carer For Burrun Dalai?

At Burrun Dalai we firmly believe that foster care needs to be a team approach, at Burrun Dalai as a carer you will definitely be a part of a team and you will receive:



A Burrun Dalai Caseworker will be allocated so you know who to contact when needed



Burrun Dalai has a 24 hour on call service to support you if a crisis arises so you won't be expected to manage alone



Burrun Dalai will provide you with the necessary training to help you become the best foster carer you can



A carers allowance that ranges according to age from \$210.00 to \$380 paid weekly.



A clear case plan to identify the needs of the child and details of the things we can do together to create the best outcomes

# Carer Flowchart

Becoming a carer involves a number of steps. You have taken the steps by making the inquiry. If you have phoned us we have registered your interest. We would like you to read this kit carefully, and complete the forms included. Once you have done this please return them to the Burrun Dalai office at Level 1, 21-23 Clyde Street, Kempsey or phone us on 65621913 and we will come and pick them up.

After you complete your form we will conduct a home visit and start the assessment process, this can take some time, so please be Patient, we have legal requirements we must meet.

You will then be invited to Participate in foster carer training.

The assessment and training is not something that you pass or fail, it is rather a process that identifies for us if you are ready to be a foster carer, if there are further step you may need to take before you become a carer or if you may not at this time be suitable.

It can be a very enjoyable journey. We hope that you will learn a little bit more about children & young people and perhaps yourself and your family.

Remember what we are looking for is a partnership in caring for Aboriginal children and young people in their own communities.

1

You contact Burrun Dalai or Burrun Dalai Contacts you

2

We register your interest

3

You receive an information package, complete the forms and return them for processing

4

We organise initial home visits with you

5

You participate in initial training

6

Burrun Dalai undertakes and finalises your assessment

7

Burrun Dalai authorises you as a carer

8

A child or young person may be placed with your family

9

Burrun Dalai provides ongoing training

10

Burrun Dalai provides ongoing carer support

Write Any Questions You May Have Here?

