

# Board Member Opportunity

For a Young Person (Aged 18-26)  
to join the Australian Childhood Foundation



# An invitation to help shape change for Australia's children

**This role is for you if you want  
to help make a real difference  
— not just share your story.**

We are looking for a young person (aged 18-26) with lived experience of child abuse, family violence and/or disadvantage to join our Board. You do not need to have been on a board before to apply; we will provide mentoring and support to learn how to lead in this space. Your experiences, insights and perspectives are a form of **expertise**. This role is all about helping guide our organisation's future, ensuring our decisions are shaped by the real-life experiences, strengths and goals of the children and young people we exist to support.

This new voluntary position will strengthen our Board's leadership and accountability. By bringing your perspectives and knowledge, you will help us stay accountable and make sure our work is grounded in the realities of those who have been most affected by harm.

## About us

We are a national organisation working to prevent child abuse and family violence and to support healing for children, young people and families who have experienced trauma. We work alongside children and young people, families, communities and systems to create safer, fairer futures. Our work is guided by a strong commitment to children's rights, trauma informed practice and the belief that real and lasting change happens when the voices and experiences of those most affected are centred in leadership, decision making and systems change.

## Why this role exists

We want young people at the table where decisions are being made. Our 2030 Strategy focusses on protecting the rights of children and young people healing from trauma and transforming the systems meant to support them. This Board position seeks to turn that commitment into action, making sure our leadership and decisions are informed by what matters to children and young people at all levels of our organisation.



## What you'll bring

You do not need to have been on a Board before; we will support you to learn. We are looking for a young person who can:

- Draw on their lived (and living) experience to help the Board think differently and make better decisions.
- Challenge assumptions and offer new ideas on how we can improve as an organisation.
- Help us make sure our goals and policies align with the lived realities of children and young people and supports long term change.
- Support our commitment to being a trauma informed, culturally safe and inclusive place for everyone.

## What you'll do

As a Board member you will:

- Join Board meetings, planning sessions and sub-committees to share your thoughts and vote on important issues.
- Learn about how an organisation is run (legal and ethical responsibilities).
- Contribute constructively to Board discussions, drawing on your perspectives as a young person while maintaining appropriate boundaries and confidentiality.
- Help us stay focused on our values, 2030 vision and the voices of children and young people.

## Support and safety

Your wellbeing comes first. We know that lived experience roles need care and flexibility.

You will have:

- Tailored induction, ongoing mentoring and governance support.
- Trauma informed wellbeing supports and flexibility to ensure you feel safe and comfortable.
- A Board culture that values lived (and living) experience as expertise and shares responsibility for care and inclusion.
- Clear boundaries - you choose what you want to share and when. You never have to share your personal story unless you want to.



# Who can apply?

## You can apply if you:

- Are between 18-26 years of age
- Have lived experience of child abuse and/or family violence
- Want to help create safer, fairer futures with and for other children and young people
- Are curious to learn about governance and leadership

You don't need formal qualifications or leadership titles, just a willingness to show up, think big, and be part of change.

## Term and commitment

- Two-year term, renewable up to three terms
- Voluntary appointment with travel costs fully reimbursed
- Meetings are held bimonthly for 2 hours (4pm-6pm) in person (Melbourne, Victoria) and/or online
- A valid Working with Children Check is mandatory for all Board members



# How to apply

For a confidential conversation, please contact:



**Mark Thomas**  
Board Chair

OR



**Janise Mitchell**  
CEO

**T:** 0422 006 732  
**E:** [mark.thomas@mmtas.com.au](mailto:mark.thomas@mmtas.com.au)

**T:** 0409 740 868  
**E:** [jmitchell@childhood.org.au](mailto:jmitchell@childhood.org.au)

## Applications are to include:

- A current curriculum vitae (CV).
- A cover letter addressing why you would like to join our Board and the skills, experience, and knowledge you would bring.

Applications should be forwarded to [boardrecruitment@childhood.org.au](mailto:boardrecruitment@childhood.org.au)

**1300 381 581**  
**childhood.org.au**  
**boardrecruitment@childhood.org.au**



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