



### *My experience as a young person in care*

“My foster carer welcomed me into her home three years ago. She has been there for me through all of my troubles and all of my achievements. She has encouraged me to be the best I can be, and she has been proud of me just as much in the times when I did not quite get to be where I wanted.

Through all our fights, tears and tantrums she kept on loving me. When she had her own personal struggles to overcome she was still a cheerful and involved carer. I have become a happy and productive adult partly because she chose to give a part of herself to help bring me to where I am today.

Even now, she is still a big part of my life. When I need someone to talk to she is just a phone call away. I know I belong somewhere because of her.”

*Hayley*

For more information contact your local child safety service centre or call the foster carer recruitment line on **1300 550 877** or visit **www.childsafety.qld.gov.au** You can also contact Foster Care Queensland on **(07) 3268 5955**.

## Testimonies about foster and kinship care



### ***My experience as a foster carer***

“When we realised there was a need for fostering, the idea appealed to our hearts. As a family we saw a chance to help the world and to provide opportunities to children who may not otherwise receive them. While not perfect parents, we thought we would give it a go.

As caregivers, we have experienced a lot of joy and satisfaction in being able to provide a good home and stable environment for children. Our own children have had to adjust to the changes within the family unit, which at times has brought out both the best and worst in them. Overall however, it has been a rewarding and loving experience for our children as well as the foster children.

It can be unpredictable at times, and you sometimes think you just cannot do enough to help, but there is a team of people (both from the Department of Child Safety and other carers) behind the scenes providing support.”

*Alan and Heather*

### ***My experience as a support carer***

“I have been a foster carer for almost a year. In that time I have been privileged to meet some wonderful children. I provide support and emergency care for children who are in long-term care and I work with their foster family, their family, service providers and Department of Child Safety staff in a partnership of caring.

I believe in the saying ‘it takes a community to raise a child’ and I am happy to contribute in any way that I can. At the moment, that takes the form of weekends whenever possible and emergency care whenever needed. The arrangement is flexible and I do what I can when I can.

As a full-time worker and part-time student, support and emergency foster care enables me to have some work-life balance and contribute to the community in a practical and nurturing way.”

*Margot*



### ***My experience as a kinship carer***

“I have been a kinship carer for just over a year now. It was not something that I planned for, much less expected. Caring for my nephew has been a challenge, but loving him comes naturally. Our lives have changed so much to accommodate this little person, but in retrospect, I know we have done the right thing by choosing to raise him.

I encourage all relatives, whether they are an uncle, aunt, grandparent or a significant person in a child’s life, to consider the impact of a child being placed in care and what the child is feeling. If you can love and support this little person and give them the best chance at life, then go for it.

You also have to manage your relationship with the parents and the department – this is no easy task, but one that will seem insignificant when you can look back and know that you were there for someone you loved.”

*Debbie*