



# Hosting Family Visits.

## A practical way to support family restoration.

Family visits are an important part of the process of working towards restoration for families who've been separated.

Decisions around the frequency and type of visits are made by the Department of Child Protection and the Courts. While these decisions are not ours to determine, there is a beautiful opportunity to actively support children in care, birth parents, Out-of-Home Care organisations and Child Protection Departments, through offering safe, friendly, well-equipped, all-weather spaces that provide a great option for families and workers to meet on a regular basis.

This is a simple but significant opportunity to play a role in the Out-of-Home Care space within your community, showing organisations that you value the role they play, showing kids and families that you support them, and offering what you've got to bless others.

**Is this something your church can offer?**



## Some questions to start with:

- Does your church have a secure indoor/outdoor play area with suitable toys or activities for kids?
- Can it be made available on a regular, consistent basis?
- Is it warm and inviting (does it feel more like a home than an office)?
- Does it have its own entrance?
- Is there signage to the specific space so that it's easy for someone new to find it?
- Is it accessible for people with disabilities?
- Is there access to toilets and a change table?
- Will it be private e.g. without others walking through, interrupting, or conducting other activities in the same space?
- Who will the primary contact person be?
- Do you have someone who can manage the scheduling of the venue?
- Do you have someone who can ensure the space is always clean?
- Can the space be 'ready to go', ideally not needing a lot of set up or pack down?
- Are church leadership and staff supportive of the idea?

You'll need to determine whether there are offices of Child Protection or Out-of-Home Care Organisations located in your local area.

(Find links on the Homeward Project website or in the *'Make it Local'* resource).

Contact them to have a conversation about the possibilities.



## Some questions to ask the Organisation or Department:

- Who is the primary contact person?
- What days and times will the venue need to be available?
- How do they need the space to be set up?
- What toys/equipment are appropriate?
- Will they bring their own things?
- Is there any information, context or protocols that you need to be aware of?
- Do they need a staff member around to help with anything?

If you're connecting with a Community Organisation, we recommend checking out the 'Make It Local' resource to consider the full range of ways you can partner together and provide support for carers and kids in care. Such as:

- Is there anything else they might be able to utilize your facilities for e.g. a family Christmas party, Carer Support Group or Training workshops?
- What other support could be offered e.g. can you contribute gifts to kids and families through your Christmas campaign?
- Are there other programs the organisation facilitates that you might be able to recruit volunteers for?



### **The Homeward Project**

is a movement of Australian Christians committed to better outcomes for children and families with an experience of the Out-of-Home Care system.

The Homeward Project provides a bridge between the child protection system and the local Church, offering resources and opportunities to grow in depth and reach and make a difference where it's really needed in our communities.

**For more information and resources visit**  
**[homewardproject.org](http://homewardproject.org)**

