



**March 2006**

## **Foster and Kinship Care Week 2006**

*Foster and Kinship Care Week* was held from 12 to 19 March. The theme of the week was - *Foster carers make a difference.*

Celebrations began with the official launch of Foster and Kinship Care Week at the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens on Thursday, 9 March.

Child Safety Minister, Mike Reynolds, launched the week against a backdrop of colourful kites – a symbol of the potential of children who come into care, and the aspirations of Queensland's child protection community for the state's most vulnerable children.

Mr Reynolds said the word 'kinship' was added to the name of the week for the first time this year in recognition of the key role relative carers have in the child protection system.

Throughout this year, the Department of Child Safety will continue its foster carer recruitment campaign, including a particular focus on Indigenous communities, to boost the number of carers in Queensland.

To find out more about Foster and Kinship Care, please contact your Child Safety Service Centre or call the Department of Child Safety on 1300 550 877 to receive an information kit.

## **The process of - issuing *Foster Carer Cards***

A *Foster Carer Card* is issued automatically to relative carers and general approved carers with two years of approval.

The purpose of the *Foster Carer Card* is to assist carers with their day-to-day fostering duties. The *Foster Carer Card* can be used as an identification card for access to government agencies and hospitals. The card also provides a range of discounts and free services from participating businesses.

If you are a general or relative foster carer and have not received a *Foster Carer Card*, please contact your Child Safety Service Centre or the *Foster Carer Card* Officer.

Please take advantage of the *Foster Carer Card* scheme and receive special discounts from participating businesses that support the scheme.

You can obtain an up-to-date business directory through the Child Safety Service Centres and the *Foster Carer Card* website [www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/fostercarercard/business](http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/fostercarercard/business) or contact the *Foster Carer Card* Officer.



## **Delays in issuing Foster Carer Cards**

The issuing of *Foster Carer Cards* has been delayed up to two weeks. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact your Child Safety Service Centre or *Foster Carer Card* Officer. We apologise for any inconveniences this delay may cause.

## **Business recruitment**

Last month the *Foster Carer Card* Officer conducted a recruitment drive aimed at businesses from the Maryborough, Wide Bay and surrounding areas to participate in the scheme. There were 3,500 businesses were targeted and 30 new businesses have joined the scheme. We are looking forward to increasing the number of businesses participating in the scheme.

The 30 new businesses that have joined the scheme include the following:

- Pedders Suspension – Bundaberg West – 10 per cent off parts and free 28 point safety check
- Never Ending Cleaning – River Heads – 15 per cent off carpet, lounge and mattress cleaning
- Retravision Hervey Bay – Pialba – five per cent off stock items excluding sale items
- Visual Aspects - Bundaberg – discounted package deals on frames and lenses
- Totally Tourism Fraser Coast – Scarness – five per cent off all booking and 10 per cent off whale watching

For more information please obtain an updated business directory from the Child Safety website or contact the *Foster Carer Card* Officer.

Carers are welcome to help recruit businesses in their community. If you require a business proposal application form, please contact your local Child Safety Service Centre or the *Foster Carer Card* Officer.

## **The Australian Discount Shopping Service**

The Australian Discount Shopping Service (ADSS) is a service available to Queensland *Foster Carer Card* holders when purchasing any electrical goods or major items at discount prices. ADSS also supplies theme park discount vouchers. ADSS offers a no-obligation shopping service that is available to all *Foster Carer Card* holders. ADSS will act on your behalf to negotiate the best possible price for a wide range of goods and services. ADSS will also usually have the goods delivered to your door. For more information about ADSS call them now on 1300 658 787.

## **Contact details**

For further information about the *Foster Carer Card*, contact the *Foster Carer Card* Officer on 3224 7565 or freecall 1800 811 732 or by email at: [fostercarercard@chilfsafety.qld.gov.au](mailto:fostercarercard@chilfsafety.qld.gov.au)