

Information for support workers

The carer information sheets form a resource that can be used for a number of purposes, including:

- the **induction of kinship carers**
- the **provision of information to all approved carers** about particular topics
- the **provision of information to prospective carers** and as part of the *Quality Care: Foster Care Training* modules.

The carer information sheets are referred to in a number of other documents, including the Child Safety Practice Manual and the *Quality Care: Foster Care Training* package.

Induction for kinship carers

While kinship carers are not required to complete mandatory training, they require information to help them:

- understand their roles, rights and responsibilities
- prepare for and cope with the unique challenges of kinship care
- provide quality care for children and young people placed with them
- access the support they need in their role.

Research shows that adults learn best when they have the opportunity to discuss information and relate it to real life situations. This means that the induction process for a carer should involve more than simply providing carer information sheets, it should involve active discussion and engagement.

The carer information sheets can be used as a resource to share and discuss relevant information with kinship carers, both in the early stages of understanding their role, and on an ongoing basis to assist them in dealing with particular needs or issues. As a support worker for a kinship carer, you need to consider which information sheets are most relevant at any given stage.

Ongoing learning and development

Kinship carers should be encouraged to participate in formal and informal learning and development opportunities, where relevant. This may include:

- working through particular carer information sheets with their support worker
- the *Quality Care* training pre-service and standard modules
- advanced training modules, where this is considered relevant.

Carer information sheet checklist	✓
All carers	
Family contact – information for foster carers	
Foster and kinship care allowances and benefits	
Foster Carer Card	
Keeping a life diary	
Learning opportunities for carers	
Legislative requirements to ensure quality care	
Maintaining confidentiality	
Matters of concern	
Promoting positive behaviour	
Support for carers	
Therapeutic and medical needs for a child in care	
What is a Care Agreement?	
Blue card	
Case planning	
Change in circumstances	
Child Protection Orders	
Decision making for children and young people	
Do you have a complaint about the Department of Child Safety?	
Education Support Plans	
Respite care	
Kinship carers	
Rewards and challenges of kinship care	
Family contact – information for kinship carers	
Steps to becoming a kinship carer	
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle	
Recognised Entities	
Provisionally approved carers	
What is provisional approval?	

