

How are foster carers supported

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations in the Shared Family Care program and the Department of Child Safety will work with you to best meet the needs of children and young people in your care.

Foster carers can also seek assistance from Foster Care Queensland, an organisation that represents and supports foster carers.

Foster carers can also receive support from a group of local foster carers, other families and their community.

Assistance with costs

Foster carers receive a regular allowance to help with the costs of caring for children in their care.

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

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

Who do I contact to find out more?

For more information about becoming a foster carer, contact your local Child Safety Service Centre or your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisation:



Visit www.childsafety.qld.gov.au or phone the foster carer recruitment line on 1300 550 877 for the cost of a local call.

Foster Care Queensland (FCQ) is a community organisation open to all types of foster carers and supporters. FCQ can be contacted on (07) 3268 5955.



**Help keep our mob
together...**
Become a foster carer

Our children need you

Some children and young people cannot live with their families because of abuse or neglect.

There is a real need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to become foster carers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Foster carers are committed to making sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are cared for in a way that respects their culture and assists them to maintain their cultural identity.

When you become a foster carer, you are helping to keep our children in our community.



What is foster care?

There are three types of approved family-based carers:

- **Foster carers**

Foster care is when a carer looks after a child or young person in the foster carer's home.

- **Relative or kinship carers**

Relative or kinship care is a type of foster care where the child lives with and is cared for by a relative or a close member of their community.

- **Respite carers**

Respite care is when a carer looks after a child or young person over a short period of time at planned times.

Who can be a foster carer?

Anyone can apply to become a foster carer. We need foster carers who are male or female, single or a couple, married or in a de facto relationship. Many different people are needed as carers so we can best match the needs of children.

Do you want to become a foster carer?

Bringing other people's children into your family can be very rewarding but it may not always be easy.

Becoming a foster carer is a big decision for any family and it is important for you to talk with your family and think about the changes and challenges involved in fostering a child or young person.

Some of the things you might need to think about are:

- What is happening in your family at this time?
- How would your family adjust with other children in the family?
- How would you cope with a child or young person returning to the care of their parents?
- If single, have you considered how life might change for you?
- Do you have room in your house for another child?



What is the Department of Child Safety?

The Department of Child Safety is a Queensland Government department dedicated to protecting vulnerable children who have been harmed or are at risk of harm.

The Child Protection Act allows the department to protect children and young people at risk of abuse or neglect by finding safe and caring places for these children to live depending on their needs.

In accordance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, the department is committed to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care are placed with members of their family, their community or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

foster carers...
keep our kids in our community