

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Friday, 24 June 2022**

### New partnership launched to support Muslim children in care

Barnardos Australia and My Foster Family have joined forces to improve the experience of Muslim children in foster care.

At the official launch held yesterday at the Barnardos Auburn Children's Family Centre, representatives from Barnardos and My Foster Family came together to announce the partnership and what it will mean for Muslim children in the foster care system.

Barnardos Australia CEO Deirdre Cheers said "We are thrilled to partner with My Foster Family as part of our commitment to keeping children connected to their family, culture & community. We understand the need for Muslim children to be cared for a way which respects their faith. The community connections and cultural training that My Foster Family provides will be invaluable to both our Muslim and non-Muslim carers. We look forward to building a strong relationship and connection to the community through this partnership which will help us achieve positive outcomes for our children, young people and families."

My Foster Family (MFF) was created to support Muslim children in finding exceptional foster carers who can provide stability, support and love to a child. MFF advocate for the needs of Muslim children in the system and provide cultural humility training for carers to learn how to better cater for Muslim foster children.

"We are really excited about working with Barnardos and the benefits this partnership will bring to the Muslim community. This collaboration will form an integral part of delivering a high-quality service that meets a strong community need. The synergies between both organisations will bring together industry leaders, best practice, and a deep cultural understanding that will have a positive impact in the multicultural foster care space." Ahmad Malas, Director, My Foster Family said.

Barnardos vision is to empower every child in Australia to reach their full potential and believe a positive identity and sense of belonging is essential for vulnerable children to recover and thrive.

Both Barnardos and My Foster Family recognise the need for children to be able to practice and understand their faith. It is hoped that this partnership will encourage more foster carers to come forward

from within the Muslim community as well as providing non-Muslim carers with support in meeting the needs of Muslim children who are under their care.

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For more information or to arrange media interviews, contact:

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About Barnardos Australia [barnardos.org.au](http://barnardos.org.au)

Barnardos Australia is here because every child needs a champion. We listen, we act, and we advocate for the safety of children at risk of abuse and neglect, providing family support programs and services that empower children to reach their full potential. When it comes to protecting vulnerable children from abuse, we never give up. We are dedicated to the prevention of trauma in children, and support families to be the best parents they can be. We help children to recover and thrive, and we find safe homes for them through foster care and open adoption.

About My Foster Family [fosterfamily.org.au](http://fosterfamily.org.au)

My Foster Family was created to raise awareness in the Muslim Community of the need for safe homes for children and to find exceptional Muslim foster carers who can provide stability, support and love to a child. MFF is committed to support every Muslim child who has faced separation from their families and empower carers to give back to the community and support the growth and development of a foster child. My Foster Family aims to assist both Muslim and Non-Muslim carers and support them to thrive in providing a nurturing, stable and loving environment which also fits in with a child's religious and cultural needs. This enables foster children to protect their identity and further excel in life.