



Creating Opportunities & Choice.

Host Volunteers

Hosting – It’s volunteering with a difference which makes a difference!

Interchange Outer East (IOE) provides programs and services to families who have a child or young adult with a disability, living in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Services began in 1982 and include respite care, recreation based services and post school options.

Interchange Outer East actively works to make connections between people. To foster a sense of inclusion and to create more opportunities for people to connect with their community. IOE works with other community agencies, businesses and groups.

Volunteers play a crucial role in the running of many Interchange programs and throughout the agency as a whole. If you live in Melbourne’s outer east and want to make a positive difference to

the lives of others in your community, you might like to consider becoming a Volunteer Host with Interchange

There are a wide range of hosting options; from sharing a full weekend to sharing a few hours with a child or teenager with a disability. We now even have a hosting program where the ‘littlies’ can take part – a sort of mini host program. There are many different hosting roles - as an additional and very important second family to a child, a supportive friend or mentor, or as a buddy who shares a common interest.

Whatever your hosting contribution you know you will be making a positive difference to the lives of everyone involved, especially your own.

Cheers,

Fred

Hosting - Something for Everyone

- For Children - it’s different experiences, new social contacts, involvement in a wider community and a break from home.
- For Families - it’s a rest from the carer role, time to unwind and enjoy those things in life that are difficult to do when their child is home.
- For Hosts – it’s a new family member, new experiences, an appreciation of their own family life, positive feelings. Hosting is just one way of putting something back into your local community.
- For Community – it’s greater awareness, understanding and acceptance of differences in people. An inclusive community is a healthier and happier community...a community where all members are valued.



*Being welcomed
and accepted
means so much!*

Who can host?

VOLUNTEER HOSTS come from all walks of life, all cultural backgrounds and all lifestyle situations.

Hosts can be singles or couples, male or female, with or without children of their own, young adults through to grandparents. Even family friends can be hosts – with the added security of being covered by our insurance policy.

No experience with disability is necessary just a willingness to accept and accommodate differences in people. Emphasis is placed on matching those with shared interests, training is provided and Interchange support and assistance is always available.

A small reimbursement is given to hosts annually to assist with any extra costs incurred. A Crimcheck, Working with Children Check and reference checks are completed prior to hosting.

While there is no set time frame for hosting, we ask that hosts are prepared to commit at least 12 months to their host match. This is due to the careful matching process and to give the relationship time to develop. And of course, there is no maximum time that a host match can last - our record so far is 31 years...and counting!

Host Camp

Every two years, Interchange invites all hosts, their families and host child(ren) on a weekend camp to have a special holiday together and celebrate their unique and valuable friendship.

How to Join

- Pick up the phone and dial (03) 9758 5522 to speak to Karen, Host Program Coordinator.
- Go online to www.ioe.org.au, email ioe@ioe.org.au, or check us out on Facebook.
- Come and say hello at 5-7 Yose St, Ferntree Gully, VIC.

“ *All in all, it's a great thing to do and gives us a great deal of satisfaction and joy.* ”

Hosting Snapshots



Download a copy of our **Factsheets** from our website www.ioe.org.au/media/publications/



Become a Friend of IOE today! Check out the website for more info or call Interchange on:
CALL: (03) 9758 5522



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INTERCHANGE OUTER EAST

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