



**Creating  
Opportunities  
& Choice.**

## Host Program

The Host Program matches a child with a disability, aged to 18 years, with a volunteer host who shares their home and time with that child on a regular basis.

Arrangements around actual periods of care are flexible, to fit in with the needs of family, child and host. However, Interchange encourages regular monthly visits, as this assists the relationship between the child and their host family to develop, so everyone feels comfortable and at ease with each other.

Initially the prospective host, the child and their family all meet, giving everyone the opportunity to get to know a little about each other. For the match process to continue, everyone must give their agreement. Hosts come from all cultural and religious backgrounds, lifestyle and

relationship situations and can be any age over 18 years. The role the host plays can also be very different – another 'family', friend, buddy – each host contributes in their unique way to the hosting program.

With the hosting program, parents have the reassurance that their child is being cared for in a loving and welcoming family or friendship situation. A CrimCheck, reference checks and home check are done on all prospective hosts and all hosts must also have a Working with Children clearance.

To enable them to provide the best possible care, hosts are provided with comprehensive information about their host child. Interchange believes that parents are the best source of information regarding the care of their child and open communication is encouraged between parents and hosts. Interchange staff provide ongoing support throughout the match.

## Quick Facts

- *Arrangements are flexible to suit families, individuals and host volunteers*
- *Host volunteers are carefully matched with children based on interests, experience, personality, availability and many other factors*
- *Interchange Outer East provides ongoing support throughout the hosting relationship.*
- *A CrimCheck, reference checks, interviews and home check are all carried out before host volunteers are registered.*





*Free respite,  
with benefits for  
everyone involved!*

## Hosting; Something for Everyone

Hosting is a simple yet effective program where everyone involved reaps the benefits.

### For Children

The host program provides opportunities for different experiences, new social contacts, involvement in a wider community and a break from home. It's the feeling of belonging and the excitement of making new friends and looking forward to spending time with their host.

### For Host Volunteers

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; it's volunteering with a difference that makes a difference!

### 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 your child is home.

It's an opportunity to spend quality time

with other siblings and family members, without the need to care for your child with higher needs. It's free respite, with the knowledge that your child is in a safe, caring environment with someone who enjoys spending time with them.

### 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.

### How to Join

For information on the host program, contact Karen Munzel, Host Program Coordinator.

- Email: [ioe@ioe.org.au](mailto:ioe@ioe.org.au)
- Phone: 9758 5522
- Check out the website [www.ioe.org.au](http://www.ioe.org.au) or come in and see us at 5-7 Yose St, Ferntree Gully VIC 3156.

## Hosting Snapshots



Download a copy of our **Factsheets** from our website [www.ioe.org.au/media/publications/](http://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**



[facebook.com/InterchangeOE](https://facebook.com/InterchangeOE)



[twitter.com/InterchangeOE](https://twitter.com/InterchangeOE)



[youtube.com/user/InterchangeOE](https://youtube.com/user/InterchangeOE)

## INTERCHANGE OUTER EAST

**A:** 5 - 7 Yose Street Ferntree Gully, Vic 3156

**P:** (03) 9758 5522 **F:** (03) 9758 5899

**E:** [ioe@ioe.org.au](mailto:ioe@ioe.org.au) **W:** [www.ioe.org.au](http://www.ioe.org.au)

**Emergency After Hours Number:** 0439 883 667