



**Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care**



REPORTER

MAGAZINE



Winter Escape

**ISSUE 447
JUNE 2021**

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Conference**
29-31 July 2021

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**Foster & Kinship
Care Week**
16-23 May 2021



A FEW WORDS FROM THE **Executive Director**

QFKC as the peak organisation for Foster and Kinship Care in Queensland participates in all manner of meetings and forums around Child Protection and one regular meeting we attend allows us the opportunity to talk about policy, procedure and practice throughout the state, and work with the Department on how we can best change or reform those areas which continue to be of concern. There are at times an endless list of concerns, however, I would like to highlight two of which are of great concern at the present time.

In 2020 QFKC surveyed Foster and Kinship Carers as we do every 2 years to gain an understanding of where carers are up to and more importantly, look at those areas that continue to be a source of frustration. The survey attracted more than 1000 carers which was fantastic, as this was a great sample to have when providing a summary to the Department. From this survey, and as we have done after previous surveys, we continue to see that carer relationships with Service Centres are a major concern that often lead to fractured relationships between carers and staff. QFKC recognizes the issues and knows that these issues can be resolved if the system is prepared to really do something about what is the single greatest issue for Foster and Kinship Carers.

We absolutely see some amazing work from individual staff across the state and a small number of service centres who are trying their very best to be inclusive of Foster and Kinship Carers and improve relationships by good communication, providing timely and accurate information, getting services for children as agreed, keeping appointment times and including carers in conversation as part of a real care team as colleagues. However, until we have a consistent approach to staff induction and initial training as well as a management system that promotes us all consistently as colleagues, then we are going to have more of the same and our surveys will continue to say the same thing. Very, very, frustrating.

Another area of significant concern that Blue Card Services undertake, and the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs agree with, is the area of adult household members and the need for approved Foster and Kinship Carers to ensure that any person over the age of 18 has a current Blue Card or Exemption Card and cannot move into a carers home unless they have one. Prior to this change, a carer could have an adult move into the home with a pending Blue Card approval application, however, this is no longer the case and if carers allow adults such as adult children to return home without a Blue Card due to a change in their circumstances, the carer risks the very real challenge that the Department will remove the children they have in care or the carer will need to tell their adult child they cannot return home until they have a Blue Card, even if this leaves them homeless. While QFKC absolutely agrees that the safety of our children needs to be a priority, we do not agree that this change adds to a child's safety. If, as it was with the previous policy, that an adult could move into a carers home and make application straight away for a Blue Card and the system, both government and non-government monitor this as we have done in the past, then safety is not compromised.

As it is, we as approved Foster and Kinship carers could be and as we have already seen in some cases, have been placed in a position where we would have to choose between adult children and children in care. However, if you are a carer with Provisional Approval who is awaiting an assessment to be a Kinship or Foster Carer, then the old rules still apply and you can have an adult family member apply while in the home and does not have to leave. It's a very strange set of standards at this time and this one is right up there for the best of 2021. If this was a Standard of Care matter for the Department then it would be a Standard Not Met.

QFKC will continue to advocate for best practice for children and young people every day as well as strongly encouraging positive change where ever we can for Family Based Care.

See you Next Time

Bryan Smith,
QFKC 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 THE **Minister**

When I move across this beautiful state, one of my greatest joys is meeting carers and hearing first-hand your experiences doing the incredible job you do to care for some of our most vulnerable children.

I am in awe of your commitment to provide a bright future for children in need.

While COVID-19 has disrupted so many routine aspects of our lives, you have shown enormous resilience to continue providing safe, secure and loving homes to vulnerable children.

I was so pleased to meet some of you as we came together during last month's Foster and Kinship Carer Week celebrations to shine a well-deserved light on your work.

In the last month I have also had the pleasure of meeting with carers in Longreach, Cairns, Rockhampton, Mackay, and in my own electorate of Nudgee, hearing from them about some of the issues nearest and dearest to their hearts.

We have come a long way in recent years, but I have listened, and I know there is much work left to do. Foster and Kinship Carer week is a time to recognise the wonderful work of carers like you, and I look forward to having another opportunity to meet and hear from even more of you at next month's Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Conference, planned for 29-31 July.

We know how important it is to attract more carers, so I'm delighted to see the next stage of our recruitment advertising campaign is now underway showcasing the marvellous work of carers through first-hand stories about their experiences.

The new campaign was launched during Foster and Kinship Carer Week and if you get the chance, please take a look at our latest campaign at www.qld.gov.au/fostercare.

I'd love to hear your thoughts about the campaign.

Another way we help recognise your invaluable contribution is through our Statement of Commitment, which reflects our shared commitment and partnership with you for the benefit of children and young people in care.

Following requests to renew this statement as part of our Partners in Care engagement with carers, I am pleased to say a revised 2021 commitment has been launched, reaffirming our commitment to working hand in hand with you.

I invite you to review our renewed commitment at www.qld.gov.au/statementofcommitment

One of my first jobs as Minister for Children was to oversee changes to the *Child Protection Act 1999* to make clearer the options to provide stability and security for children who need long-term care.

I encourage you to continue conversations with your child safety officer about the plan for achieving permanency for the child or young person in your care.

Leanne Linard
Minister for Children, Youth Justice and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs





MESSAGE FROM QFKC Management Committee

This year seems to be flying by and we're almost halfway through 2021. Luckily, in this country we are faring relatively well as far as the awful pandemic goes and are in a good position with the availability of a vaccine for our community.

QFKC is keeping abreast of all information with regard to decisions about the latest medical advice in relation to vaccines being available to children and young people. The information will be relayed to carers as soon as it is available.

Our State Conference (29th – 31st July 2021) is fast approaching. Registrations at the time of printing are around 400 with a good percentage of attendees being carers, which is great. Please give some thought to attending, we are lucky to be in a position to provide the opportunity to attend a conference in person. Our workshops and keynote speakers have been locked in, so all preparations and planning are on schedule.

On the subject of conference, the National Foster and Kinship Care Conference (11-12th June 2021) is also approaching. Originally planned for Adelaide, the conference is now a virtual experience. It may seem unusual or perhaps difficult to set aside 2 days to be interactive with a computer but attendees who register will have up to 12 months to take advantage of workshops etc. Registration details and all information is available on our website at <https://qfkc.com.au/news-events/events>.

As stated in the last Reporter, the QFKC Fast Program is undergoing a review by an independent assessor. This process is to ensure that Fast will provide Queensland carers with access to the best possible support and advice in their role as carers. We are always looking for carers willing to take on the role of Fast Reps. Training is readily available and a supportive team is open to welcoming new members.

This Reporter will have details of the upcoming election of part of the QFKC committee. The roles of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary are all due for election this year.

During the pandemic, a decision was made to implement a process for ex carers to return to the system. QFKC has undertaken this role on behalf of Child Safety and the program is proving to be successful. We hope to continue with the program and will lodge a submission later in the year with the department for the program to become permanent.

Until next time, take care.

Hazel Little
QFKC President

National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to counselling, a direct personal response, and a Redress payment. You may be eligible for Redress if you have experienced sexual abuse as a child (under the age of 18) before 1 July 2018 at an organisation such as a school, foster care home, residential care service, school, youth detention centre or a church. You have to be 18, before 20 June 2028, to apply to the Scheme.

Free, confidential Redress Support Services can answer questions and have counsellors available for assistance and support. The Blue Knot Foundation can also be called on 1300 657 380 or Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800. The knowmore legal service is also available with free legal advice on 1800 605 762. We want you to know you are not responsible for what happened to you and you are not alone.

Applying for the Scheme could be a positive step to overcoming what has happened to you and to assist with healing. More information is available on the National Redress Scheme website: <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>.



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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

Keynotes

- 
Gregory Nicolau
- 
Gregg Dreise

To register go to www.qfkc.com.au/conference



Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care

Giving children an identity
Angel Identity



Reporter



Service Support Manager Update

By the time you are reading this, we will be in our first month of winter and edging closer to our highly anticipated QFKC State Conference – 2 years in the making! We are also hoping that by the time carers read this, they will have enjoyed a local Foster and Kinship Carer week celebration in their area. I am looking forward to attending a couple of events – as it feels like such a long time since I've been able to attend a function with carers, so between Foster and Kinship Carer week celebrations and our QFKC conference, I am feeling very excited!

In my last report, I reminded the carer communities of our Social Media pages and encouraged carers to follow these. QFKC is excited to announce that the Foster and Kinship Carers Queensland page now has even more admin FAST Reps. There are three teams of FAST Reps rostered on for a week at a time to answer all your questions. FAST Rep admin are located across the State with representation from Far Northern Region, Central and Sunshine Coast Region, South East Region and South West Region. It can be difficult to make a call during the day and ask for advice or information, and this is where our QFKC Social Media platforms offer an alternative to phone communication.

QFKC is excited to announce the appointment of two new FAST Reps, Amanda Preston who is attached to the South West Region and Katherine Keane who is attached to the Brisbane and Moreton Region. Carers should by now have knowledge of departmental changes to the Regions. There are now six regions rather than five with Northern Region splitting back into two Regions, Far Northern and Northern and some boundary changes to Central and Brisbane Regions. QFKC have mirrored these changes in respect to our FAST program; please refer to the end of the reporter for a full list of current FAST Reps and the Regions they are in. Remember you are able to contact any FAST Rep in your Region for support, advice and advocacy. An updated list can also be found by visiting the QFKC website <https://qfkc.com.au/fast>.

QFKC is currently involved in many projects where we are advocating for improvements and change, including revision of the current carer training modules and the Standard of Care/Harm Report procedures. QFKC has representation on the working group for the revision of the training and the Steering group for the Standard of Care/Harm report procedures. As a Peak organization we have the added benefit of being able to provide advice in these forums based on firsthand experience due to our Service delivery with carers. We see where processes are not working, where procedures are not being practiced as intended and where there are clear gaps in guiding workers around best practice. QFKC will continue to update carers in respect to progress in these areas.

Finally, QFKC is currently working on a module of training that will be developed through the coming months regarding the provision of support to Kinship Carers. This training will be aimed at sector workers who support kinship carers in their day to day care and child safety workers. QFKC will be co-designing this training alongside kinship carers themselves with lived experience. Our first step in this process is a very short survey that is currently in the process of being finalised. This survey will be targeted towards kinship carers and ask key questions around support needs. We will then form a working party of kinship carers that will assist us in the development of the training. Stay tuned for the final product and if you are reading this and are a kinship carer who would like to be involved, please email me at Carissa.inglis@qfkc.com.au

I will leave you with the following thought for the day ***'if you change the way you look at things, the things you look at will change'***

Carissa Inglis
Service Support Manager



Respecting and protecting human rights – your decisions matter.

As a foster or kinship carer, your actions and decisions can impact the human rights of the child you care for. There are 23 human rights to consider. To learn more, go to the 'Decision Making' section in the Connecting with Carers website www.qld.gov.au/fosterkinshipcarers

Northern Region Update

It's been another busy couple of months here in the Townsville office. I have had the opportunity to present training to carers and staff in Townsville and Cairns. Training included Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Children's Court, Reunification and Standards of Care Review. These trainings were well attended.

Training being offered by QFKC in the Northern and Far Northern Region

Townsville		Cairns	Charters Towers
26 th May Standards of Care Process	10 th June Achieving Permanency	8 th May Family Contact	24 th May Achieving Permanency

Both Northern and Far Northern Regions are in the process of reviewing their Partners in Care plan. This includes bringing department, agency staff, FAST Representatives and other Foster and Kinship carers together to review previous plans, using the most recent QFKC Carer Survey to identify areas where we can work together to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Foster Carer and Advocacy Team

Since the change in Regions with Mackay returning to the Northern Region, we've welcomed back Lyndal Hughes who was sitting in the Central Region. Welcome back Lyndal! Given this, it seems appropriate that this month I share with you Lyndal's profile.

Hi !

My name is Lyndal Hughes and together with my husband Ross, we have been caring for children for approximately 10 years. I am into my fifth year as a FAST Rep with QFKC. Whilst I have a passion for providing a stable, safe and nurturing home for children who may require it, I have really enjoyed my time as a FAST Rep.

The training opportunities around up-to-date policies and procedures and the acquisition of new knowledge that has come from working with the dedicated staff at QFKC is invaluable; as is the interaction and discussions with the team of FAST Reps who in their own right have a wealth of knowledge which they are only too willing to share.

This enables me to assist and guide other carers who may contact me with a question or a complaint.

I don't profess to have all the answers but I am prepared to do the research, take advice from my supervisor and get back to you in a timely manner. The old adage 'it takes a village to raise a child' is particularly apt in our situation.



By sharing strategies, ideas, training opportunities and/or resources we are surely able to come up with ways to make our journeys smoother. Please don't hesitate to call.

As mentioned in the last Reporter, we will also be doing profiles for departmental staff. Our first Child Safety Service Manager is Ralph Laska from the Innisfail office. Over the years Ralph has been an amazing supporter of QFKC, specifically with regard to the FAST Program. It is partnerships like this that allows us to deal with matters more effectively and be able to achieve positive outcomes.



Ralph LAKSA

Manager Innisfail Child Safety Service Centre.

Hi everyone, what a great way to make ourselves better known amongst you all and to be privileged to be the first from the Far North Region to provide my profile.

Destiny is not a matter of chance, it's a matter of Choice – William Jennings Bryan (American orator and Politician 1860-1925).

So who am I and why am I here? I am a first generation Australian, born in 1961 and raised in Brisbane of parents who immigrated from war torn Europe after the war - German/Latvian heritage. I grew up in West End and graduated from secondary school, Brisbane State High School in 1978. That part of Brisbane was very multicultural, still is, and I quickly had a sense of privilege and oppression and as a child experienced the taunts for several years over the Nazi's. I joined the Police in 1981 and was posted to Townsville as a training centre. I think Innisfail was meant to be as my father had the opportunity to join a cane cutter team, to come up to Innisfail every year for the season, my mother wasn't keen on that idea, so that didn't eventuate. My first posting after my training post was Innisfail, but I didn't want to move then and was able to remain in Townsville for another 12 years.

In this time I travelled and camped in the Far North and liked the area, so much so that I eventually transferred to Innisfail in 1993 as Officer in Charge of Police Prosecutions, an office of one, me !! I met my wife in Innisfail who was in Admin in the Police at the time. Her family is also local since 1984 and she is one of 14. My parents had also relocated from Brisbane, so Innisfail seemed to be home. We were married in 2020 and have 5 children (3 girls, 2 boys; 20 – 8 years of age) and no, not about to break any family records either!! When I settled in Innisfail I connected with various community agencies. One, I have been Chairman of since 1997 – Innisfail Youth and Family Care Inc. As a youngster I had two passions, land and water – I had a passion for that land, acreage and farming and enjoyed fishing – which makes sense as my mother was born by the sea and my father came from the land. So we live on a small property just outside of Innisfail where we have raised our children and also run around 30 head of cattle. And yes I have a boat and don't use it much as I should, but love getting out on the water.

So why Child Safety? Well I came into this role from the Police where I had just shy of 25 yrs service. A large proportion of that was as a Police Prosecutor and over the years developed a strong sense of social Justice. I also saw the importance of victims having a voice in the process and any proceedings and spending time with them and complainants to help them understand the system and process.



Northern Region Update cont...

I was appointed as Manager in Innisfail Child safety in 2005 as at the time I didn't see a future in Police and I guess needed a change, where I could remain in Innisfail. I wasn't looking at the time either and my previous admin office in Police, who had also moved to Child Safety told me that there was a position being advertised and she thought I would like the role. So here I am.

I enjoy working in the community where we are better connected with each other and collaboration seems to work easier. Like myself, most of us are raising our families and children in the community, so we have an interest to make a difference for our all our children. I'll leave you with this re-phrased thought....*'The strength of a community is each individual member. The strength of each member is the Community.'*

Townsville Area Update

Location	Event Type	Event Description
Mackay Friday, 21 st May 2021 6pm – 8pm	Carer Appreciation Dinner at the Northern Beaches Bowls Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hired two rooms – one for the carer's dinner and one for the babysitting which was facilitated by staff. The dinner was a drop plate dinner and dessert. The evening commenced with a Welcome or Acknowledgement of Country and a guest speaker who was an adult that previously was a child in care.
Mount Isa	Thank You / Self Care gift baskets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCQ did not hold an activity this year but personally delivered thank you gifts to all carers across the week of the Foster and Kinship Carer week.
Townsville	LWB put on a dinner inviting carers with 5, 10 and 15 year milestones to celebrate these special achievements. LWB paid for dinner and provided gifts and certificates. This event was held on Friday 28 May. LWB then invited all other carers to an afternoon tea at LWB office which was held on Tuesday 25 May.	

Cairns Area Update

Location	Date	Event type	Event description
Carer Recognition Dinner - Hilton Cairns	14 May 2021	Joint event – partnership between agencies & child safety	This was a collaborative Carer Recognition Dinner supported by local agencies and hosted by IFYS. Attending carers received drinks on arrival, canapes and a two course meal in recognition of their contributions as carers.
LWB & UC Foster Carer Movie Night Botanic Garden Cairns	21 May 2021	Movie Night	A family held event for carers and their children with a jumping castle, food vendors and a movie.
Community BBQ Carer Recognition Kowanyama and Pormpuraaw	17-21 May 2021	Community BBQ Carer Recognition	A family BBQ where carer recognition certificates and gifts were presented. In addition to this some carer training was also delivered by Jodie Baird (QFKC)
Community BBQ Carer Recognition Aurukun/Weipa/Naps/Mapoon	10-14 May 2021	Community BBQ Carer Recognition	A family BBQ where carer recognition certificates and gifts were presented. In addition to this some carer training was also delivered by Jodie Baird (QFKC)
Community BBQ Carer Recognition Lockhart	31 May to 4 June 2021	Community BBQ Carer Recognition	A family BBQ where carer recognition certificates and gifts were presented. In addition to this some carer training was also delivered by Jodie Baird (QFKC)
Alternate Care – Regional Carer Recognition Dinner Hopevale/ Cooktown/ Wujal Wujal & Coen	19 th May 2021	Still in planning stages however anticipate a dinner or lunch	A recognition dinner for carers supported by Alternate Care in the Hopevale, Cooktown, Wujal Wujal and Coen areas. Each year they rotate the community in which this happens. Consultation will be occurring with the Hopevale council, further details to come.

We hope you've the opportunity to attend some events that are occurring over Foster and Kinship care week. That's it from me for this month

Jodie Baird
Case Officer, Townsville



Partners in Care

UPDATE

This month we would like to shine a spotlight on the Foster and Kinship Care digital app **Carer Connect**. If you're unfamiliar with the Carer Connect app let's catch you up.

Carer Connect is a web and mobile friendly app that has been developed through Partners in Care engagements across Queensland to provide carers with improved and secure access to information and support, when and where it's needed. The app went live in 2017 and regular enhancements over time (based on feedback from carers), ensure it continues to benefit carers across the state.



What does Carer Connect look like: There are many features of the Carer Connect app, but one that stands out is that it enables carers to upload pictures, stories and special events to each child or young person's kicbox page – each memory being kept as their life story while in care. Kicbox is a separate app designed just for children and young people with a care experience. Carers can also provide important information about a child or young person directly into Carer Connect - such as their likes and dislikes including food, triggers or activities. Routines can be outlined, detail of regular

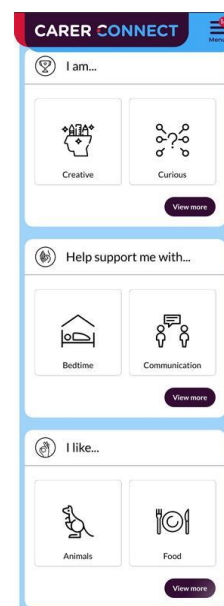
appointments such as therapy or doctor's appointments provided so that other carer/s who also have the app and who may care for that child or young person either on respite or as a primary placement can have access to all of this vital information.

Other functions of the app include having access to:

- ⇒ CRC Reimbursements – no longer do you need to go into the CSSC for any reimbursements, these can be done directly through the Carer Connect app as long as each reimbursement has had prior approval.
- ⇒ Important documents once approved i.e. authority to care and placement agreements
- ⇒ Important medical information including any allergies, immunisations, health passport information
- ⇒ Cultural and important relationships information
- ⇒ Education information
- ⇒ Profile and child protection order information

If you would like to find out more please visit the [Carer Connect site](#) to register or download 'Carer Connect QLD' from the [Apple store](#) or [Google Play](#).

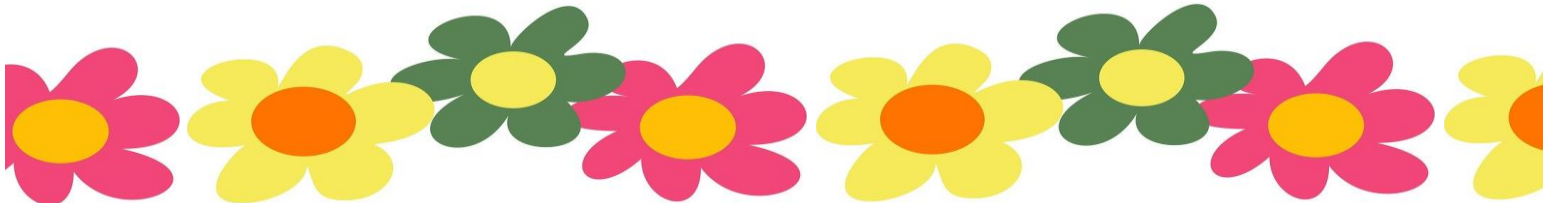
If you will be attending the upcoming Foster and Kinship Care conference, please come and say hello as representatives from the department's Carer Connect Team will be on hand to showcase the app's features and discuss future directions for the app while also providing direct support to anyone interested in using Carer Connect.



Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care



Queensland
Government



Foster & Kinship Carer Week



16-23rd May 2021

As part of Foster and Kinship Carer Week, I was fortunate enough to be able to attend a High Tea event in Cleveland organised by Child safety and the agencies. This event was held at the Lighthouse Restaurant, Shore Street North, a beautiful location overlooking the water, to celebrate and share gratitude to all carers who provide support to children.



Foster Carers, Sharon and Alan (couple holding the flowers) were acknowledged for their 17yrs of caring for 48 children in total as they were retiring from fostering today, they shared their thoughts and thanks to the service centre and agency. A trivia event also occurred having a couple of questions relating to QFKC, the questions posed were, what year did we change our name and what is FAST, it was nice to see the responses in the room. There was also a lucky door event and carers were presented with some really nice lucky door prizes.



Marijka Kelly
Recruitment & Exit Team Leader

The event hosted speeches from Dean Keep service manager Anglicare and Elke Van den Heuvel service centre manager, acknowledging their thanks and appreciation to all the carers and the great role they play in caring for young people.

It was a lovely event in a beautiful location and a really nice time for acknowledgment and getting together.



LWB Milton 21st May 2021 Function

I was fortunate enough to attend a luncheon at the Darling & Co in Paddington to take the opportunity to say thank you to all the carers for their hard work and dedication.



At the end of the function, a carer asked if they could say a few words, the carer stated that without the support of LWB, child safety and other support networks they would not have been able to provide foster care for the past five years, the speech was very heartfelt and a reflection of working together to achieve better outcomes for young people.

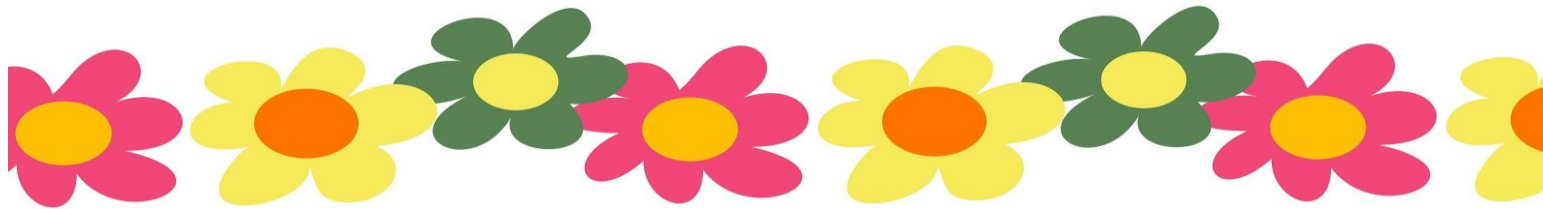


As part of the celebration, carers and staff were provided with a delicious two course meal and carers were provided with a bag of beautiful gifts, from lavender face masks, plant pot, a cape to acknowledge their superpowers and the work they undertake caring for the most vulnerable children.



Marijka Kelly
Recruitment & Exit Team Leader





I was lucky enough to have been able to attend two Foster and Kinship Care events during Foster and Kinship Care week in South East, one held in Logan and the other on the Gold Coast.

It was wonderful to be amongst carers in a social setting again, it has certainly been way too long and I loved seeing so many familiar faces. We are reminded at these events of the sheer number of years carers have dedicated to volunteering their life to that of fostering. At the table I was lucky enough to sit at during the Gold Coast Foster and Kinship Care Event, there was nearly 150 years of experience of caring at my table alone !!



In the role we undertake here at QFKC, we are contacted by carers every day that are facing challenges of some sort, so it was absolutely wonderful being able to mix and mingle with carers who spoke of very good experiences in their caring journey. I met one carer who was 6 months into her journey as a foster carer and her only complaint was that she had not made the decision to foster earlier!

I am now very much looking forward to our QFKC conference where we all get to mix and mingle with so many like-minded people.



Carissa Inglis
QFKC Service Support Manager



At the Hilton, Cairns - Corrine Porter Regional Director, Far Northern Region, Sally-Ann Eakin Operations Manager IFYS & Jodie Baird, QFKC Case Officer



Foster & Kinship Carer Week BBQ in Kowanyama.



Thank You



Welcome!

New QFKC Members

Frances Ballard	Brittany Griffiths	Jon Swabey
Amanda Preston	Katherine Keane	Marion Blaik
William Vine	Nicole Vine	

Smoke Alarm installation for Carers Update

The Queensland Government – through the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (CSYW) and the Department of Housing and Public Works (HPW) – are working together to supply and install smoke alarms into those dwellings that are owned by eligible carers and are being used to provide care to children and young people in care arrangements.

From 1 January 2017, changes were made to the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 to make Queensland households safest in Australia in relation to fire safety. The 10-year phased roll-out of interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms. This legislation requires all residential dwellings to have interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms installed in every bedroom, in connecting hallways and on each storey.

HPW are managing the supply and installation of smoke alarms for eligible carers across Queensland. The schedule for works **will finish in December 2021**.

What do carers need to do?

1. Complete the online questionnaire.
2. Attach a scanned copy of the front page of their council rates notice.
3. Attach a scanned copy of their carer certificate of approval.
4. They submit the completed questionnaire with the above attachments.



All information can be found by visiting the following website link:

[Smoke alarm installation project | Community support | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#).





1. What if a spousal relationship ends during the renewal of approval for the carer couple and only one carer wishes to continue as a carer?

Where a carer couple separate whilst a joint renewal application is in progress and the following circumstances apply:

- the expiry date of their previous certificate would have otherwise lapsed had the renewal application not been properly made prior to its expiry **and**
- only one carer wishes to continue caring.

The carers' joint renewal application is no longer valid due to the carers' separation. To obtain approval for the carer who wishes to continue as a carer:

- ensure the carer submits an initial application as a carer
- progress urgent provisional approval of the carer to enable the placement of any children to continue, where applicable
- progress the initial application in accordance with the usual assessment process, however, the carer will not need to repeat mandatory training that had previously been completed as a requirement for their approval as a carer
- leave the joint renewal EOI/application open in ICMS until the carer is granted provisional approval and withdraw the renewal EOI/application once the carer is provisionally approved.

The approval decision for the carer will include an assessment of how the new circumstances of the applicant will impact on any children in their care. The assessment should **not** require the gathering of completely new initial assessment information as previously gathered assessment information should be used to inform the new approval decision.

If the application is approved:

- issue the carer with a new initial certificate of approval
- complete a new 'Foster Carer Agreement', where applicable
- review the placement agreement for any child in the care of the carer, where applicable.

2. Breakthrough for Families

The Breakthrough for Families program is a program for family members and friends of people affected by ice and other drugs and provides accessible education, advice, strategies and connection to support services.

Families can receive brief individual support over several private sessions tailored to their individual needs and circumstances and are also able to access community forums and workshops to gain information and learn solutions and next steps.

For more information:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/breakthrough-for-families>

3. 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.

4. 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 \(cyjma.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.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.

5. Decision making when the Carer is a Guardian

Where a **suitable person** has long-term guardianship of a child, that person makes all guardianship decisions for the child, with the exception regarding the publication of information leading to, or likely to lead to, the identification of the child - refer to [3.5 Publication of information by the media](#).

In addition, where the guardianship matter is considered to be a decision that is likely to have a significant impact on the life of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child, provide an opportunity for the child and their family to be supported by an independent person to participate in the decision making process. The delegated officer will ensure the child and family's views are considered in making the decision – refer [10.1 Decision-making about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children](#).

Webinar:

TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD FROM OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Independence or Interdependence?



CREATE release new report on young people who have left care

Informed by the voices of young people, CREATE Foundation's research shows a clear depiction of the current state of play in the care system. This latest report, entitled: *Transitioning to Adulthood from Out-of-Home Care: Independence or Interdependence?*, focuses on young people who have **left care**.

This report is an in-depth "then-and-now" comparison, following on from CREATE's research conducted in 2009. It discusses whether outcomes for young people have improved, worsened or stayed the same over the past 10 years. It covers a range of topics including homelessness, education and employment, mental health, interactions with youth justice and leaving care planning.

You can download a copy of the report at: <https://create.org.au/research-and-publications/>



QUIZ!

By Danny Hemsley

1. Which Australian Prime Minister was only the acting leader of his political party?
2. Which country invaded Poland on 17/9/1939?
3. In which American city was the first skyscraper built in 1885?
4. What name was given to the scribbling on the walls found in the ancient city of Pompeii?
5. Which sport's field is narrowest: NFL, Rugby or Soccer?
7. Beginning with 'g', what is the common name for the oesophagus?
8. Which is a metamorphic rock: Granite or Marble?
9. What was the surname of Dutch painter Rembrandt?
10. True or false: only female mosquitos bite?
11. In which country is the westernmost point of the European mainland?

Interesting FACTS

- Hot water will turn into ice faster than cold water.
- The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.



1. Frank Forde (ALP in 1945) 2. Soviet Union 3. Chicago (Home Insurance Building) 4. Graffiti 5. NFL (48m) 6. Gullet 7. Marble 8. Van Rijn 9. True 10. Portugal (Cabo da Roca)

Source: Compiled in a newspaper clipping by Stephen Samuelson





Support little kids with

BIG DREAMS

this National Pyjama Day

This 23rd of July help us support kids in care by wearing your PJs!

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 Nerang	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

Reporter



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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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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.

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