

Foster care

The Salvation Army Westcare have three foster care programs which provide safe care and support for babies, children and young people who are unable to live with their own families. On any one night the service provides care and support to over 96 babies, children and young people, with 24-hour support provided seven days per week.

Melton Foster Care provides foster care for up to 38 babies and children and currently has 25 caregiver families.

Kinship Care is where children and young people are cared for by their extended family, with assessment and support provided by the Melton Foster Care Program.

Adolescent Community Placement provides up to

41 adolescent foster care placements to young people aged 12-18 years, with some having high needs and currently have 34 caregiver families.

Circle Therapeutic Foster Care Program provides up to 4 placements to children & young people aged from birth to 18 with a focus on meeting the needs of children in a therapeutic care environment

In the current environment, with more children and young people entering care exhibiting complex needs and challenging behaviours, the recruitment and retention of carers is crucial.

Westcare currently have over 65 caregiver families across the three home based care programs, with many having been in this role for over five years, while

a proportion have been actively fostering for more than 10 years.

The Recruitment, Training and Development Service coordinate and lead the recruitment, assessment, training and on-going support activities for foster caregivers at Westcare and encourage interested mature aged students to apply or gain further information on fostering, especially those who are studying in a related field, such as social work or welfare, and can contact Gail on 9312 3544 for further details

Westcare recruits caregivers from the Western region of Melbourne, but there are similar programs across the state of Victoria so those interested in knowing more can call 1800 013 088



Contact Miss Cherie with questions about sex, love, relationship and anything in between via editor@utimes.com.au

Ho, ho, ho

Dear Miss Cherie,

You're going to think I'm crazy, you're going to think I'm really crazy but I am in love with my uni lecturer. Like, really in love. So in love that I've already named our children (we'll be having four, and then of course, Bobbi and Glenda, the twins.)

My friends say it's kind of disturbing that I hold such strong feelings for him because he's in his early 60s and according to them, bears remarkable comparison to Santa Claus. Um, is this weird?

Candy, Preston.

Hi Candy,

Please permit me a groan-worthy joke. So,

you're "Candy" (I can see you sighing in impatience and thinking, "Miss Cherie, just get over my name already and answer the bloody question) but anyways, would Candy want a sugar daddy? Sure sounds like it.

You want candy, Candy? So just bypass your lecturer to enjoy his impending retirement years and, seriously, forget him and walk to your closest milk bar instead and buy some M&Ms. You'd be much better off!

Bye! Love, Miss Cherie xo
PS... oh, you're still reading? That's right, I was meant to give you an answer...

OK, let's be short and sweet. Do not, PLEASE: for the love of God, for the love of Christmas, for the

love that makes zillions of optimistic little kiddies leave out milk and cookies one special evening, once a year, do not seduce Santa!

Candy-Cane, may I please encourage you to read Dickens' A Christmas Carol It's an excellent text that explores this very subject: the notion of someone being a Christmas Grinch and the redemption that can come from this.

Disclaimer: Miss Cherie holds no responsibility for any legal infringements that may occur as a result of her haphazard advice. Obviously, her opinion holds no medical, legal or ethical grounding and should be acted upon with much hesitation.



Add another limb to your family tree

Childhood memories can be given to underprivileged children by ordinary people from a range of backgrounds.

For more information on Salvation Army foster care placements call 9312 3544.