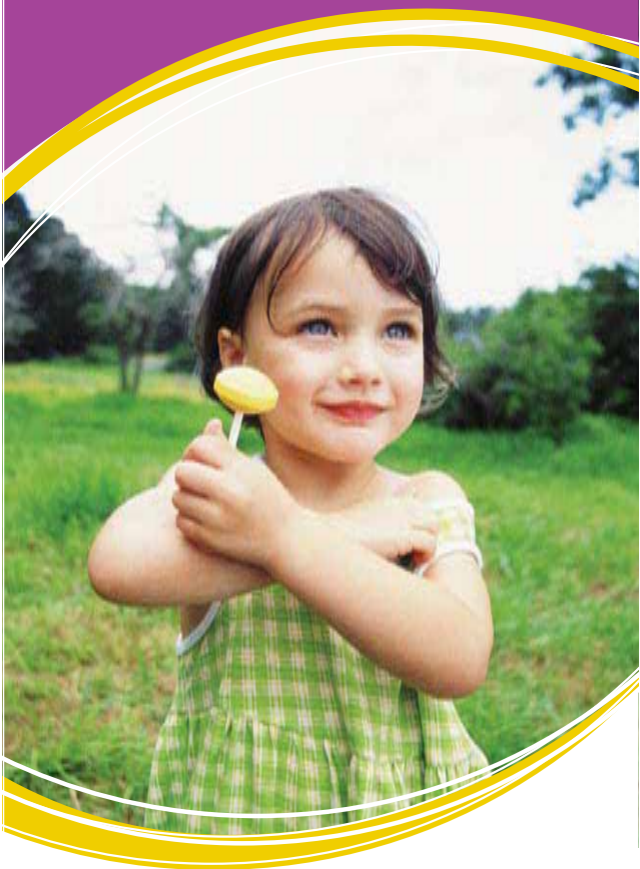


childsafety
Child protection... our first priority

Department of Child Safety
Who we are and what we do



Queensland Government
Department of **Child Safety**

Who we are

The Department of Child Safety is the Queensland Government agency for child protection and adoption services. It is dedicated to protecting Queensland's children and young people who have been subject to harm or are at risk of harm, and whose parents cannot provide adequate care or protection for them.

The department administers the *Child Protection Act 1999* and the *Adoption of Children Act 1964*.

What we do

The activities of the Department of Child Safety can be described in three broad service delivery areas:

- services for children and young people at risk
- services for children and young people in care
- adoption services.

The Department of Child Safety is responsible for ensuring vulnerable children and young people up to the age of 18 years in Queensland are safe and protected from harm when their parents cannot provide the necessary levels of care and protection.

The department has a commitment to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are cared for in a way that respects their culture and wherever possible are placed with extended family, community or Indigenous carers. The department's work is also sensitive to the needs of children and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Wherever possible, the department works to keep families together, offering counselling and support services to help families help themselves. In situations where children and young people need to be removed from their parents for their own safety, every effort is made to place them with extended family members.

When children or young people require out-of-home care, the department provides alternative care services for the child or young person and financial assistance to carer families.

Child protection

The Department of Child Safety is dedicated to protecting children and young people who have been harmed, or are at risk of harm.

What is important, in terms of child protection, is whether a child or young person:

- has suffered harm, is suffering harm, or is at risk of suffering harm
- does not have a parent or carer able and willing to protect them from harm.

The department's role in protecting children and young people is to:

- investigate concerns that a child or young person has been harmed, or is at risk of harm
- provide ongoing services to children and young people who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing harm.

When the child's parents are unable or unwilling to protect them, child protection services may be needed.

Protecting children and young people at risk of harm requires immediate and serious attention.

Effective protection of children and young people relies on community members reporting their concerns. This needs to occur in a timely way to prevent concerns becoming more serious.





Foster care

The Department of Child Safety has established partnerships with foster and kinship carers in the community to provide safe, supportive, quality care for children and young people, who for many reasons are unable to live with their parents for varying periods of time.

Individuals and organisations who provide care for children placed with them by the department are assessed and approved as suitable to care for these children. The department monitors the ongoing standards of care provided to children placed with foster and kinship carers.

Foster carers are everyday people from all walks of life who have an important and valued role in the community. They care for children of different ages, cultural and religious backgrounds.

Foster carers receive a range of support including special training, respite and financial allowances.

There is a constant need for carers in Queensland and we are continually recruiting new foster carers. If you are interested in becoming a foster carer, contact the Department of Child Safety on **1300 550 877** or visit our website **www.childsafety.qld.gov.au**

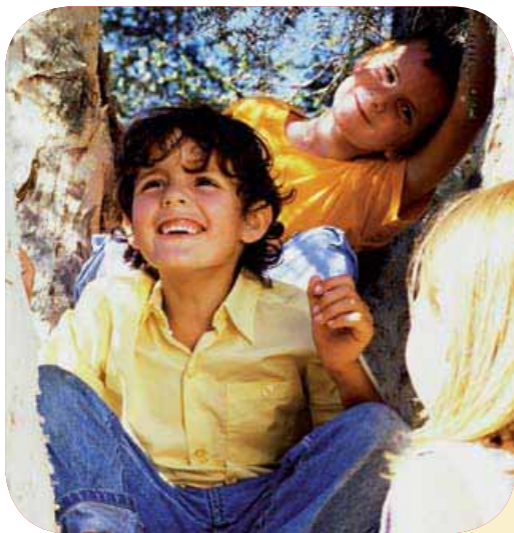
Adoption

The Department of Child Safety is responsible for administering adoption law and providing services to:

- parents considering adoption for their children
- children requiring adoptive placements
- people seeking to adopt children
- eligible adults seeking information about their own adoption or the adoption of their child.

The *Adoption of Children Act 1964* and the *Adoption of Children Regulation 1999* are the key laws governing adoption services. The welfare and best interests of children who require adoptive placements are the highest priority of this work.

Adoption Programs and Services is responsible for coordinating adoption services for people in Queensland seeking to adopt a child locally or from overseas.



Working in partnership

The Department of Child Safety works in partnership with other Queensland Government departments and non-government organisations as well as the broader community to deliver high quality child protection services.

The department has a strong interest in maintaining and strengthening the effectiveness of these partnerships through joint planning and local working arrangements which are critical to the provision of services to clients and the community.

Relationships with other Queensland Government agencies are developed and supported at a strategic level through the Child Safety Directors Network and operationally through SCAN – Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect network. SCAN helps coordinate child protection agencies to respond to cases of abuse and neglect. The department works closely with many agencies including:

- Department of Communities, Disability Services, Seniors and Youth
- Disability Services Queensland
- Queensland Health
- Department of Education, Training and the Arts
- Queensland Police Service
- Recognised Entities.

There are almost 100 non-government organisations working in partnership with the Department of Child Safety to deliver more than 200 service programs to children, young people and families throughout Queensland.

Our vision

Confident children and young people who are safe and valued by society, especially those children and young people who have been harmed or who are at risk of harm.

Our mission

To lead, deliver and promote effective:

- protection for children and young people who have been harmed or who are at risk of harm
- support for children, young people and their families who are subject to statutory intervention to secure the future safety of children and young people
- care environments that are safe and meet the diverse needs of children and young people.



Contact the Department of Child Safety

If you would like further information on the Department of Child Safety call **1800 811 810** or visit **www.childsafety.qld.gov.au**

The Child Safety After Hours Service Centre is available 24 hours on **3235 9999** or **1800 177 135**.

The Department of Child Safety operates 47 child safety service centres across Queensland. Telephone numbers for centres throughout Queensland are listed in the White Pages and on the department's website.

Your local child safety service centre can be contacted on:

