

# WE LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS VE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2017

### **Life Without Barriers join the 2017 Mardi Gras Parade & Celebrate our LGBTQI Foster Carers > Equality, Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion <**

At Life Without Barriers we celebrate equality, accessibility, diversity and inclusion, and this year we are proud and excited to demonstrate our commitment by marching in our first Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday 4 March.

Life Without Barriers (LWB) strives to champion opportunity and equality for all, so being part of such a public celebration to support the needs and wellbeing of our diverse community is a real honour.

“We are always looking for Foster Carers from diverse backgrounds including LGBTQI singles or couples, with or without children to share their heart, home and time with young people. Our Foster Carers need to be committed, trustworthy and resilient to guide young people into a positive future. By participating in the Mardi Gras Parade 2017, Life Without Barriers also puts LGBTQI equality firmly on our diversity and inclusion agenda,” says LWB Chief Executive Claire Robbs.

LWB’s involvement in the 2017 Mardi Gras provides an opportunity to:

- Show our support and commitment to fighting discrimination, and promoting and celebrating diversity at all levels within our community;
- Demonstrate LWB’s support for LGBTQI members of our family including clients, volunteers and employees; and
- Attract and encourage members of the LGBTQI community to register as Foster Carers with Life Without Barriers.

“We seek to explore new ways to support our diverse community as well as to attract and welcome a diverse workforce. By marching, we advocate for the elimination of all discrimination that may inhibit personal goals or life dreams. This is very much aligned to the work we do with our clients to support them to remove barriers from their own lives,” says Life Without Barriers Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Fiona Davies.

At Life Without Barriers, we already have a number of LGBTQI Foster Carers who are excited to be sharing their stories this Mardi Gras. Allow us to introduce you to Ted and Dave and Rebecca and Bree:

---

Life Without Barriers  
352 King Street  
Newcastle NSW 2300

T: 02 4033 4500  
E: [info@lwb.org.au](mailto:info@lwb.org.au)  
W: [www.lwb.org.au](http://www.lwb.org.au)

In the spirit of Reconciliation, Life Without Barriers acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this country, and their connection to land, water and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures and customs, and to Elders both past and present.

# WE LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS VE

“We both became carers as we have both struggled at different stages of our lives, regarding how as a gay couple we could have children of our own. We also believe we have a lot to offer children in need of care, in terms of love and security, as we have been together since 1979. On the 10th of January 2000, our first long term child arrived. We were the first gay male carers in the Northern Rivers and bursting with pride. We say go for it! Not only will you find it extremely rewarding but you will be making a great contribution to your community and particularly to the children in your care.”

**Dave & Ted, Fathers and Foster Carers (Bentley NSW)**

“We have two children of our own and one long term foster child. Life is busy, but full of joy! Life Without Barriers is LGBTQI friendly and has always been a great support to us as Foster Carers. Go into the fostering process with an open heart!”

**Rebecca & Bree, Mothers and Foster Carers (Blue Mountains NSW)**

**If you are interested in becoming a Foster Carer please contact Life Without Barriers via:**

**T.** 1300 592 227

**E.** [carers@lwb.org.au](mailto:carers@lwb.org.au)

**W.** [fostercare.lwb.org.au](http://fostercare.lwb.org.au)

**END**

**About Life Without Barriers:** Life Without Barriers (LWB) is one of Australia’s largest leading social purpose organisations, working in more than 300 communities across all states and territories. Its major areas of operations include family support and out-of-home care, mental health services, youth justice, disability services, community based aged care, homelessness services, support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and support to refugees and asylum seekers.

## **Media Enquiries**

Abby Edwards

External Communications, Media & Events Coordinator - Life Without Barriers

**E:** [abby.edwards@lwb.org.au](mailto:abby.edwards@lwb.org.au)

**T:** (02) 9307 9309 or 0472 821 808

## **Available Interviews**

- Ted & Dave – Gay foster carers & fathers
- Rebecca & Bree – Lesbian foster carers & mothers

## **Downloads:**

- Read Ted & Dave's full story by [CLICKING HERE](#)
- Download photo of Dave, Corina & Ted by [CLICKING HERE](#)
- Read Rebecca & Bree's full story by [CLICKING HERE](#)
- Download photo of Rebecca & Bree and their family by [CLICKING HERE](#)