

What is provisional approval?

Under the *Child Protection Act 1999* a person can be provisionally approved as a foster carer or kinship carer, allowing them to care for a child or young person while their application to be a foster carer or kinship carer is decided. This type of approval is usually given to family members or other people already well known to a child or young person to enable an immediate placement to be made.

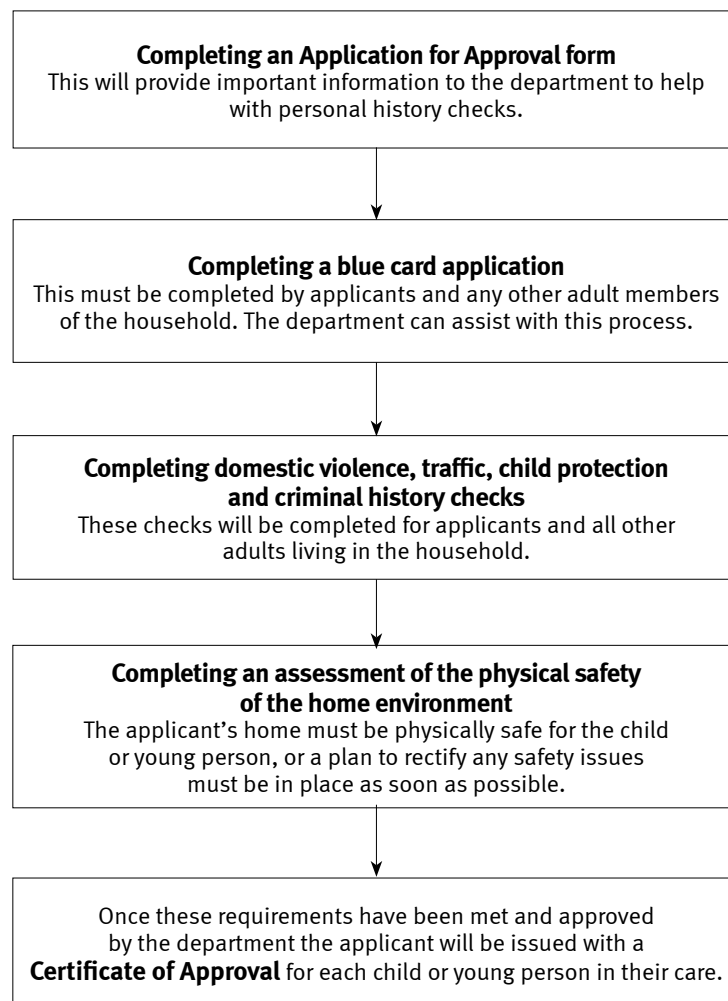
What is the time limit for provisional approval?

Provisional approval is valid for a maximum of 60 days. However, it may be extended for a further 30 days. A provisional approval cannot exceed 90 days. It is expected that the carer's application to become an approved foster carer or kinship carer will be finalised during this time.

What are the minimum requirements for provisionally approved carers?

To be provisionally approved, a person must be assessed to be suitable to care for a specific child or young person.

Key steps to becoming a provisionally approved carer include:



What are the other features of being a provisionally approved carer?

The only way to become provisionally approved as a carer is to apply for approval as a foster carer or kinship carer. Provisionally approved carers have no option for seeking a review of departmental decisions if the department decides to:

- not place a child or young person with them before their application to become a carer is decided
- not extend a carer's provisional approval even though the 90 days may not have expired
- cancel a carer's provisional approval
- remove a child or young person from the person's care.

These decisions do not affect the person's application for approval as a foster carer or kinship carer. If an application to be an approved foster carer or kinship carer is refused the applicant can seek to have the decision reviewed by the Children Services Tribunal.

A provisionally approved carer has approval to care for a particular child only. A separate Certificate of Approval is issued for each child the carer is provisionally approved to care for.

For more information visit www.childsafety.qld.gov.au or contact the Department of Child Safety on **1800 811 810** or **3224 8045**.

