



Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care



Queensland
Government

REPORTER

ISSUE 442 AUGUST 2020



Story Bridge, Brisbane

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MINISTER'S ARTICLE

Hello Everyone

Every child needs stability and certainty. It's what makes the job of foster and kinship carers so crucial to our kids who can't live at home safely.

And it's why it has been wonderful to tell the stories of just some of our foster carers like you, as we launch the next stage of our foster care recruitment campaign.

As we see the numbers of children needing to be taken into care, which is increasing as we emerge from COVID-19, it's also been pleasing to see more people already putting their hands up to take on the role that you do.

You may have seen recently I introduced legislation into the Parliament to more clearly articulate adoption is one of the permanency options in Queensland.

As you know this is already one of our options in Queensland for making sure that our vulnerable kids have a 'forever family'.

However, the Deputy Coroner, in handing down her findings into the death of Mason Jet Lee, recommended that this be "genuinely and routinely considered", and this is what the legislation will do.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, however, it will be the last option considered, and the principles of self-determination will apply.

I understand there are many and varied views about adoption and I would very much like to hear what you think.

What we've proposed will, in no way, take away from the important role foster and kinship carers will always play.

I am very keen to also hear your views on what you think about the other permanency options available for our vulnerable children, such as permanent care orders and long-term guardianship.

For example, whether we are making it straightforward enough for you to apply for these if you wish to, or your awareness of the permanency goals in your child's case plan.

Please email childsafety@ministerial.qld.gov.au if you'd like to share your thoughts on these or any other matters.

Lastly, a huge thank you, again, for everything you do.

Since we've been allowed to be out and about more with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Queensland, I have enjoyed re-connecting in person with carers and am always greatly humbled by your dedication and commitment.

You are truly magnificent.

Warm regards,

Di Farmer MP
Minister for Child Safety



Hi Everyone,

This has been an unbelievable year, something no one expected, almost the stuff of a fictional novel.

I hope you are getting back to what is being described as 'the new normal'. School is back, work is returning for many, and travel is good for within Queensland. All we can do is hope that as Queenslanders, we stay in the good position we are in at present concerning this virus, numbers very low or non-existent. I suppose it all depends on us as individuals doing our part.

In recent times our sector has unfortunately received the type of media attention we all hate to see. Death or harm to children is something we do not want. Child Safety is currently implementing recommendations that should make the future safer for all children in the community. As your peak body, QFKC will keep you up to date with all developments and changes.

Fast Representatives and the support staff employed by this Association are recording an increase in numbers of Foster and Kinship Carers requesting assistance and/or advice on a huge range of topics. Fast Representatives are your first point of call when requesting help. Their contact numbers are printed in this publication or can be found by visiting <https://qfkc.com.au/fast>.

On a lighter note, work has recommenced on verifying all the details for the 2020 Foster and Kinship Carers Conference scheduled for November 2020. We will be ensuring that the venue abides by any health regulations that may be in force later in the year. Also, we are establishing that all the workshop presenters and key note speakers are still available due to the revised date. Those who have registered will have had their registrations transferred to the new date. We are confident that this Conference will be an opportunity for us all to connect with others who share the same passion of caring and to look at new and interesting aspects of caring for children and young people.

Until next time, take care

Hazel Little
QFKC President



Hi Everyone,

Rather than talk about COVID and the fact that I would be happy to see the back of what has been such an unpleasant and unusual time for everyone, I thought I would talk about our children instead.

While we don't do much in fostering at the moment and are still waiting for a placement that is planned rather than referrals, being last on the list, we do have this amazing, crazy and very large blended family that includes, of course, our children who came into care with us many, many years ago and are now adults with children of their own.

Yes, as with all our children, we are mum and dad and the oldest has turned 40 this year. Yes, they do have families of origin and have relationships that are controlled by them, which helps to keep them safe emotionally. One of the significant reasons they have these stable relationships, is that, even when they were angry little people and teenagers at times, we not only climbed those mountains with them but also gave the messages to never close the door on their birth families no matter how angry they felt, and that we would support them when they wanted to explore connections to their birth families and would help keep them safe, even though at times we were not particularly happy with some of their family. They did not recognise the importance of this until they were adults, when they were able to come home or ring us and freely discuss their worries without being judged and more importantly, not judging their families no matter what we may have felt at the time. Some of our children continue to develop and explore these relationships and we will continue to support them through this journey.

As an organisation that exists to provide systems, teams and peer support for Queensland's 5500 Foster and Kinship Carer families and provide support for individual Foster and Kinship Care programs, we are very aware of the increased workload that our staff and

FAST volunteers are having to deal with for many reasons. We also facilitate the Queensland Foster Care Recruitment line and collect Exit Data from carers leaving the system. We provide some 15 modules of training for carers and staff as well as having a legal program available to carers. We do this with 5 casework staff, 4 in Brisbane and 1 in Townsville.



Our administration and business support all work as a team to try and ensure we provide the best possible service we can. This is all supported by a Management Committee who are all carers with more than 200 years of combined experience. While we are proud of the service we provide, we are also very aware that the system is growing and we are being stretched more than ever to try and meet that growing demand.

Yes, we are stretched and if we cannot secure further staff to undertake more and more tasks, then we will be left with no alternative but to reduce some of our activities such as training to ensure our casework staff continue to provide the services they do. Individual support and advocacy will not change however, we do feel disappointed that we may have to reduce other related services because of the lack of resources.

Check out our Facebook pages for up to date information as we look at more flexible ways in which to ensure carer support and advocacy services are and remain our priority.

Until next time.

Bryan Smith
Executive Director

NEWS AND VIEWS:

If anyone has news or date claimers that we can print in the Reporter, add to our website and post on e-news or on **Facebook**, please feel free to email this to admin@qfkc.com.au. We touch every part of the state and are happy to get your news out there. We also welcome your views. It is important that everyone has the opportunity to tell us about positive experiences while also highlighting any challenges that you see in our community. This helps us to better promote healthy and child focused change wherever needed.



Welcome

New QFKC Members

Jessica Anderson
Robyn Bent
Cheryl Brooks
Tony Brooks
Kristy Chapman
Michelle Easterbrook
Steven Elenius
Nikki Gallatly
Colin McLaren
Gayle McLaren
Peta Milne
Jen Munro
Kerri O'Connor
Nick Shanahan
Lorelle Shanahan



SERVICE SUPPORT MANAGER UPDATE

By the time you will be reading this edition of the Reporter, we will be in the last month of winter and eagerly anticipating the beautiful spring days that come with living in Queensland.

It has certainly been a year like no other and I am not sure whether the anticipation of what is happening around us has made the year go even faster, but to think we are already in the second half of 2020 is rather mind blowing. I am not sure there will be many who will be sad to see the back of 2020 quite honestly, however as a person who always tries to view a cup as half full rather than half empty, I will always view 2020 with mixed emotion.

The devastation that COVID19 has had on our world will be long lasting. So many people have lost their lives and so many more their livelihoods, however, for many people it has also brought perspective to our lives and taught us resilience, adaptability and capability. I set some goals this year due to a milestone birthday and one of them was to run the Gold Coast Marathon – I could have seen the cancellation of this event as a ‘get out of jail free card’ but instead I continued to train and completed the marathon solo. I had my family cheering me over the finish line with balloons, poppers and a 1st place ribbon, this will be a memory that I hold onto forever (for good and bad reasons!).

My biggest learning during this time as it relates to my role within QFKC has been the ability to have greater insight into the lives of Carers, as I found myself and my family’s actions being dictated to by government. I will take this experience and impact into my role in supporting and advocating on behalf of Carers into the future and ask that all those working in the Child Protection Sector reflect on this experience too. What it felt like to be told you could not go on a holiday, or have people in your home and your children could not participate in the activities they wanted to. While we wait for our lives to return to normal and for these decisions to lie entirely with us, we must always remember that for our Carer households, this is their everyday ‘normal’.

Statement of Commitment

QFKC has been extremely busy during this period in the space of project work, we are eagerly awaiting the finalised copy of the new and improved Statement of Commitment which has not been updated since October 2012. We have spent a lot of time ensuring this document would have the intended benefit for Carers and be seen as a relevant and respected tool. We envision Carers using the Statement of Commitment as a reference to ensure their rights as Carers are being upheld and they understand the roles and responsibilities that, not only come with being a Carer, but also those of Child Safety and Foster and Kinship Care Services.

QFKC have reached out to our FAST Reps as part of the consultation and development of the final document, so be rest assured that the final document will encompass the views of Carers. Once this final document is approved and released, QFKC will embed this into a new training resource that is currently being written by QFKC called ‘Triple R’. Essentially this training covers the Roles, Rights and Responsibilities of all key stakeholders in the Child Protection field, namely Carers, Child Safety and Foster and Kinship Care Services. The training more importantly also covers the introduction of the Human Rights Act 2019 and how this relates to Child Protection.

Welcome New FAST Reps

I am pleased to announce the addition of two new FAST Reps in the South West Region. Their bios have been included in this edition of the Reporter. Nikki Gallatly and Emma Bubeck come with many years of experience and we are super pleased to have them on board. QFKC are in the process of induction training with two additional Carers who have applied to be FAST Reps in the South East Region and Northern Region – so please keep a watchful eye out for updates of even more new FAST Reps in your area. Remember, if you are interested in being a FAST Rep for QFKC, please email me at carissa.inglis@qfkc.com.au to discuss the role further.

QFKC Training

QFKC have once again commenced face to face training and I have enjoyed getting back out there in the community to undertake this. If you are interested in attending training, please speak to your Foster and Kinship Care support worker about what we have to offer and visit our website at www.qfkc.com.au/training. QFKC does not have a training calendar, as we organise training on a needs basis.

Well that’s it for me – hope to see as many of you as possible at the QFKC Conference in November 2020 – let’s see the year out with a bang!



Carissa Inglis

QFKC Service Support Manager



NORTHERN REGION NEWS

Hello Members,

By the time you get to sit down and take 5 minutes to read over the Reporter, the children will all be well and truly back at school and hopefully attending sporting activities with a slight COVID spin to it all. The break from having to do all the extracurricular activities was nice, but it is great to see young people back attending their sport of choice.

As mentioned in the last edition of Reporter, the Innisfail “On Country” Kinship and Foster Carer Forum had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. A decision has been made that this will now take place sometime in 2021. The working party consisting of Elders, Child Safety, Agency staff, FAST Reps and QFKC all remain committed to this event, so be sure to watch this space.



Child Protection Week is coming up in the first week of September. There will be different events occurring around the State. Child Protection Week is an opportunity to raise awareness in the community about child protection in Queensland. For more information about events that are being held can be found by visiting the following website: <https://childprotectionweek.org.au/events/>.

As some may have already heard, there are some big changes happening in the Northern Region, specifically Townsville.

As from the 3rd of August there will be four different Child Safety Service Centres in Townsville instead of three. The breakdown of Child Safety Service Centres are as follows:

- **Townsville West & Charters Towers CSSC**- located at the site of the existing Thuringowa CSSC at 39 Blackhawk Boulevard, Thuringowa Central;
- **Townsville South & Burdekin CSSC**- located at the existing Townsville CSSC at Level 2, State Government Building, 187-209 Stanley Street, Townsville;
- **Townsville North & Hinchinbrook CSSC**- operating from Level 8, 445 Flinders Street, Townsville
- **Townsville Investigation and Assessment CSSC**- located at the site of the existing Aitkenvale CSSC at 71-77 Patrick Street, Aitkenvale.

Please be assured that Child Safety staff are working hard to ensure that there is minimal disruption to service delivery during this transition time. Should you have any questions about the changes please make contact with your fostering agency.

Till next time.

Jodie Baird

Case Officer, QFKC Townsville Office



Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Conference 2020

6 November 2020—8 November 2020

Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort
270 Ocean Drive
Twin Waters, QLD(AUS) 4564

6-8 November 2020



Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care



For further information please email: conference@qfkc.com.au

FairPlay vouchers

Empowering you to move



New round applications for FairPlay vouchers opened **6 July 2020**.

FairPlay vouchers assist eligible children and young people, aged 5 to 17, with a voucher that provides up to \$150 that can be used towards membership, registration or participation fees with registered physical activity providers. One voucher is available per eligible child per calendar year.

Foster and kinship carers can apply directly for a voucher, for a child or young person. Carers can also contact their local Child Safety Service Centre for information about how a referral agent can assist if carers are unable to apply for a voucher.

There are over 4,500 providers registered activity users across Queensland.

Applications close on **7 October 2020**. Vouchers expire on 11 November 2020 and must be presented to an activity provider by this date.

This is a great initiative that encourages children and young people to participate in sport and recreation activities in their local communities.

The full details, including eligibility requirements, how to apply and the activity provider directory are available on the Queensland Government website. <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/fairplay>



Reunification Resilience

'There are so many things I miss about her. But I am so grateful I get to miss them and I didn't miss out on knowing her. She is a treasure that I keep in my heart and someone I will always love'

<http://anothersmalladventure.blogspot.com/2012/10/how-to-say-goodbye-when-you-foster.html>



I am sure that one of the most asked questions of carers by friends, family and the community is 'how do you let them go?', usually followed by 'I couldn't foster, I would not be able to give them back up'.

Reunification in the space of foster care can be one of the most challenging aspects of being a carer, it can also be one of the most rewarding. This article will explore how care teams can work towards reunifications that are child-centred and where children are able to continue to experience ongoing relationships with people of significance to them.

The goal for most children who come into care is to be reunified safely with their family, the Child Protection Act 1999 centres on the right for children and young people to be raised with family and in the event that a child or young person must come into care, Child Safety must work alongside the family to assist them to meet case plan goal requirements so that their children can be safely returned to their care. The number of children in care continues to rise and the system simply cannot meet this continued growth, there are not enough foster and kinship care placements currently for more than 10,500 children and young people that are currently in care, a growth of over 50% in 15 years. It is therefore critical that we work closely with parents to meet case plan goals so that those children that can go home will go home and for those children that cannot go home, the system can offer them a long term permanent stable placement.

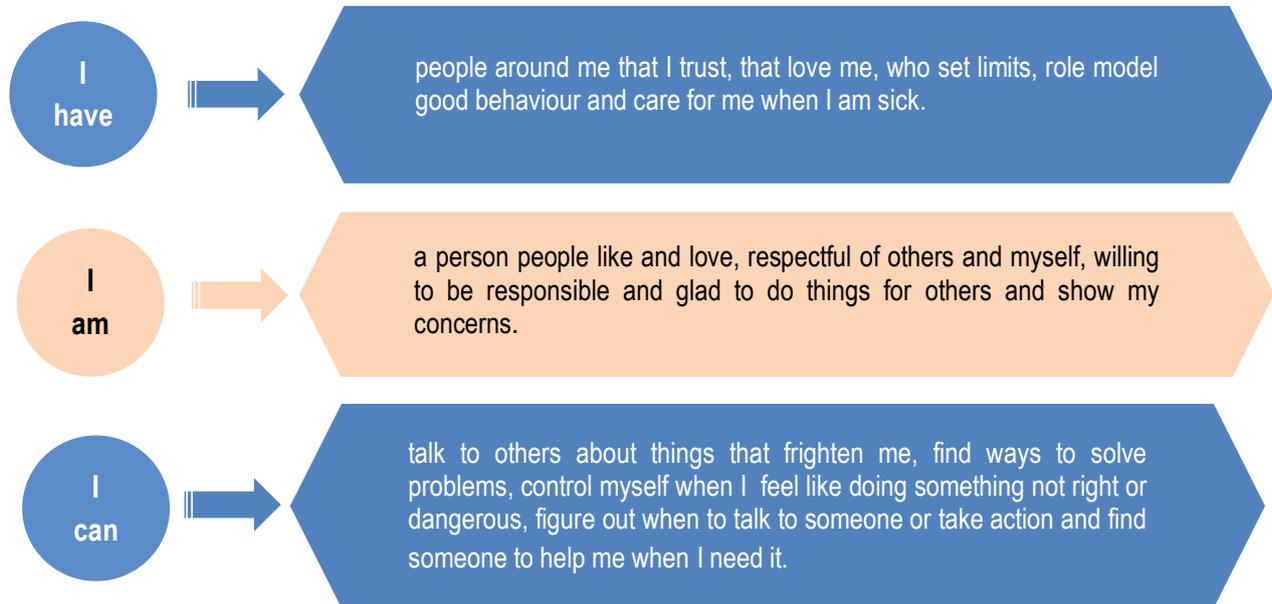
One of the most important roles of a carer is to help build resilience in children and young people placed in care. For many children that enter the care system, their sense of self-worth can be very much effected, their view of the world can be distorted and their sense of safety can be non-existent.

Children who enter into care are often operating in the 'flight, fight, freeze' part of their brain having never experienced a true sense of safety. It is critical first and foremost that the care a child experiences starts to alter this experience - remember a child will not feel safe just because they have left their home, they need to experience consistent care that meets the Statement of Standards and this will slowly but surely start to alter their perception of the world around them and what they can expect from adults. A sense of safety is not an action, it is a feeling.



Resilience

Edith H Grotberg has created a model for building resilience with children and young people and speaks of three main areas:



When considering the above in the space of Foster and Kinship Care - essentially this means:

- I have** - Carers help every child in care feel they have someone that is 'irrationally crazy about them' - remember the more 'irrationally crazy' people a child has the better. We want children to have a community of people around them that absolutely love them and will do anything for them and we hope that a birth parent will be this person for a child so they can be reunified safely.
- I am** - When a child has someone they can rely on and they can regulate their emotions, their self-esteem will build and they will come to feel they are worthy of love, they will begin to respect themselves and others and they will learn to be responsible for what they do. A child who does not have 'that person' or who cannot control their emotions, is unlikely to feel a sense of self.
- I can** - Children entering care who have experienced harm often are unable to self-regulate their emotions. As stated above, they operate in the 'fight, fright, freeze' model. A carer will need to spend a lot of time co-regulating a child to help them work through the intense emotions that come with having experienced harm. Through consistent safe and predictable care, a child will soon learn to self-regulate their emotions and will therefore learn the skill of 'I can'.

Our best hopes in caring for children and young people is that whilst Child Safety works alongside parents to build the very skills above in parents, that carers are building the same skills in their children so, when reunited the family has an overall sense of wellbeing. In building these skills in our families, we know that we provide an alternative world view for our families, one where they can set expectations around safety and wellbeing and when these are not met for any reason, that they have people to reach out to for help.





**Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care**

Notice of Meeting

Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Inc.

Annual General Meeting 2020

Date: Monday, 14th September 2020

Time: 11.00am

Location: Kedron Wavell Services Club

375 Hamilton Road, Chermside

Agenda:

- Receiving of the statement of income and expenditure, assets, liabilities and mortgages, charges, changes and securities affecting the property of the association for the last financial year
- Receiving the Auditor's Report on the financial affairs of the association for the last financial year
- Presenting the Audited Statement to the meeting for adoption
- Management Committee and Executive Directors Report
- QFKC Staff Reports
- Stepping down of current Committee Members
- Announcement of the elected members of the Management Committee of Management Committee
- Other Agenda Items

Following the meeting, light lunch will be provided

Please RSVP by Friday, 4th September 2020

REFER A CHILD

THE PYJAMA FOUNDATION'S LOVE OF LEARNING PROGRAM



ABOUT THE PYJAMA FOUNDATION

The Pyjama Foundation was founded in 2004 to give children in out of home care a positive adult mentor to empower them with learning, life skills, and confidence. The volunteer-based Love of Learning Program aims to support children with their learning and personal growth to help them achieve their dreams.

Community volunteers are matched with a child in care (aged 0-18 years) and spend one hour a week together at the child's home. When they visit, they focus on learning-based activities, such as reading books, playing educational games, and helping with homework. Most importantly, Pyjama Angels help to give the child they volunteer with confidence, fun, and valuable one-on-one time.

SUCCESS OF THE LOVE OF LEARNING PROGRAM

The Pyjama Foundation's Love of Learning Program has proven to be an effective assistance, as it supports children in care to form and sustain healthy relationships, gain improved educational success and increase their confidence and love of learning.

FEEDBACK FROM A CARER

"Jane is a very creative person who has introduced our child to reading, cooking, science and the arts - with enthusiasm and passion - something that we could never have done. Jane puts so much effort into the hour that she spends with our child. Jane's thoughtfulness and kindness shines through she has been such a good role model for our foster child."



HOW WE CAN SUPPORT CARERS

Not only does our Love of Learning Program benefit children, carers have mentioned that a Pyjama Angel visit can offer an hour of respite each week. The Pyjama Foundation recognises the amazing work done by foster carers, helping our community's most vulnerable children. We understand that carers are often dealing with a range of issues - so this is where we can come in to help.

REFER A CHILD

The Love of Learning Program currently operates across multiple regions throughout Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales. If you know of a child you think would benefit from this program, please fill out our online referral form at www.thepyjamafoundation.com/refer-a-child/.

www.thepyjamafoundation.com



PLACEMENT & SUPPORT TO 21

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAID

CREATE Foundation travelled across Queensland, speaking to 42 young people (aged 15-18) with a care experience to hear their thoughts and views about extending supported placements up to 21.

The majority (38/42) of young people felt that a supported placement should be available up to at least 21.

"I THINK IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR IT TO BE CHANGED TO 21. 18 IS NOT A GOOD AGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEAVING SCHOOL AND IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIND A JOB AND LIVE BY THEMSELVES...

LEAVING THE COMFORT OF A HOUSEHOLD AND ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD AT 18 TAKES AWAY YOUNG PEOPLE'S STABILITY WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST."

"18 IS WHEN CHILD SAFETY DROP ME. I NEED A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD."

"THEY SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN CHOICE TO STAY UNTIL THEY'RE 21 OR LEAVE WHEN THEY TURN 18."

Over two thirds of young people thought they should have the option to return to a supported placement.

Many young people did not feel confident in budgeting, getting a job and finding suitable accommodation.

"BETTER PREPARATION (IS NEEDED) . IT'S A BIT LATE. I'M NEARLY 18... HELP CONTROLLING MY URGES TO BUY STUFF AND MEAL PLANNING. IF I'M EATING ONE MEAL A DAY SUCCESSFULLY, I'M HAPPY."

One in five young people were unsure of where they'd live when they turned 18. This was higher for young people in residential care or youth detention .

"I'M IN HERE YOUTH DETENTION FOR 8 MONTHS AND ALL I WANT IS TO KNOW WHERE I'M GOING TO STAY WHEN I'M GETTING OUT. I'LL FIND OUT THE DAY BEFORE... HOW ABOUT I JUST GO BACK AND STAY IN 'JUVIE' FOR A FEW WEEKS. LAST TIME I GOT OUT, CHILD SAFETY...TOLD ME, 'SORRY YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO STAY. WE CAN'T PLACE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO HIGH RISK'... I FEEL IGNORED BY CHILD SAFETY."

"I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING TO STAY AFTER I TURN 18."

Over a third of young people shared that no one had spoken to them about where they'd live when they turned 18.

Many young people wanted to have more independence but still needed to have access to support services and networks through their transition to adulthood.

"INDEPENDENT BUT WITH SUPPORT... SOMEONE TO POP IN EVERY FEW DAYS..."

Some young people shared that they wanted to return to family at 18.

"MUM WANTS ME TO BE WITH HER. SHE MISSED OUT ON A LOT OF TIME WITH ME. I CAN'T AFFORD TO MOVE OUT."

For more information, contact
qld@create.org.au
or call (07) 3317 6020

www.create.org.au

Most young people felt that they were more likely to achieve better study, housing and employment outcomes if they stayed with a carer (than doing it independently).

Young people shared that they wanted help in accessing support services, life skills, housing and relationships.

"I WOULD LIKE TO STAY WITH A CARER TO HELP ME WITH MY BORDERLINE PERSONALITY AND POSSIBLE PTSD. THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND IT."

"I AM NOT READY. I HAVE NO MONEY AND I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH... TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY."

create
FOUNDATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



1. As a carer, how do I go about opening a bank account for a young person in my care?

Financial institutions vary in how they allow a child to open a bank account. The Department provides a practice guide to assist carers in understanding the process for young people in their care. Information can be found at the Department's website:

<https://cspm.csyw.qld.gov.au/getattachment/2354e3bf-423c-47f0-ad46-56fff7815ea0/pg-bank-accounts.pdf>

2. What is the Family Participation Program (FPP) and what does it do?

Family Participation Program services are run by independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations, and exists to support families to lead or make important decisions about the child or children in their care. The service can provide an independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander facilitator to support a family led decision making process. Information about this service can be found by visiting:

<https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/resources/dcsyw/child-family/child-family-reform/fpp-brochure-for-families.pdf> or alternatively emailing: ATSIffamilies@csyw.qld.gov.au for further information.

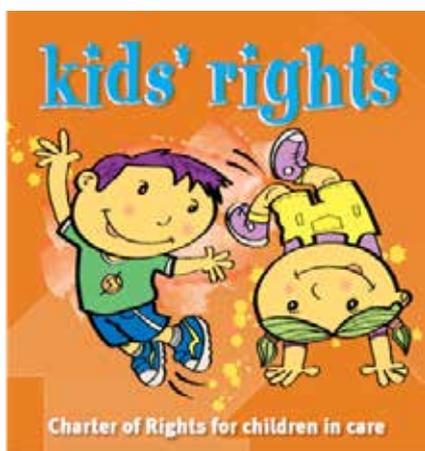
3. What is a 'duty of disclosure'?

This duty applies to the Director of Child Protection Litigation (DCPL), and means that there is a legal requirement to disclose, to each party to the proceeding (including the child's parents), all the documents that may be relevant in a case before the Children's court. For more information visit:

<https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/resources/childsafety/practice-manual/fact-sheet-duty-disclosure-carers.pdf>

4. Charter of Rights for Children in Care

The Charter of Rights is a resource for children in care giving young people information about their rights



whilst in care to ensure they are safe and protected in everything they do. Visit:

<https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/resources/dcsyw/child-family/foster-kinship-care/charter-kids-rights.pdf>

5. Where can I find more information about Support for Carers

Being a foster or kinship carer is a challenging role and can involve many stresses and pressures. It is therefore important to build a network of people around you who can provide both formal and informal support.

Child Safety and Disability Services and non-government foster and kinship care services are the main providers of formal support for carers. To find out more about the kinds of carer support and contacts visit:

<https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/resources/dcsyw/child-family/foster-kinship-care/fs-03-support-carers.pdf>

6. What happens if my circumstances change as a carer?

As carers, circumstances can and do change from time to time. If a significant change in a carer's circumstances has occurred or is expected to occur, the carer needs to inform the department to ensure they and their families continue to receive the support that they need and that any changes do not impact on their suitability as a carer, or on the young person or child in their care.

You must tell the department immediately if there is:

- a change in your household, for example, if someone moves in or out of your household or if you commence a new, or end an existing spousal relationship;
- a change in your criminal or personal history, or if you become aware of, or reasonably suspect there has been, a change in the criminal or personal history of a member of your household;
- an intention to provide care to other children, for example, family day care or relatives;
- a change in personal circumstances, for example, significant health problems or excessive employment demands;
- a change of address.

'Personal history' means a person's criminal, domestic violence and traffic history. The department will also check child protection history. These obligations apply to all approved carers.

Failure to report a change in your household or personal circumstances can result in penalties being applied. The department needs to know about any possible risks to the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person in your home.

If the department is aware of possible risks, you can work together to ensure the child or young person is safe.



TO CELEBRATE CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2020
CREATE ARE HOSTING AN...

ONLINE COOKING COMP

Join us for dinner!

RECIPE CARD, SHOPPING LIST & \$100 GIFT VOUCHER FOR EACH PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLD
JOIN US FOR A LOVELY MEAL, GAMES & A CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS WHO SUPPORT CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE. AND MAYBE A CELEBRITY CHEF...



ONLINE COOKING COMP

6:30PM, THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER - REGIONAL QLD
6:30PM FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER - NORTH QLD
6:30PM SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER - BRISBANE

In celebration of Child Protection Week, CREATE are hosting an online Masterchef style dinner, to find Queensland's best family chefs! Participating households will receive a recipe card, shopping list, and \$100 gift voucher to purchase the necessary ingredients to create a culinary masterpiece! This will be plated up and judged on the night. Each winning family will receive a \$100 Hello Fresh food box to hone their skills.

This event is only for children & young people in care and their families. Book your seat at the table today!

If you miss out on the online dinner parties, we have limited number of gift cards and recipes up for grabs. Also, send in a photo of your most healthy and creative dishes and go in the draw to win a \$100 Hello Fresh food box! Entries close on Sunday the 6 September. Winners will be announced during Child Protection Week, 6-12 September 2020.

RSVP before the 10 August to amy.jasper@create.org.au or call 0432 173 016. Bon appetit!



20
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IN CELEBRATION OF CHILD PROTECTION WEEK



ART COMP

ENTRIES OPEN
1 JULY
& CLOSE
31 AUGUST

\$500 PRIZE FOR
WINNER & LOADS
MORE PRIZES UP
FOR GRABS!

ENTRIES ONLY OPEN TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED DURING CHILD PROTECTION WEEK, 6-12 SEPTEMBER 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 3317 6020
PLEASE SEND ALL ENTRIES WITH SUBJECT LINE 'ART COMP' TO
QLD@CREATE.ORG.AU

ART COMP

ENTRIES CLOSE 31 AUGUST 2020

This competition is designed to encourage young artists from across Queensland to submit work for Child Protection Week 2020. Only entries from children and young people with a care experience will be accepted. Entries can be in any form you like: dance, painting, photography, drawing, video, sculpture etc. Get creating! :)

CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- SAFETY - WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL SAFE?
- PARTICIPATION - WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION MEAN TO YOU? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN DECISION MAKING?
- SHINE A LIGHT ON CHILDREN - DIY LAMP IN PROJECT
- REGIONAL - CELEBRATING AN AWESOME YOUNG ARTIST IN A REGIONAL AREA
- UNDER 12'S - CELEBRATING ARTISTS UNDER THE AGE OF 12
- REGIONAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUNG PEOPLE - CELEBRATING BOLDLY YOUNG QUEENSLAND ARTISTS.

(\$100 GFT CARD FOR WINNER OF EACH CATEGORY)

JUDGES SELECTION

- OVERALL WINNER - (\$500 GFT CARD)
- RUNNER UP - (\$100 GFT CARD)

DOZENS OF 'HIGHLY COMMENDABLE' PRIZES UP FOR GRABS TOO!
ENTER TODAY FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

WINNERS ANNOUNCED DURING CHILD PROTECTION WEEK, 6-12 SEPTEMBER 2020
PLEASE SEND ALL ENTRIES WITH SUBJECT LINE 'ART COMP' TO
QLD@CREATE.ORG.AU



Partners in Care

UPDATE

Congratulations on making it through another phase on our COVID-19 journey. Thank you for all of your flexibility and support in these extraordinary times. Each of you play such a valuable role in the lives of children and young people experiencing vulnerability. Your dedication, enthusiasm and insight is very inspiring. Thank you very much!

Foster Carer Recruitment

We're currently sharing real foster carer stories online and on TV to showcase our great foster carers and encourage more Queenslanders to apply to become a foster carer. We hope you will have a chat with the people you know about your role and encourage them to become foster carers too.

If you know someone interested in becoming a foster carer, they can visit qld.gov.au/fostercare or call Queensland Foster and Kinship Care on 1300 550 877.

Child Care Subsidy

As you may be aware the Federal Government has announced an end to the temporary Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package, introduced on 6 April 2020, to provide parents and carers with free childcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. The end of the relief package comes following the easing of our COVID-19 restrictions and an increase in demand for childcare.

From 13 July 2020, the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) returned, with some new transition measures to support the child care sector, parents and carers as they move back to the subsidy. It is important to make a claim for, and be eligible for CCS (even if your entitlement amount is zero), to minimise or avoid any out of pocket expenses.

You may also be eligible for the Additional Child Care Subsidy Child Wellbeing (ACCS Child Wellbeing). The ACCS (Child Wellbeing) provides a higher rate of assistance with the cost of child care. Your child care provider will need to submit this claim on your behalf.

Further information on how to claim the CCS can be found on the Federal Government's Service Australia

website: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy/how-claim>

Smoke Alarm Initiative

From 1 January 2017, changes were made to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 to make Queensland households safest in Australia in relation to fire safety. The new legislation will require all residential dwellings to have interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms installed in every bedroom, in connecting hallways and on each storey.

To comply with legislation, interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms are required:

- From 1 January 2017: in all new dwellings and substantially renovated dwellings (this applies to building applications submitted from 1 January 2017).
- From 1 January 2022: in all domestic dwellings leased and sold.
- From 1 January 2027: in all other domestic dwellings.

What does this mean for your home?

If you own your own home

The Queensland Government – through the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (CSYW) and the Department of Housing and Public Works (HPW), will work together to supply and install smoke alarms into those dwellings that are owned by eligible carers and are being used to provide care to children and young people in care arrangements.



If you are an approved foster or kinship carer providing full-time or respite care, and you own your own dwelling, you may be eligible for a compliant smoke alarm system in your dwelling at no cost.

HPW will manage the supply and installation of smoke alarms for eligible carers across Queensland. The schedule for works commenced in January 2018 and will finish in December 2021.



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Government



Partners in Care

UPDATE

If you are renting

If you are renting, the owner of the dwelling is responsible for meeting compliance requirements. From January 2022, all smoke alarms in rental properties must be:

- Photoelectric and interconnected
- Compliant with AS3786:2014
- Installed on each storey of the property and in all bedrooms and hallways
- Powered by mains power or non-removable 10-year lithium battery.

If you have questions, you may wish to contact your real estate agent or the property owner.

FairPlay vouchers now available

A new round of FairPlay vouchers opened for applications on 6 July 2020. This program assists Queensland children and young people aged 5 to 17 with the cost of membership, registration, or participation fees for activities with registered physical activity providers. There are over 4,500 providers in Queensland. Those eligible can apply for a voucher valued up to \$150 per calendar year. This round will hopefully see more children and young people getting back into sport and recreation activities in their local communities. For more information visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/fairplay>.



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OPG ADVOCATED FOR ANGELA TO GET THE HELP SHE NEEDED

The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) is an independent statutory office that promotes and protects the rights and interests of children and young people in the child protection system and in detention, disability and authorised mental health facilities. So, if you are caring for a child or young person through a foster or kinship care arrangement, an OPG' Community Visitor will visit them to ensure that the services being delivered by Government agencies are appropriate to support their wellbeing.

Community Visitors and Child Advocate Legal Officers also advocate for these children and young people to make sure they understand their rights, get information and are able to participate in decisions made about their lives. They also raise issues or complaints to help get a resolution for a child or young person.

To see how this works in practise, let's take a look at how OPG helped Angela to get the mental health support she needed.*

Angela is 15 years old and lives in a foster home. OPG's Community Visitor visited Angela as part of her regular visiting schedule. They talked about school, relationships and what has been going on in Angela's life recently. As Angela had a trusting relationship with her Community Visitor she felt comfortable to express that

she was feeling really upset about things that were happening in her life, and that she was struggling to get through each day.

The Community Visitor was worried about Angela and her mental health, so the Community Visitor asked if it would be ok to pass on Angela's worries to her Child Safety Officer (CSO). Angela agreed that this would be fine, but she also wanted to speak with her CSO directly about it too but was worried what they were going to say. So, the Community Visitor supported Angela to call her CSO and discuss her concerns and express how she felt. From this conversation, the CSO arranged supports and help for Angela to improve her mental health and wellbeing.



In this case example, it was the relationship that the Community Visitor had with Angela that resulted in her willingness to openly express her feelings and concerns about her life. The Community Visitor was concerned about Angela's mental health and appropriately escalated these issues to Child Safety to ensure Angela would get the help that she needs to support her wellbeing.

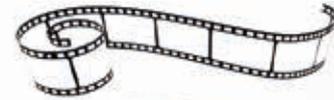
If you would like to find out more about the role of a Community Visitor and how they can help a child in your care, call us on 1300 653 187, email publicguardian@publicguardian.qld.gov.au or visit our website www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au

**This case study is provided as an example only and Taylor is not a real person.*

QUIZ!



By Danny Hemsley



1. Jennifer Beals is a Pittsburg steel-mill welder by day and dancer by night in which 1983 film?
2. Directed by Albert Magnoli and taking its name from the title of one of its star's songs, which 1984 film features the lead singer of a band call The Revolution?
3. Steven Spielberg and George Lucas teamed up to animate which 1988 much loved classic?
4. Spaceballs both starred and was directed by which actor?
5. Which 1980 golf-based slapstick comedy stars Chevy Chase and Rodney Dangerfield?
6. **True or False:** Marco Polo featured as a character in Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure?
7. Which pop star plays the main protagonist in the 1985 film 'Desperately Seeking Susan'?
8. Michael Keaton, Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis starred in which bizarre classic directed by Tim Burton?
9. In which film franchise does Eddie Murphy?
10. Which movie from 1988 star Julia Roberts, Matt Damon and Gene Amoroso?
 - a. Mystic River
 - b. Mystic Man
 - c. Mystic Pizza
 - d. Mystic Michael



1. Flashdance 2. Purple Rain 3. The Land before Time 4. Mel Brooks 5. Caddyshack
6. False 7. Madonna 8. Beetlejuice 9. Beverly Hills Cop 10. C - Mystic Pizza

Source: <https://pubquizquestionshq.com/categories/2020>



WELCOME NEW FAST REPS



Emma Bubeck
FAST Rep
South West Region

Hi Everyone, my name is Emma I have been a Foster Carer for 15yrs. Over that time it has taken me on an amazing journey and one that I would never change. If asked would I do it again 'absolutely' would be my answer. I have been a Foster Carer in three different states so have seen the challenges we all face across Australia, it is not just a State issue but is very much across the whole country. My passion has been reunification, the happiness you see and feel when a child and parent are reunited together again is just priceless. As a defence family it has been hard for us to commit to long term care but now, we are hopefully based permanently in Qld so that can all change which is exciting for our family.

My husband and I have five children of our own and two grandchildren who keep us very busy, on top off that we currently have six children who live with us permanently and three regular teenagers that we do respite for, we are loving the crazy, challenging world we have found ourselves living in at this moment.

I wanted to become a FAST Rep so I can help other carers navigate this minefield of a system that we all find ourselves in. I understand that it can be extremely overwhelming at times and often we find ourselves feeling alone, isolated and have no knowledge of where to look for help. Hopefully, I can be someone you feel you can contact even if you just need someone to talk to. I feel the system is slowly changing for the better and I look forward to working and supporting you all in the future.



Nikki Gallatly
FAST Rep
South West Region

Hello Everyone. My name is Nikki and I'm a new FAST Rep in the South West Region and have been a Foster Carer for nearly seven years. Originally I registered to provide respite only care but have also been a primary carer for around four years now, primarily for older children and young people.

It makes me feel incredibly proud to watch the children and young people in my care grow and thrive - it is definitely what keeps me going on the hard days. I have a professional background in Social Work and have worked in several organizations at various stages of the child protection system, including both early intervention services and foster and kinship care programs.

I look forward to getting to know other Carers and their stories, and hope I can provide helpful information and support when they need it.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

Foster and Kinship Carer after hours Support Line

The support line provides foster and kinship carers with access to after-hours support.

Phone: **1300 729 309**

Availability: Monday to Friday from 5pm to 11.30pm, and
Saturday and Sunday from 7am to 11.30pm.

Quality Family Based Care

For policy and program information about blue cards,
Foster and Kinship Carer Handbook & Training.

Phone: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

Foster Carer Recruitment line

For information about becoming a foster carer.

Phone: **1300 550 877**

Email: fostercare@communities.qld.gov.au

Central Screening Unit (CSU)

For information about criminal history checks and blue cards.

Phone: **(07) 3097 5600**

FAST REP CONTACTS

FAST areas	Representatives	Mobile	Phone	Email
Central Queensland	Lyndal Hughes	0417 744 959		lyndal.hughes@qfkc.com.au
Central Queensland	Tanya Watts	0455 100 294		watts-3@hotmail.com
Central Queensland	Adriana Durn	0403 275 078	4186 7609	adrianadurn61@gmail.com
Moreton	Aidyn Deleo	0432 009 905		aidyndeleo@gmail.com
Moreton	Maree Frampton	0428 453 859	5494 2786	bobframpton@hotmail.com
Moreton	Cheryal Higgins	0407 112 197		cheryal.higgins@qfkc.com.au
Moreton	Hazel Little	0412 457 705		littlehazel@bigpond.com
Moreton	Ian McIntyre	0421 693 999		Ianjacob_14@outlook.com
Northern Queensland	Rayleen Barlow	0499 366 825		raylenebarlow@yahoo.com.au
Northern Queensland	Sarah Grainer	0418 404 539	4033 0941	sarahgrainer@hotmail.com
Northern Queensland	Lee-Ann Davis-Collier	0499 119 782		leeanndaviscollier@gmail.com
Northern Queensland	Raymond Metzger	----	4093 3464	raymond.metzger@optusnet.com.au
Northern Queensland	Kerri O'Connor	0407 138 954	4749 0170	kerri.oconnor@qfkc.com.au
South East	Sandra Ehlers	0427 168 226		sandrat@live.com.au
South East	David Podger	0448 432 233		david.podger@qfkc.com.au
South East	Kathy Smith	0417 826 547		kathy@chicksconqueringcancer.org
South East	Katie Taylor	0418 788 122		tamborinetaylors@gmail.com
South West	Emma Bubeck	0438 321 973		aeajpkm@gmail.com
South West	Nikki Gallatly	0421 084 440		nikki.gallatly@gmail.com
South West	Cheryl Gill	0419 738 871	4162 7809	cheryl.gill@qfkc.com.au
South West	Mick Luke	0420 442 482	5464 3423	mick.luke@qfkc.com.au

Child Safety Service Centres

Moreton Region	South East Region	South West Region	Central Queensland Region	Northern Queensland Region
Alderley Caboolture Caloundra Cannon Hill Chermside Forest Lake (incl. Carole Park) Inala (incl. Bellbird Park, Camira, Gales, Goodna, Redbank) Maroochydore Morayfield Mount Gravatt Redcliffe Strathpine	Bayside Beaudesert Beenleigh Browns Plains Labrador Logan Central Loganlea Mermaid Beach Nerang	Charleville Ipswich North Ipswich South Roma South Burnett Springfield (incl. Bundamba, Dinmore & Swanbank) Toowoomba North Toowoomba South	Bowen Bundaberg Emerald Gladstone Gympie Mackay Maryborough Rockhampton	Aitkenvale Atherton Cairns Cape York North & TSI Cooktown Edmonton Innisfail Mt Isa-Gulf North Cairns & Lower Cape Thuringowa Thursday Island Townsville Weipa



**Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care**

OUR VISION

Leave no child in foster care behind.

OUR MISSION

Represent. Advocate. Inform.
Support. Excel.

OUR GOAL

To contribute to the development of an inclusive, responsive and fair foster care system.

WHO ARE WE?

Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Inc. is the non-government peak body for all Foster, Kinship and Provisionally Approved Carers. The organisation was founded in 1976 and today exists to support, advise and advocate for carers throughout the State.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER - Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Inc.
ABN 16 454 122 946

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Print Post Approved - 100021474