

Foster Carer Excellence Awards 2009: Guide to nomination

The annual Foster Carer Excellence Awards celebrate the dedication, commitment and achievements of all foster and kinship carers throughout Queensland.

Each year the Department of Child Safety (referred to as the department) presents Excellence Awards to those foster and kinship carers who have been judged by their peers and others in the out-of-home care community to have made an extraordinary contribution to the children and young people in their care.

All foster and kinship carers are eligible to be nominated for an Excellence Award in each of the following categories:

1. Provision of excellent care:

Examples of this category include:

- *displaying exceptional responses to the physical, social, cultural and emotional needs of the children and young people placed in their care*
- *demonstrated management of children and young people displaying difficult behaviour in a calm and positive way*
- *commitment to advocating on behalf of children and young people in foster care.*

2. Demonstrated commitment to working in partnership:

Examples of this category include:

- *displaying flexible and co-operative working relationships with the department and/or Foster and Kinship Care Service*
- *maintaining an accepting and non-judgmental attitude towards the parents of children and young people in their care*
- *demonstrated commitment to facilitating the return of children and young people to their homes.*

Nomination Process:

Each Foster and Kinship Care Service (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) and child safety service centre is asked to nominate one foster/kinship carer or foster/kinship carer family who most excels in each of the above categories.

The attached nomination form is to be completed and submitted to the relevant Zonal Director, Department of Child Safety by **Friday 23 January 2009**.

Zonal Directors will then convene a panel to select the zonal nominee. Zonal nominations are to be forwarded to Tammy Joynson, Communications Officer, Corporate Communications Branch by **Friday 30 January 2009**.

Those foster or kinship carers who are selected to receive an Excellence Award will be notified by the end of February 2009, and invited to attend the Awards presentation ceremony which will be held in Brisbane during Foster and Kinship Carer Week 8 until 15 March 2009. The Department of Child Safety will meet travel costs for nominees to attend the presentation ceremony.

