

1300 550 877, or visit your local child safety service centre or your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisation.

You will need to undertake some training and assessment. The Department of Child Safety and community-based foster and kinship care services recruit, train and assess Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers. Some of these services are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

During the assessment many things are considered. They include the carer's family and other people living in the home, personal history checks and the reasons why they want to become a foster carer. A household safety study will also be completed.

Criminal history checks are undertaken and you and your adult household members will need a blue card. If you have come in contact with the law this does not mean your application to become a foster or kinship carer will automatically be denied.

The Department then considers all the information and makes a decision about your application to become a carer.

How are foster and kinship carers supported?

If you decide to become a foster or kinship carer you will be supported in many ways.

Community-based foster and kinship care services and the Department of Child Safety will work with you to meet the needs of children in your care.

Foster and kinship carers can ask for assistance from **Foster Care Queensland**, an organisation that represents and supports foster carers.

Foster and kinship carers can also receive support from local carers, other families and their community.

How do I find out more?

For more information contact your local child safety service centre or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation, call the foster carer recruitment line on **1300 550 877** or visit **www.childsafety.qld.gov.au**

Foster Care Queensland (FCQ) is a community organisation open to all foster and kinship carers. FCQ is committed to informing, supporting, representing and advocating for carers and the children in their care.

FCQ can be contacted on **(07) 3268 5955**.

Keep our kids in our community *Become a foster or kinship carer*



There is a real need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to become foster and kinship carers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Here is some information to help you in becoming a carer.

What is foster care?

Some children cannot live with their families because of abuse or neglect. Foster carers provide safe and caring homes for these children to live in for short or long periods of time.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander foster carers enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be cared for in a way that respects their culture and helps them to maintain their cultural identity.

What is kinship care?

Kinship care is a type of foster care where the child is cared for by a relative or a close member of their community. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care are placed with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and, where possible, in their own community.

What is support care?

Support carers provide respite to foster and kinship carers when they need a break from caring or when they need time to deal with personal matters. Support carers provide short periods of care, either through regular ongoing planned visits or in emergency situations.

What allowances do I receive?

Foster and kinship carers receive a fortnightly caring allowance to help with the costs of caring for children in their care. Support carers receive the allowance that is paid in proportion to the number of days or weeks that they care for the child.

This allowance covers basic household expenses, food, clothing, gifts, pocket money and entertainment for children in their care.

An additional allowance is provided for carers who have children with high and complex needs. Other reimbursements for child-related costs are also available to carers.

You may also be eligible for Commonwealth Government benefits such as the Family Tax Benefit A and/or B, Child Care Benefit, Maternity Payment or Parenting Payment.



Who can be a foster or kinship carer?

Anyone over 18 years of age can apply to become a foster or kinship carer.

What if I am not married? Can I still be a foster or kinship carer?

Yes. Many different people are needed as carers so we can best match the needs of children. We need foster and kinship carers who are male or female, single or a couple, married or in defacto relationships.

What qualification do I need to become a foster or kinship carer?

No formal qualifications are required to be a foster or kinship carer. Training is provided.

What if I have been in trouble with the law? Can I still be a foster carer?

If you have come in contact with the law for minor offences, you can still become a foster or kinship carer. This will not necessarily count against you and it does not mean your application will automatically be denied.

How do I become a foster or kinship carer?

To become a carer, call the foster carer recruitment line on