



Prayer Guide.

Being Spirit-fuelled in our mission.

Any efforts to bring the light of Jesus into hard places should be inspired, guided, and sustained by prayer.

Prayer is perhaps the greatest contribution we can give towards seeing God's Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven within the child protection system, families experiencing separation, and our churches.

God wants to engage us as an answer to our own prayers. So, as we pray, we should be prepared to be led by Jesus into active mission in areas of brokenness and pain, requiring intimacy with God to guide, energise, and sustain us.

"We tend to use prayer as our last resort but God wants it to be our first line of defence. We pray when there's nothing else we can do but God wants us to pray before we do anything at all." - Oswald Chambers

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A CARE EXPERIENCE

Pray for...

- Children and young people who have been, or are at risk of being, separated from their family.
- Decisions about care placements to be made efficiently and effectively, in the best interest of children.
- Placement stability and not having to have multiple placements before finding a forever family.
- Siblings to be able to remain together.
- Loving, attuned carers who can provide environments to support secure attachment and healing from trauma and loss.
- Young people navigating teenage years, planning towards independence, and leaving care.
- A supportive network of relationships in the local community.
- The effective care and wellbeing of young people living in residential care.



BIRTH FAMILIES

Pray for...

- Families doing it tough and at risk of separation.
- Parents grieving the loss of their children.
- Parents frustrated with a difficult system.
- Healing, wholeness and reunification of families.
- Supportive relationships and connections to help overcome barriers to parents providing safety and nurture for their children.
- Against treatment or stereotypes from case managers and care families.

CARE FAMILIES

Pray for...

- Foster care, kinship care, permanent care, guardianship or adoptive families, and families providing informal care.
- Capacity for attuned, trauma-informed caregiving/parenting.
- Resilience, wellbeing and patience navigating the system.
- Supportive and responsive case managers and effective communication.
- Holistic support and the willingness to accept help.
- Understanding communities to provide a welcoming, safe space for kids in care.
- Capacity to trust in God's guidance of every child's case and healing for the heartbreak of saying goodbye.

OUT-OF-HOME CARE ORGANISATIONS

Pray for...

- Case managers wellbeing and resilience while working under stressful conditions.
- Organisational leaders to govern effectively to enable positive outcomes for children, young people, birth families and carers.
- Effective coordination of, and collaboration between, programs and services.
- Compassion despite the pressure of a high workload and an imperfect system.



THE GOVERNMENT

Pray for...

- Allocation of funding to the right areas and where its most needed.
- Wisdom for Case Managers and Courts making decisions about children's cases.
- Policy makers and effective policy that centres the needs of children and promotes their best interests.
- Effective coordination and ongoing improvement of vital services.

CHURCHES

Pray for...

- Churches to be safe places of welcome for those with an experience of the out-of-home care system.
- The development and growth of loving, interconnected communities of faith that model the Kingdom.
- The encouragement of people to consider Foster Care.
- The provision of holistic, ongoing support for carers.
- Understanding of those with a care experiences.
- Effective engagement with local community organisations.
- Local churches to reach their local community with the light and love of Jesus and the power of a transformative Gospel.

RECONCILIATION & RESTORATION

Pray for...

- Effective responses to inequality and injustice that creates vulnerability and leads to family breakdown and separation.
- The safe and sustainable reunification of families who have experienced separation.
- Healing of trauma in individual lives and in families.
- Healing in our own lives from our past experiences and family histories.
- Grace, partnership, collaboration and unity amongst all those working for the best interests of children and young people.
- Increased capacity for connection, emotional maturity, and providing healing support for others.



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

