



**Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care**



REPORTER MAGAZINE



Story Bridge, Brisbane

**ISSUE 446
APRIL 2021**

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Conference**
29-31 July 2021

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A FEW WORDS FROM THE **Executive Director**

QFKC like any organisation needs to be able to look at itself from time to time and, draw on its strengths, face its challenges and most importantly make sure that its original reason for existing has not changed and it's goals remain absolute.

The 2020 carer survey helps to bring insight for all of us, not only about the care we provide but also the caring environment, its difficulties and the outcomes that we expect as Foster and Kinship Carers, which differ at times from the outcomes others have or want.

With all this in mind, QFKC have made the decision to review the operation of our volunteer FAST network. Our FAST Representatives, all of who are active foster carers undertake a difficult and busy role in providing support in their regions for foster and kinship carers. The last review QFKC undertook was in 2009 so it's timely, especially given that Covid19 and 2020 have taught us a few different ways of working.

With the movement of support for kinship carers to non-government foster and kinship care programs, it has meant that our services for kinship carers has also increased significantly. Kinship carers make up some 30% of all family based carer families in Queensland, however, they represent 50% of all the support, advocacy and advice QFKC provides. With this in mind, we also have to ensure that kinship carer support has the specialised support required when families are caring for family. The review will take 2 to 3 months and we have engaged an external consultant to undertake this role.

Following my article in our February edition of Reporter, where I featured a carer's thoughts on fostering in a very honest way, I received some feedback from a number of people, including carers and staff both from the department and foster and kinship care services. While most were positive, some were certainly not. In fact, one person, I don't know whether they were a worker or a member of the public, tried to remind me that foster and kinship carers were clients of the department and always would be. They also stated I should stop whingeing as we get paid for what we do.

To that person, or any other who thinks that conversation was smart, let me say this – Our family have been foster carers for almost 30 years. We have also been kinship carers for the past 10 years, both formally and informally. I have worked for non-government and I have worked for child safety, however, for every day that I wake up, I am first and foremost a father, grandfather, husband, foster carer and parent to our beautiful granddaughter. We are not special. Like the majority of parents, we do what we do because we love our children and as foster carers we love the children we care for just as much.

We don't do anything for the money, you would have to be crazy and, we are volunteers who get reimbursed for the cost of caring for a child. More importantly, we are not clients. We are colleagues in a system that struggles to keep up with the ever increasing pressure that the system places on all of us. Volunteers and paid staff alike.

We have different roles to play and all seek the same outcome for our children even if we disagree on what that outcome may be. The safety, welfare and best interests of children are always at the front of everything we do and always will be and I am always happy to debate this with anyone.

The pathway to collaborative partnerships starts with understanding and information followed by conversation, trust and honesty. If we asked most carers, they would say that there are times when this is lacking leading to mistrust and defensiveness which is then hard to shift.

We absolutely need to treat each other as colleagues, and even more than this, we need to feel it. When we feel trust with each other, that will absolutely rub off on our children who, after all are the very focus of what we are here for.

See you Next Time.

Bryan Smith
Executive Director

News and Views:

QFKC welcomes any news or date claimers for inclusion in the Reporter magazine and/or added to our website and Facebook pages. Please email any content to admin@qfkc.com.au. We reach every part of the state and are happy to share your news. We welcome the sharing of upcoming training and event information that helps to promote healthy and child focused change where needed. Please note that personal views and opinions will not be shared in the Reporter, website or any of our social media channels.





MESSAGE FROM QFKC Management Committee

At the time of printing, we are on our way to the first school holidays of 2021. Easter is of course a favourite time for kids and a lot of sweet-toothed adults with a feast of chocolate on offer. So, enjoy!

Our Annual State Conference is the top of our agenda at this time of year. Conference registrations are open and at the time of writing this, there are no restrictions on numbers of attendees other than the venue's cap of numbers. We would love to see as many carers as possible attend as it has been more than 2 years since we had the opportunity to come together to share our experiences and to receive any important information and training for our sector.

All keynote speakers and workshop presenters are locked in. Registration of attendance is the opportunity to choose workshops and we are sure there is something on offer for everyone to enjoy and find worthwhile.

An independent review of the Fast Program is now underway, and this association is looking forward to growing the strength of this vital program and to look at what improvements could further ensure that our Fast Representatives are supported and that all carers are getting the assistance they deserve and need. We do have some vacancies for new Fast Reps, so if you feel you have the time and enthusiasm to assist fellow carers, please call our Banyo office.

QFKC will again be attending the Ekka this year after missing out in 2020 due to the pandemic. Our information stall will run with the assistance of foster and kinship services and Fast Reps to highlight the vital community service we provide and, to hopefully attract new people to the world of fostering. If you are attending the Ekka please drop by and say hello.

In closing, please remember how important our basic pandemic rules are in social distancing and registering with the QR code just to name two when going out. Until next time, stay safe.

Hazel Little
QFKC President

Welcome to the Case Officer Team Angela Cunningham

Working at QFKC in the Recruitment and Exit program over the past 12 months has been enjoyable and I am excited to have been given the opportunity to take on a Case Officer role. Since completing my Bachelor of Psychology at the end of last year, I have been able to work on the Returning Carers Program and assist with getting some carers back into their caring roles.

As a foster carer for the past 10 years now, I bring this experience to the role with me as well as hands on experience in facing the challenges and frustrations that we can face as foster carers, along with the joys we feel in how well these children are able to adjust and thrive. To add to this I've had residential care experience as well.

I am looking forward to supporting and empowering carers along their fostering journey, so they are able to provide the best support and opportunities for our most vulnerable children.

I am very excited to be a part of the QFKC team and look forward to meeting you all in the future.

Angela Cunningham, Case Officer

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Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Conference 2021

29 July 2021–31 July 2021

Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort
270 Ocean Drive
Twin Waters, QLD(AUS) 4564

29th – 31st July 2021



Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care

Giving children an identity
Angel Identity



Register at [QFKC 2021 Conference](#)

Service Support Manager Update



One year ago I was sitting in my office with not many people around me – COVID19 had changed our lives and we were navigating a world different to what we had ever experienced. One year on and I feel very fortunate to live in Queensland.

Everyone's journey is unique and the way in which COVID19 has touched people's lives is very different but overall, as Queenslanders, we have certainly not been rocked by the displacement and tragedy that other States and many countries have experienced.

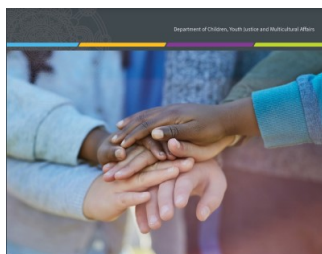
As we navigate the world around us, QFKC is asking child safety to consider their position on the COVID19 vaccine. Whilst the vaccine has not yet been approved for children, we expect that into the future it will be and, we are interested to hear from child safety as to whether this vaccine will be considered to be in the same category as immunisations or not – so watch this space.

With the revised version of the Statement of Commitment now released, it is important that carers take the time to read through this important document so you are able to put it in your carers tool box to assist you in your journey.

It is important to understand that the Statement of Commitment has authority under the Child Protection Act. **Section 7 of the Child Protection Act 1999** states the chief executive's functions which includes:

(1) For the proper and efficient administration of this Act, the chief executive functions are :-

(h) negotiating and reviewing a Statement of Commitment between the State and organisations with an interest in the care of children under this Act that includes the provision of support and resources by the department to approved carers.



Statement of Commitment
To Queensland's foster and kinship carers



Child Safety commits to....

Where foster and kinship carers have been a party to a process, provide copies of reports, case and other records that are held in Child Safety and/or agency files such as providing meeting minutes to carers where they have been participants in a meeting.

Work together with foster and kinship carers through concurrent planning to support children and young people to achieve permanent care arrangements in childhoods within legislative timeframes recognising that reunification with parents is the first preference for permanency in any child or young person's life.

These are just two new commitments made by Child Safety in the revised Statement of Commitment and speak to the inclusion and participation of carers – so, make sure you take the time to read through the document in full.

QFKC have three social media pages that are run for and by carers. A breakdown of these social media pages and functions can be found in this edition of the Reporter – each page/group has specific purposes and we encourage you to be part of all three:

- Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Page
- Foster and Kinship Carers Qld group
- QFKC Connect



Our team here at QFKC, inclusive of Case Officers and FAST Reps, are here to support and assist carers, we are just a phone call away. We always encourage carers to first seek support through their foster and kinship care agency, however, if you are unable to resolve a matter and need assistance with this, simply phone or email admin@qfkc.com.au and we will have a QFKC Case Officer make contact.

Carissa Inglis
Service Support Manager



Northern Region Update

In looking back over the last month, it is hard to figure out where it went!

By the time you get to read this, you may be needing a well-deserved break from the business of school holidays and hope the Easter Bunny brought joy, laughter and a whole lot of treats to you and your family!

Foster and Kinship Care week is fast approaching. This event held over the week of 16-23rd May 2021 provides some fantastic opportunities for carers, departmental and agency staff to come together to celebrate the amazing work that foster and kinship carers do for children and young people across Queensland. Plans are yet to be finalized so be sure to keep an eye out for further information.

For those seeking more information and a list of training that QFKC offers to carers and staff, a comprehensive list can be found on our website by visiting:
<https://www.qfkc.com.au/training>

I am currently working with Churches of Christ Care in the Northern Region to facilitate training for carers in the Cape communities. It is hoped that this will take place in May and June. Once dates have been finalized, invitations will go out to carers and staff in these areas.

Training being offered by QFKC in April and May

Townsville	Cairns	Charters Towers
28 th April – Reunification	13 th April - Family Contact	27 th April- Standards of Care Review
26 th May Standards of Care Review		24 th May- Achieving Permanency

Foster carer and Advocacy Support Team

Our FAST Reps continue to provide invaluable support to foster and kinship carers across the State.

The Northern Region currently have five of these amazing carers who volunteer their time to support carers and ensure that they are supported to meet the needs of children and young people.

We are still in need of FAST Reps in places such as Townsville, Mackay and Cairns. If you are interested to learn more, please head on over to our website <https://www.qfkc.com.au/fast> and have a read about the FAST Program. Should you require further information about what the role entails, do not hesitate to make contact with us at QFKC.

Over the next 12 months, I will be sharing our FAST Rep profiles so that you can get to know the people who work so hard and are passionate about their role. This month FAST Rep from Cairns, Sarah Grainer will be sharing a little about herself.



Meet Sarah...

Hello everyone. I have been a carer for nearly 19 years and have been involved as a FAST Rep and member of QFKC Management Committee for nearly 10 of those years.

I knew I wanted to be a carer when I was in primary school. I knew families who were carers and struggled to understand why not every child was part of an awesome family like mine. When I finally understood the realities, I wanted to share my family with other children when I could (which included, and still includes, all of my friends).

I have cared for over 90 children, ranging in age from new born to 17 years old. I really enjoy working as part of a team to improve outcomes for our children, which includes assisting fellow carers, and I hope to be able to do this for many years to come.

Jodie Baird
Case Officer, QFKC Townsville Office



Welcome!

New QFKC Members

Hope Gilmour

Phil Gilmour

James Ford

Aiva Reisz

Jeffrey Munro

Megan Munro

Brentyn Parkin

Catherine Wilson

Catherine Roberts

★ FROM A FOSTER CARER: The Unique Benefits of a Pyjama Angel Mentor



For more than 17 years now, The Pyjama Foundation has been passionately supporting children in care across Queensland. We match children with Pyjama Angel volunteers who spend one hour a week supporting the child to grow academically, with confidence and build all important life skills.

We received a phone call a few weeks ago from a carer of a young boy called P*. P needed a mentor, someone to confide in and a consistent role model who could show him kindness and love. P was paired with his Pyjama Angel, Roy, in November last year and they have been having a great time. P's carer rang us to share some wonderful feedback about Roy and P's relationship.

She said that she is so happy for P having Roy visit him. She expressed that Roy has had a wonderful impact on P's life and has truly been a great mentor for him. She went on to explain that Roy has been such a positive influence that P has even mentioned to his psychologist how much he loves his visits.

In her call she also told the story of how P was due to go on school camp. He was very concerned to go on camp as he did not want to miss his visit with Roy!

His carer assured him they would work around it and that all would be okay. P had a great time on camp and had lots of stories to tell Roy on their next visit.

Our office manager and program support, Antoinette, had the pleasure of passing on this great feedback to Roy. She said he got quite emotional hearing that his visits were having such a great impact on P's life. He said he could not wait until he had been visiting P for nine months so they could go out on more adventures together.

What a beautiful story and wonderful relationship P and Roy have. Thank you so much to P's carer for taking the time out of her day to phone and pass on the feedback. It certainly put lots of smiles on the faces here at team Pyjamas.



For more information
or to refer your child
to our Program,
please visit:

www.thepyjamafoundation.com



Reporter

Partners in Care

UPDATE

FAMILY CARING FOR FAMILY

Our Partners in Care forums highlighted the unique role kinship carers have as part of any care team and that action was needed to develop training and supports designed for them.

As a result, an information guide for family members who are considering caring for children within their family network as an approved kinship carer has been developed.

Becoming a kinship carer is a serious decision for any family. It is a commitment that should not be made without prior discussion and consideration of the change and challenge that are part of the experience. It is important that you take time to speak with your partner, your children and any other significant people in your life to consider the impact that being a kinship carer may have.

We have developed this guide to help.

To view the Family Caring for Family guide please visit - <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/foster-kinship-care-become-a-carer/how-to-become-a-kinship-carer>



HAVE YOU TRIED THE CARER CONNECT APP YET?

Carer Connect is an app just for foster and kinship carers. The app gives you the ability to access information about the children and young people currently in your care, including those who come to your home for respite. There are many features within the Carer Connect app that assist Child Safety in having a better understanding of children and young people in your care. The app enables carers to input information only you would know through caring for a child or young person such as routines, any noted allergies, likes and dislikes as well as any triggers that may impact behaviour. The information provided through the carer connect app by you will also be available to other carers who have the Carer Connect app, who may need to care for the same child or young person either as a primary or respite care arrangement.



For more information please review the [Carer Connect app](#) video and if you would like more information please email the Carer Connect support team at carerconnect@csw.qld.gov.au.

Carer Connect QLD can be downloaded through the [Google Play](#) store and the [Apple Store](#)



Queensland
Foster and
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Queensland
Government

Chris and Bill Fairbrother retire after 110 foster kids and 18 years of prison chaplaincy

The following article has been printed with permission from ABC News Far North

[ABC Far North](#) / Jemima Burt



Yungaburra residents Christine and Bill Fairbrother are retiring after spending nearly two decades as prison chaplains and, prior to that, three decades as foster parents to 110 children.

These days you will find octogenarians Christine and Bill Fairbrother volunteering at their local church op shop or relaxing on their Yungaburra verandah, watching Ulysses butterflies land in their garden.

But these unassuming retirees have lived extraordinary lives.

For many years they lived and worked in remote Cape York communities, and in 1974 the couple responded to an advertisement in a newspaper calling for foster carers for hearing-impaired children.

Over the next 33 years they fostered 110 children, then launched into nearly two decades of prison chaplaincy.

Last month, Bill, a former mechanic, and Christine, who worked as a seamstress while caring for the constant needs of so many children, retired from their volunteering work at the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre near Mareeba in Far North Queensland.

They say they feel privileged to have been able to get to know hundreds of people over the years, some of whom they are still in touch with today.

Three newborns at once

Mrs Fairbrother said that when they first started fostering, many of the babies they cared for had been born deaf due to German measles.

"We had a lot of sick children or disabled children, nearly always babies, and we'd keep them until such time their prognosis was worked out and they could go into long-term care," she said.

At one point the couple was looking after three babies in addition to their own three children.

"By the time we had them less than a fortnight, and that was from newborns, most of them very quickly, they learnt to sleep [through] the night," she said.

Taking care of so many children in need meant the family went through a lot of equipment, toys and clothing.

Key points:

- ◆ Chris and Bill Fairbrother fostered 110 children over a 33-year period.
- ◆ They have just retired from 18 years of volunteer chaplaincy at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre.
- ◆ They say they feel privileged to have had the chance to get to know hundreds of people.



Some of the children fostered by the Fairbrothers decades ago are sCll in touch with them. (ABC News)

"When the children, if they were going back to their family, we would send them off with, you know, enough outfits and gear that they needed," Mrs Fairbrother said.

The early bond they formed with some of the children has endured over the decades and several of their former charges still write to them.

"There've been quite a number who have come back to visit us and show their children where they started their lives," she said.

'We never asked them what they've done'

In 2003, the Fairbrothers began their work at the Lotus Glen prison, volunteering weekly as chaplains.

"Chaplains are the only people that go into prisons simply because they want to ... so we're certainly no threat to them," Mrs Fairbrother said.

"They know when they talk to us nothing will be passed on."



Children's toys are also provided, along with practical household items.
(ABC News: KrisDan Silva)



Staff escort prisoners through Lotus Glen Correctional Centre.
(AAP/Human Rights Watch, Daniel Soekov)

"We never asked them what they've done. If they choose to tell us that's alright, but we're not interested in their past so much as the future, and hope that they can change their lives around.

"There was a need for chaplains there, and we kept going because we enjoyed being there.

"And of those who aren't interested in Christianity, that's fine - Bill's always happy to talk to them about trucks and the bush."

Mrs Fairbrother said she and her husband did not go out of their way to make friends with the prisoners, but some friendships formed naturally.

"We've got a few friends around, I mean, because we've been there for so long," she said.

"Some of them we've known that for a very long time have been released.

"If we meet up with them outside, it's very good when they say things like, 'I did what you said, I got a job, and I'm now doing this or this'.

"And that gives us a great thrill when you see they have changed — it's a choice, whether they come back; they don't have to."

The couple stopped their prison chaplaincy in January.

"Bill was getting very tired, but I was really sad to be stopping going because it's been a big part of our lives."

'We feel very privileged'

Last month, Mrs Fairbrother was awarded an OAM for her service to the community.

"We feel very privileged to have been allowed to foster all these children and to be allowed to go into the prison and work with the inmates there," Mrs Fairbrother said.

When asked what they would be doing with their spare time, the couple said: "We have no spare time."

But they said they would have more time for gardening, reading and volunteering at the church op shop.



1. What is an independent person for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child (independent person)?

An independent person (known in the legislation as an independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entity) is a person chosen by a child, young person, parent or their family as someone who will support the child or young person and their family's meaningful participation in decision-making.

2. Why was the concept of the independent person introduced?

The introduction of the independent person supports the right to self-determination and choice for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child or young person and their family. The child or young person and their family choose someone who they are comfortable with, is significant to their child or young person, and knows their community or language group.

The child or young person and their family also have the right to decide not to have an independent person facilitate their participation in decision-making processes.

Importantly, Child Safety cannot impose an independent person on a family. An independent person is someone the child or young person and their family chooses to support them in their communication with the department and to meaningfully participate in decisions that may have an impact on a child or young person.

3. How will the role of independent person differ from the role the recognised entity currently has?

The Recognised Entity provided cultural advice in relation to a family to Child Safety (and in some cases other government agencies and the court) regarding child protection matters.

An independent person will support an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child, young person and their family to optimise their participation in decision making processes for significant decisions. An independent person is chosen by the child or young person and their family. This recognises the child or young person and their families as the primary source of cultural knowledge in relation to the child, young person and family.

4. What are the significant decisions an independent person would be involved in?

A 'significant decision' about an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander child or young person is defined by the Act as 'a decision likely to have a significant impact on the child's life'.

5. What changes do I immediately need to inform Child Safety about?

- there is a change in your criminal or traffic history, including if you have been charged with an offence
- you become aware of, or reasonably suspect, there has been a change in the criminal or traffic history of a member of a member of your household
- there is a change related to you, or a household member, being the aggrieved or respondent in a domestic and family violence matter
- if you become aware of, or reasonably suspect, a household member has been involved with Child Safety or a similar child protection agency in another state or country
- when another person intends to join your household—this includes commencing a new relationship with a partner, or if the change relates to a tenant or boarder, a friend or relative
- when another person leaves your household—for example, as a result of separation or divorce, or a household member dies
- you have an intention to provide care to other children in your home, for example as a family day care educator or through the provision of informal care of children
- a change in personal circumstances, for example, significant health problems or excessive employment demands
- a change of address.

6. How to tell Child Safety about any change in your circumstances?

The law requires that you tell Child Safety in writing. You can do this by completing a [Change in carer circumstances - Form 39 CCC \(cyjma.qld.gov.au\)](#) and provide it to your child safety service centre. You can also obtain a copy from either your foster and kinship care service or your child safety service centre.

7. About Kicbox

Kicbox is a useful App that allows children and young people in care to keep a record of their documents such as photos, records and personal mementos.

This can also be used to communicate with Child Safety staff and share information. This is available from the ages of 12 and above. A departmental staff member will be able to assist the child to access an account.

This is done by receiving an email invitation with a link to setup it with a Kicbox username and password. This is available for use on mobile phones and also from any home, school or library computer with a web browser.

Kicbox includes 4 main categories:

1. My life helps you to record your journey in care by uploading photos, describing particular events and recording your thoughts and feelings.
2. My future helps you to visualise your life goals through words and images.
3. Important documents provides a single place for storing all your documents, such as your birth certificate, certificate of Aboriginality, or school reports.
4. Contact and support lets you connect with your Child Safety Officer by sending secure and private messages.



8. Can I post a photo of children in my care on Facebook?

Social media guidelines

Children and young people in care often enjoy being included in social media to celebrate their achievements and activities as a member of their foster or kinship carer's family.

It is not unlawful for a photograph or information about a child in care to be posted on social media. However, it is unlawful to identify a child as being in care, or to include information that is likely to lead to the identification of a child as being in contact with the child protection system or on a child protection order.

Identifying information may include references to the child's relationship to family, friends or acquaintances, or to 'foster children', 'foster carers', 'kinship carers' or court matters.

Identifying information explained

Posting a photograph of a child in care without any explicit reference to the child's connection to you as the carer or to Child Safety is unlikely to identify the child being in care. However, there may be the possibility that posting a photograph, in addition to other information you may have posted previously, could lead to identifying the child being in care. In some cases, there is a safety risk if the location of a child in care can be identified by family members, friends or acquaintances.

If there is a safety risk, images of the child that could identify their location, such as in a school uniform, outside their house, or showing their first and last name, are not to be published on the internet. This includes:

- * the full name and address of the child—be aware that some smart phones embed tags that can provide geographic information, revealing a child's location, identification of the child's school

Your Child Safety Officer should have informed you about the child's safety risk at the time the child was placed in your care. If you are unsure if there is a safety risk for the child in your care, contact your foster or kinship care agency or Child Safety Officer before you post any photographs that may identify a child's name or location.



Your obligations

Child Safety requires that you:

- not include foster children in your profile photos or other publicly accessible photos
- have the strictest possible privacy settings on your own Facebook page to ensure that access is restricted to friends only and the information cannot be accessed by the public
- consider who is in your friendship group when assessing whether it is appropriate to post a particular photo or information about a child in care
- refrain from making references to foster or kinship care or Child Safety (regarding the child's situation, or in general).

A breach of confidentiality under the *Child Protection Act 1999* is an offence and carries penalties including a fine or imprisonment up to 2 years.

Child's right to privacy

Children have a right to privacy, including physical, media and information privacy. Under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, the Charter of Rights for a child in care establishes a child's right to privacy, including information privacy. This includes limiting the information that is known about a child, how it is shared and how it is used.

If the child in your care is old enough to understand what privacy means, it is important that you talk first with them about any intention to publish or post photographs of them online. While there is no age from which a child is legally able to make a decision about their privacy, foster and kinship carers should know whether the child in their care is old enough to understand their privacy rights.

Even if the photographs do not breach a carer's confidentiality obligations, posting them online without talking with the child first may conflict with the child's dignity and rights, including the right to privacy. This is particularly important if posting the information goes against the child's wishes. Make sure you speak with the child first before photographs are posted, and respect the child's wishes.



Reporter



Sibling Connection Event

Come and connect with CREATE for our annual 'Sibling Connection Event' on Thursday 8th April in Boondall! This is a fun event and it is also a great opportunity for care-experienced young people to connect with siblings. Join us for a morning of ice skating, treats and music. Please contact Amy from CREATE on (07) 3317 6020 or email amy.jasper@create.org.au for more information or to register.

Speak Up

Do you know a young person with lots of potenčal?

Speak Up (SUP) is a free, training and empowerment program for care-experienced young people aged 14 to 25. Participants learn about the care system and develop leadership, advocacy and public speaking skills. Young Consultants use their stories and experiences to share at local, state or national events and forums.



CREATE has a Speak Up workshop in Brisbane on April 12th, 13th and 14th with a laser tag activity on the last day. Please contact Andrew on (07) 3317 6020 or email andrew.foley@create.org.au for more information. CREATE recently facilitated a Speak Up workshop in Rockhampton and we will be running a workshop on the Gold Coast as well as online via Zoom (particularly for young people in regional areas) throughout the year. Please contact us if you have young people who would like to be involved in these activities throughout the year.

"Seeing young people use their voice and being listened to and the power this has on them still astounds me – to have a young person in your home who feels voiceless and to witness the change Speak Up can have on these young people..." – John, Carer

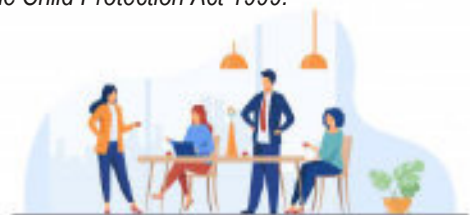
Harm Report Interviews

Harm reports are formal processes that require formal responses. When a Harm report has been recorded it is because Child Safety have information that a child is or has been significantly harmed.

Formal interview processes are required to gather all information which will form the investigation and assessment.

- In 2020, Child Safety introduced a change in the Child Safety Practice Manual which reads as follows:
Advise the carers or staff members that they may record their discussion in a harm report interview with Child Safety staff. Carers or staff members are the owners of interview material they record, and are responsible for retaining these recordings.
- *Ensure that the carer or staff member is aware that they are not permitted to communicate or publish any part of audio or video recordings to any person, except in accordance with the Child Protection Act 1999.*

Harm report interviews can be very challenging for all those involved and outcomes of Harm reports can result in removal of children, cancellation of carer certificates and Bluecard cancellations. It is therefore critical that there is an accurate version of the interviews that can be relied on to clarify any conflicting information and asreflection for any future processes.



QUIZ!

By Danny Hemsley

1. Name one landlocked country in Europe?
2. What fruit takes the scientific name *Mangifera indica*?
3. What does He stand for on the periodic table?
4. To a single decimal point, how many kilometers in a mile?
5. What did Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams collectively create?
6. For two points, if all of the States of America were placed in alphabetical order, what would be first and last?
7. What is the *Papaver rhoeas* flower better known as?
8. Which rapper's real name is Dylan Kwabena Mills?
9. Which of these actors is Scottish? Jamie Dornan, Michael Sheen, James McAvoy, Daniel Craig
10. How many episodes of *Scrubs* were there? Closest wins the point.



The World's LONGEST Place Name is found in New Zealand and is 85 letters long.

This place is known as:

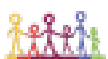
Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu

When it comes to other *super long place names*, it's followed by *Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch* in Wales, *Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg* in the U.S., *Tweebuffelsmeteenskootmorsdoodgeskietfontein* in South Africa, and *Azpilicuetagaraycosaroyarenberecolarre* in Spain.

Source: <https://bestlifeonline.com/did-you-know-facts/>

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. Any of the following 14 countries: Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland, and Vatican City. 2. Mango 3. Helium 4. 1.6km 5. Twitter 6. First in Alabama and last in Wyoming 7. A Poppy 8. Dizzee Rascal 9. James McAvoy 10. 181

Source: <https://www.cosmopolitan.com/uk/worklife/a32388181/best-general-knowledge-quiz-questions/>



The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) is an independent statutory office that promotes and protects the rights and interests of children and young people in the child protection system and in youth detention, disability accommodation and authorised mental health facilities. In the upcoming editions of the Queensland Foster and Kinship Carer Reporter, we will be busting some common myths about OPG.

Myth: *A child isn't allowed to meet with their Community Visitor alone.*

Community Visitors play an important role in monitoring the wellbeing of the child or young person in your care. They will visit on a regular basis at a scheduled time, so it's important that you prioritise these visits. As Community Visitors are required to monitor the child's living arrangements, they will generally need to have a look around your house, ask questions and make sure their environment is safe, and meets the needs of the child or young person.

When it's time for the Community Visitor to meet with the child, they most often meet with them alone, away from their carers and other family members. You may feel worried about this, but this occurs so the child or young person is able to speak to the Community Visitor openly about any issues impacting them or anything they are worried about, given Community Visitors are independent.

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During these one-on-one conversations, a Community Visitor will listen to the child's views and wishes and ask them about their life, and if they have any issues or concerns. If a child or young person asks a Community Visitor to raise a complaint they will always do so, but a Community Visitor can also raise a complaint based on their own observations during a visit. The Community Visitor can raise these concerns with Child Safety or the appropriate agency to support the issue to be resolved. It is not the Community Visitor's role in these circumstances to investigate or analyse the complaint. Community Visitors can also refer the child to an OPG Child Advocate Legal Officer if they have any legal issues or concerns. If a child is referred to a Child Advocate Legal Officer, they also have the right to meet with the child alone.



To put it simply, a child or young person has the right to meet with a Community Visitor alone to support trust and ensure the child or young person can openly raise issues or concerns if they wish to. This is a great way to keep children and young people safe and to support them to have a say in their lives. You shouldn't be concerned if this happens as it's a usual part of the visit.

Myth busted!

For further information about OPG's Community Visitors or Child Advocate Legal Officers, or if you or the child in your care would like a visit from a Community Visitor, please call 1300 653 187, email publicguardian@publicguardian.qld.gov.au or visit our website www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au

REGIONS

CHILD SAFETY SERVICE CENTRES

Brisbane & Moreton Region	South East Region	South West Region	Sunshine Coast & Central Region	Far North Qld Region	Northern Qld Region
Alderley Caboolture Cannon Hill Chermside Forest Lake Inala Morayfield Mount Gravatt Redcliffe Strathpine	Bayside Beaudesert Beenleigh Browns Plains Labrador Logan Central Loganlea Mermaid Beach	Ipswich North Ipswich South Roma South Burnett Southern Downs Springfield Toowoomba North Toowoomba South	Bundaberg Caloundra Emerald Gladstone Gympie Maroochydore Maryborough Rockhampton	Atherton Cairns North Cairns & Lower Cape Cape York and Torres Strait Islands Cooktown Edmonton Innisfail Thursday Island Weipa	Bowen Mackay Mt Isa-Gulf Townsville Nth & Hinchinbrook Townsville Sth & Burdekin Townsville West & Charters Towers



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DISCLAIMER: Information in this Reporter has been obtained from sources deemed reliable. However, we cannot guarantee its accuracy and interested persons should rely on their own enquiries. All material submitted for publication herein are the expressed views of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Inc.

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South West	Nikki Gallatly	0421 084 440		nikki.gallatly@gmail.com



IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS



Foster and Kinship Carer After-Hours Support Line

The Support Line provides foster and Kinship Carers with access to after-hours support

Phone: **1300 729 309**

(Monday to Friday – 5pm to 11.30pm, Saturday and Sunday 7am – 11.30pm)



Quality Family Based Care

For policy and program information about Blue Cards.

Foster and Kinship Carer Handbook and Training

Phone: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**



Foster Carer Recruitment Line

For information about becoming a foster carer

Phone: **1300 550 877**

Email: fostercare@communities.qld.gov.au



Central Screening Unit (CSU)

For information about criminal history checks and Blue Cards

Phone: **(07) 3097 5600**



Blue Cards Services Unit

Information about being child-safe and screening people who work with children

Phone: **1800 113 611 (Qld only) or (07) 3211 6999**





Queensland Foster and Kinship Care

OUR VISION

Leave no child in foster care behind.

OUR MISSION

Represent. Advocate. Inform. Support. Excel.

OUR GOAL

To contribute to the development of an inclusive, responsive and fair foster care system.

WHO ARE WE

Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Inc. is the non-government peak body for all Foster, Kinship and Provisionally Approved Carers. The organisation was founded in 1976 and today exists to advise, support and advocate for Carers throughout the State.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER – Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Inc.

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