

Being a volunteer with Families SA

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Families SA.

Our volunteers help us by supporting and assisting vulnerable children and their families. We hope the following information will be of assistance to you.

How you can help

Here are some ideas you may like to consider:

- **Transport:** driving a child to family visits, respite care, school, appointments
- **Individual or group support:** helping with homework or participating in activities with children such as craft, music or outdoor activities
- **Life story work:** assisting with scrapbooking young children's 'memory pages'
- **Promotional activities:** being involved in promoting the services of Families SA during specific theme weeks such as Youth Week or Child Protection Week
- **Recreational activities:** helping with fun days or picnics with a child, group of young people or with their families
- **Skills developments:** teaching or sharing a particular skill such as literacy, music, how to shop for food or clothes.

Our volunteer program is expanding to include local offices as well as our residential care and guardianship support services. We are always interested in hearing ideas for new ways our volunteers can assist.

Volunteering is a two-way process – you should get some rewards for the commitment you are giving as a volunteer.

Rewards may include:

- personal satisfaction and growth
- working with a team of people in a variety of tasks
- helping your community and vulnerable children
- social contact with a variety of people
- extending your skills and experience
- obtaining a reference or being able to ask the volunteer Coordinator to be a referee.

As a volunteer you are:

- provided with orientation and training, supervision and ongoing support
- reimbursed for mileage to and from the office and other out-of-pocket expenses. Government vehicles are used for the volunteer tasks and as a volunteer you are covered by the government volunteer's insurance cover
- required to undergo a criminal history check. For the criminal history check you will need to bring in your drivers licence and birth certificate (or extract) or a current passport. If you have changed your name then proof of name change also needs to be given (eg, marriage certificate). If you do not have these documents, the volunteer coordinator can help you with other accepted documents.

Orientation training occurs over three non-consecutive days and covers:

- information about Families SA and your rights and responsibilities as a volunteer
- skill building and self-awareness elements
- compulsory child safe environment training. If you have already completed this training a photocopy of your certificate of attainment can be given to the volunteer coordinator.

The role of your **volunteer coordinator** includes:

- being your support person
- organising ongoing appropriate training
- the administration of your volunteer work such as your appointment, review and regular supervision of volunteers.

As a volunteer **we ask you** to:

- maintain confidentiality of our young people and their families
- be reliable
- be available for a reasonable amount of time. This may be weekly, fortnightly or monthly on weekdays and / or weekends. We appreciate any time you are able to give and will try and work around your availability
- participate in training, support meetings and supervision.

For further questions, to arrange a meeting, or register your interest please contact:

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