



**Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care**



REPORTER MAGAZINE



**ISSUE 448
August 2021**

Mooloolaba Beach, Qld

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QFKC AGM
Monday
13th September 2021



A FEW WORDS FROM THE

Executive Director

Hi Everyone

As we continue to look back on the last 18 months and the changes we have all had to make, lockdown after lockdown and ongoing changes such as wearing masks,

or having to stay within Queensland and away from family and friends in other states, and just simply not knowing what is going to happen tomorrow or the day after, I do reflect on how a child or young person must feel when their lives are so disrupted by change, especially for children who cannot live with their direct families.

Added to their already heightened state of anxiety and the trauma they carry we have Covid. I am always in awe of the power of our children to overcome adversity and new ways of being able to not only cope, but succeed. I don't know how they feel, but I do know that after all these years, I have been privileged to witness so many children and young people succeed, grow and mature into young adults free from harm. While writing this article I am watching some of the Olympics and if medals were handed out for succeeding in overcoming adversity our children would get gold every time.

There are many areas of focus for QFKC and everything we do every day is a priority, not only for us, but also for the 5700 Foster and Kinship Carer families we represent, advise, support and advocate on behalf of. When faced with our own adversity and challenges, I have to make some decisions that do not sit easy with me however, I do so knowing that the direct support of our families must come first.

In the past 2 months we have scaled back the facilitation of our training due to the pressure on our Case Officers. Training takes considerable time to prepare for, as well as the facilitation, and could mean we have staff away overnight, at times at considerable expense.

Training and professional development of staff is important to us, as this creates an environment where we provide on the ground practical training that helps staff to then support both Foster and Kinship Carers. Hopefully, in the very near future we can resume training, however, that would depend on the availability of time.

In late July I had the opportunity of visiting Wondai in the South Burnett where I facilitated training for the local Foster and Kinship Care support service, Partners in Foster Care.

Over the last few years QFKC have been very focused on the need for specialist separate support for both Foster and Kinship Carers and it was so pleasing to see this service, which is only small compared to many, ensuring that their Foster and Kinship Carers have dedicated specialist staff providing that individual support required. For a very long time, the system which includes Foster and Kinship Care services have seen all carers the same and it's not okay. Kinship Carers require a different focus on support and their needs are quite different at times. Foster and Kinship Care services throughout Queensland need to have dedicated workers for the different cohorts of carers. If a relatively small program can ensure their workforce is separated to meet the different carer needs, then there is no excuse for all Foster and Kinship Care programs to follow this example.

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

See you next time.

Bryan Smith
Executive Director
Queensland Foster & Kinship Care

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

We need more foster carers, like you.

These words could not be more true.

Queensland's army of foster and kinship carers play a critical role in our child safety system and we are always in need of more people, just like you, to open their hearts and homes to children in need.

These words are also the theme of our current foster and kinship carer campaign, which we launched recently. It features carers, like yourselves, sharing their stories and hopefully inspiring more Queenslanders to become carers.

Sadly, last month's Queensland Foster and Kinship Carer Conference had to be postponed at the last minute due to Covid-19 complications. I, like everyone I'm sure, was so looking forward to this event following last year's cancellation, but we will just have to wait a little longer.

My thanks to everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes to bring this event to life in these trying circumstances. Your work does not go unnoticed and I'm sure we will all get to enjoy this wonderful conference together again very soon.

Supporting carers on their journey through practical avenues is a key focus for my department.

One of these relates to fire safety. I would like to remind foster and kinship carers that time is running out to register for free smoke alarms, supplied and installed by the Queensland Government. To be eligible, you must be an approved foster or kinship carer providing full-time or respite care, and the owner occupier of the property being used to provide care.

More than 850 carer households have already had smoke alarms fitted, with almost 80 more homes approved and awaiting installation. This is great news and I hope more carer families take up the offer to help make Queensland households more fire safe.

To ensure your household can benefit, applications must be received by 30 September 2021. To make an application you can visit:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/information-for-carers/money-matters/smoke-alarm-installation-project>.

Please note that carers who rent are not eligible as it is the responsibility of the building owner to meet fire safety requirements.

I have to say that one of the best parts of my job is meeting foster and kinship carers from around the state, which I have been able to on some recent travels to the regions, including Cairns, Longreach, Banyo, Townsville, Mackay and in Brisbane.

I am always humbled by the care and consideration given to our children and young people by carers, and I recognise the hard work and resilience you all possess in order to do this job.

Sadly, there continues to be an increasing demand for Queensland's child protection services, and a growing complexity of matters coming to the attention of the system.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase in the need for foster carers, and I am pleased to say that Queenslanders have been answering this call.

We have seen a 7.7 per cent increase in the number of families stepping up to care for the first time, with 1,655 new families registered in the 12 months to December 2020. In total there were 5,792 carer families as at 31 December 2020, up from 5,512 as at the end of 2019.

I hope to see more Queenslanders registering because *we need more foster carers, like you.*

Thank you for all that you do to help keep our children safe every day.

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



MESSAGE FROM QFKC Management Committee



Our conference, now being held in November will mean the weather is warmer and we will not be living in a, “keeping people apart” environment.

The new dates are 5th – 7th November 2021 and we are confident this conference will be bigger and better than ever and we look forward to catching up with everyone.

A review is currently being undertaken by an independent assessor of the FAST Program. This program has been running for a number of years, so it was appropriate to look at the processes and delivery of our volunteer network in the present climate. The results and any recommendations will be presented to the Management Committee where decisions regarding changes and/or additions will be made to what is and always has been a very successful and respected program.

The current time would be an ideal for us to welcome new FAST Reps to the team. If you feel that you could take up such an opportunity please call our Banyo Office for further information.

QFKC is in the process of developing a practical language friendly training module for Kinship Carer staff who support Kinship Carer families. This training would of course be suitable for carers and departmental and agency staff.

As has always been the case, QFKC Management Committee Members are all volunteer Foster and Kinship Carers who take seriously our objective to remain carer focused in our actions and decision making while ensuring that our children have not only a safe home to grow and develop but also feel loved and cared for.

In closing, thank you for your support of QFKC in what has been a difficult and stressful time of late and we look forward to spending time together at conference in November.

Until next time, take care.

Hazel Little
QFKC President



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July 2021 Conference re-scheduled

**** New Dates 5th – 7th November 2021 ****

After successful re-negotiations with ACCOR and the Novotel Sunshine Coast Resort, QFKC will once again be hosting the conference at the Novotel over the weekend of 5-7 November 2021.

All registrations for the July 2021 event have been moved to the new dates in November. For further information please [click here](#) to view the FAQs on the conference website.

Service Support Manager Update

I am writing this edition of the Reporter whilst in lockdown again ... The level of anxiety the world has contended with 18 months on from the first COVID19 case seems to be never-ending. There is a lot of research that points to increased mental health concerns in the wider population that has resulted from the stress, fear and worry arising from the uncertainty of COVID19. During these times it is essential that carers reach out to all their networks for support. Not only do you have the stress the rest of the population carries in this space, there are also the additional layers of stress that come with parenting children in a statutory system during a worldwide pandemic. Remember, if you are reaching out for support through your professional support services and do not feel these needs are being met, contact your FAST Rep or a Case Officer here at QFKC for support.

QFKC are participating on two important working parties, one being the Standard of Care Steering Group which is reviewing all current procedures as they relate to how Standard of Care Reviews continue to monitor and Harm Reports are managed. Last year, QFKC supported Child Safety in the development and distribution of two key surveys that gathered information from key partners in this space, including carers and foster and kinship care agency staff. These results, along with samples of cases that have been undertaken in practice, are being used to assist in the development of procedures that will result in practice that supports all care team members' responsibilities in meeting the Statement of Standards for children and young people in care. We look forward to the completion of this piece of work, which we have no doubt will have a positive impact on the carer households.

The other piece of work that QFKC is involved in, is the re-development of the mandatory pre-service Quality Care Training that takes place prior to a Foster Carer being approved. This training is very outdated and does not currently reflect the significant changes to the Child Protection Act that were introduced in 2018.

The current training also lacks messaging around Care Team responsibility and trauma informed care. The current aim for Child Safety is to prioritise the completion of the four modules with up to date information and then continue to add to the content with information that will enrich the training content. The overall goal of course is to have much better understanding of the system.

QFKC as a peak body is in a unique position, because, when we have input into projects such as the above, we do so from not only a systems perspective, but also from a direct service delivery perspective. Our QFKC Case Officers, together with our FAST Reps support in excess of 150 carers every month, these carers have multiple cases attached to them and our tracking of these cases enables us as a Peak to provide a state-wide perspective on the types of issues affecting carers.

QFKC currently has 25 FAST Representatives across our State, FAST Reps have walked in your shoes and understand the frustration of parenting in a statutory system and they understand the highs and lows of being a carer. During these uncertain times in particular, don't wait for issues to become unbearable, reach out for support early on, sometimes a good vent makes all the difference. For a list of current FAST Reps please refer to the end of this Reporter or for an updated list follow this link: <https://qfkc.com.au/fast>. Also, don't forget our very informative Foster and Kinship Carers Qld Social Media Group run by FAST Reps, where you are able to gain access to accurate policy, procedure and legislation.

Carissa Inglis
Service Support Manager

'Self-care is giving the world the best of you, instead of what is left of you'



Katie Reed



Northern Region Update

It's hard to believe that we are in the 2nd part of the year! Before we know it there will be tinsel and Santas everywhere!

These last couple of months have certainly kept me on my toes! I was fortunate enough to be able to spend a week in Kowanyama alongside the Churches of Christ Care team where, as mentioned in the last Reporter, we celebrated Foster and Kinship Care Week but also had an opportunity to sit and yarn and share stories about carers journeys.

It has also been a busy couple of months for training. QFKC training occurred in places such as Townsville, Charters Towers and Cairns. This training included, Achieving Permanency, Family contact, Standards of Care Review and Pre-Service Orientation, and were all well attended.

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

Charters Towers	➤ 6 th September- Understanding QCAT and Children's Court
Cairns	➤ 26 th August- Triple R

By the time you get to read this, Conference would have been and gone, however due to circumstances beyond our control, this has now been postponed. We look forward to being able to spend a couple of days soaking up new information and enjoying spending time with likeminded people in the near future.

Foster Carer and Advocacy Team

Meet Raymond Metzger...

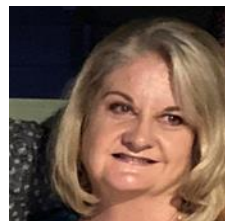
Hi, I'm Raymond. I'm local to Mareeba in North Queensland, and have been married to my best mate Georgina for 43 years now. We have 4 of our own children and 13 grandchildren. We have been carers for over 13 years, and have 6 children in our care, 2 of which have been with us for 14 years. As a FAST Rep I am available to help other carers, by listening, advising, and to provide support when asked.



Raymond Metzger
FAST Rep
Far North Qld Region

When requested, I also advise NGO's and the Department staff. I love the fact I can give back what I have learnt from our journey in caring for the last 15+ years. If I can't help, I am able to direct the carers in the right direction; never losing site of the children we care for.

Following on from last month's departmental profiles, this month we have an amazing Child Safety Service Centre Manager, Susan (AKA Sue) Lagana from Townsville North and Hinchinbrook Child Safety Service Centre. This also includes Region Intake Services for the Northern Region.



Hello all, what a pleasure to make ourselves better known amongst you all and I have been volunteered to be the first from the North Queensland Region to provide my profile. My name is Susan (aka Sue) Lagana, Manager, Townsville North & Hinchinbrook Child Safety Service.

So who am I and why am I here?

I am a North Queenslander through and through – Go the Cowboys. I was born in Cairns (Yirrganydji) and have lived in Innisfail (Mamu) and Townsville (Wulgurukaba and Bindal). I have been married 35 years and have two boys who have grown into amazing men with the eldest recently getting married in Townsville. We have followed the boys across Australia for Hockey and Indoor Cricket. When the boys were younger I undertook a range of voluntary roles in the community including President, Secretary and Treasurer of Sporting groups, P&F and a Family Day Care Committee and have been the Manager of a number of their representative sporting teams.

I joined the Department in 1981 in the Innisfail Service Centre before moving to Townsville in 1991 for a six month temporary contact and here we remained. We love Townsville and all that it has to offer. I have worked across the North Queensland and Far North Queensland Regions in a range of roles, including: Client Relations Officer, Acting Manager in Bowen and Mount Isa, Principal Project Officer and Acting Director of Placement Services Unit and was interviewed as part of the 2012 Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry (Carmody).

So why Child Safety? I have basically grown up in the Department and have been very privileged to have worked with some amazing staff, stakeholders, carers and clients from whom I have learnt so much. I have been allowed to develop and reflect along my journey whilst working in both regional and state-wide roles. I know I am at my happiest when I am helping people and child safety allows me to help people every day. To ensure equality, fairness, authenticity and the best outcomes possible are achieved for our little people. That's why I love my job and coming to work each day (well most days). No two days are the same and there is always something new to learn and someone new to learn from. For me, partnerships, communication, learning and reflecting are key. I am a lifelong learner with an open, inquisitive mind and will admit I don't always have all the answers, but when posed a question I do not know, I will seek out the answer and provide a response.

You may have met me at some of the Foster Carer Dinners or events in Townsville over the years or the Foster Carer Forum held in Cairns a few years back. So, if you have a worry or would like to talk something through relating to my service centre, I am always here to listen, support and provide direction and clarity where I can.

Until we meet Thanks *Sue*



Northern Region Update cont...

Regional Updates

Far Northern Area

- The FNQ regions Foster and Kinship Care agencies in partnership with QFKC will be hosting the Triple R Training for Carers on **Thursday, 26th August 2021**. The Triple R training covers the 'Rights, Roles and Responsibilities' of the caring role. The training looks at key pieces of legislation and documents that speak to these important factors and more importantly, what they mean for carers in providing day to day care for children and young people. All carers are welcome to attend, so ***please speak with your agency Support Worker NOW if you are interested in attending.***
- ***Did you know*** that as an approved carer you can access information and support through the Foster and Kinship Carer support line on 1300 729 309, Monday to Friday 5:00pm–11:30pm and Saturday and Sunday 7:00am–11:30pm. This service is provided by the Child Safety after hour's team, and is in addition to the afterhours support provided by your local Foster and Kinship Care Service.
- Later this year the Department will be implementing a new IT system to manage placement referrals. The new system will provide greater functionality for the Placement Services Unit to communicate with the Foster and Kinship Care support agencies, and in Far North Queensland region is expected to go live in October. In preparation for go-live, carers are encouraged to ensure your Foster Care Agreement and Placement Preferences are up to date. If you need to make amendments to your placement preferences, we encourage you to speak with your support agency so a revised Foster Care Agreement can be completed.

Northern Area

- QFKC conference has been postponed however, we hope to be able to meet representatives there from the NQ region, and that carers will have the opportunity to have a chat soon.
- Northern Queensland region has been busy planning for NAIDOC week activities, hope all carers were able to celebrate in their area.
- Child Protection Week will be upon us before we know it and Department and agencies will be starting to plan events to celebrate.
- The minister made a surprise visit to Townsville placement services unit which was exciting.

That's it from me for this month.

Jodie Baird
Case Officer, Townsville



Partners in Care

UPDATE

Smoke Alarm Installation – Applications required by 30 September.



With this year moving quickly we wanted to provide a reminder to all carers to ensure they have considered their need to access smoke alarms for your home through the Smoke Alarm Initiative by 30 September 2021. Applications need to be made by 30 September 2021 to allow works to be completed by 31 December 2021.

The Smoke Alarm Initiative began in January 2018 in response to new legislation that is requiring all homes to have interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms installed in every bedroom, in connecting hallways and on each storey. Together with Public Works, Child Safety will supply and install smoke alarms free of charge in eligible homes for Queensland's foster and kinship carers.

To check eligibility and for more information about the initiative please click the link below or scan the QR code to complete the online questionnaire. Remember applications need to be received by 30 September 2021.

[Smoke alarm installation project | Community support | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/information-for-carers/rights-and-responsibilities/carers-responsibilities/cards-for-carers)



It has never been easier to renew your Blue Card

It's never been easier to renew your blue card or exemption card through the Blue Cards Services online application portal. If you are coming up on your 3-year blue card or exemption card renewal, and you haven't already, you can create an account via the online application portal. All you will need is your current Blue Card number and your Customer Reference Number through Transport and Main Roads, this is generally your driver's license number.

To learn more about the blue card application and renewal process please visit the website below or scan the QR code.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/information-for-carers/rights-and-responsibilities/carers-responsibilities/cards-for-carers>



Welcome to our 2,000th Carer Connect User

Congratulations and thank you to you all - Carer Connect has clicked over its 2,000th carer milestone in July. The Carer Connect team would like to thank you all for your continued support in using and providing feedback so that we can provide an easier caring experience for you. For new carers or existing carers that are yet to download the app, you can find more information here or by scanning the QR Code.

If you are ready to download the app, Carer Connect is available for both IOS through the Apple store and Android through Google Play

Apple Store



Google Play

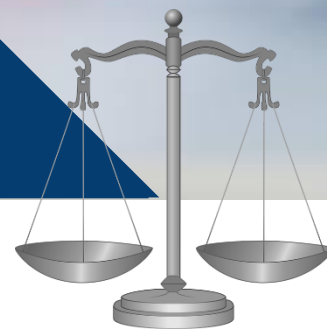


Queensland
Foster and
Kinship Care



Queensland
Government

NEW LAWS AFFECTING FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS



Child Sexual Abuse

On 5th July 2021 new laws were introduced which compels all adults to report sexual offending against children to the police unless they have a reasonable excuse, and for adults in institutional settings (this includes the homes of foster and kinship carers) must protect children from the risk of a sexual offence being committed against them.

So what does this mean for Carers:

- If a child in your care discloses sexual abuse – you must report this, if you report this to Child Safety, you must ensure that Child Safety report this to the Police. A reasonable excuse for not reporting to the police would be, that you have reported the sexual abuse to Child Safety and have been told this information will be shared with the police.
- If you reasonably suspect that a child is being or is at risk of being sexually abused in your home, you must protect the child from the risk of a sexual offence being committed against them. For example, if there is an adult household member or spouse you believe is a risk to the child, you must report this and remove this risk. If you do not, you will be committing an offence.

The following has been taken directly from the Queensland Government's website and provides further context.

For these laws, *child* means a person under 16 or, a person under 18 with an impairment of the mind.

An *impairment of the mind*, as defined in the Criminal Code, means a disability due to an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive or neurological impairment (or a combination of these), which leaves the person with both:

- a substantial reduction in their capacity for communication, social interaction or learning;
- a need for support.

Visit: <https://www.cyjma.qld.gov.au/protecting-children/what-child-sexual-abuse>

Child sexual offence

A *child sexual offence* is an offence of a sexual nature committed against a child and includes:

- Indecent treatment of a child
- Carnal knowledge with or of a child;
- Rape;
- Incest;
- Grooming a child (or their parent or carer);
- Making child exploitation material;
- Maintaining a sexual relationship with a child.

Indecent treatment of a child covers a range of conduct of a sexual nature. Examples may include:

- fondling a child in a sexual manner;
- having the child touch a sexual body part;
- taking a sexual photograph of a child.

Grooming a child (or their parent or carer) refers to the way some offenders form relationships and build trust with children, parents, carers, teachers and other children in order to get close to a child and create the opportunity for sexual abuse. It can be difficult to identify because the behaviour itself may not be abusive or sexual. Grooming can often occur online.



NEW LAWS AFFECTING FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS

Children need the adults around them to take action to protect them from sexual abuse. These offences target behaviour that ignores or hides the sexual abuse of children.

Failure to report

The [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse](#) (Royal Commission) found that failing to report child sexual abuse to appropriate authorities allowed it to continue and prevented children from accessing the support they needed.

The Queensland Police Service and the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (Child Safety) act on reports of sexual offending against children. They are committed to making the community safer for children and ensuring that children and young people are safe from harm.

To do this vital work, these services need adults to report sexual offending against children.

In a number of their case studies, the Royal Commission heard of circumstances where abuse was not reported to police or where steps were not taken to protect children. Reporting a belief that sexual abuse against a child has occurred or is occurring allows police to investigate and respond to child sexual offences.

The laws mean all adults in the community have a legal duty to report sexual offending against children to the police, unless they have a reasonable excuse for not doing so. Learn more about the [failure to protect](#).

Failure to protect

The laws also impose a legal duty on certain adults to protect children from sexual offending. Adults in responsible positions in institutions will have an obligation to protect children in their care from known significant risks of sexual abuse.

If you know there is a significant risk that another adult associated with an institution will sexually abuse a child, it is not enough to wait until sexual offending occurs to inform the police. This legal duty to protect focusses on preventing sexual abuse of children.

The intention behind this law is to ensure individuals in institutions take proactive action to reduce or remove known risks to children. The law attaches a criminal penalty to willful or negligent failures to do so. Learn more about the [failure to protect offence](#).

Privilege

Despite the express provisions relating to religious confessions, the offences are not intended to override privilege, including legal professional privilege and sexual assault counselling privilege.

How to report

To report an offence, contact:

- ⇒ PoliceLink on [131 444](#).
- ⇒ If it's an emergency, phone Triple Zero ([000](#)).
- ⇒ If you aren't sure of your reporting obligations at work, talk to your manager or the human resources contacts at your organisation.

You may wish to [get legal advice](#) if you are unsure about your legal obligations.



Queensland Foster and Kinship Care

Represent • Advocate • Inform • Support • Excel

Notice of Queensland Foster & Kinship Care Inc. Annual General Meeting 2021

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on

Monday, 13th September 2021
at 11.00am

The meeting will be held at

Kedron Wavell Services Club
Hamilton Road, Chermside

Agenda:

- Receiving Statement of Income & Expenditure, assets, liabilities and mortgages, charges, changes and securities affecting the property of the Association for the last financial year.
- Receiving the Auditor's Report on the financial affairs of the Association for the last financial year.
- Presenting the Audited Statement to the meeting for the adoption
- Management Committee and Executive Director's Report
- QFKC Staff Reports
- Stepping down of current Committee Members
- Announcement of Elected Members of the Management Committee
- Other Agenda items

Management Committee Candidate Nominations 2021

As there were no more nominations than the positions to be vacated by the Management Committee, there will not be a ballot prior to the Annual General Meeting. The candidates appear below.

President:

Hazel Little

Nominated by Gary Little
Seconded by Bryan Smith

Treasurer:

Sarah Grainer

Nominated by Barry Shooter
Seconded by Bryan Smith

Secretary:

Linda Smith

Nominated by Bryan Smith
Seconded by Hazel Little

As there were 3 individual nominations for the 4 positions being: President, Treasurer and Secretary for the QFKC Management Committee, no ballot will be undertaken. These positions will take effect as of the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on the 13th September 2021. The vacant position of Vice President may be filled by appointment at a later time as determined by the Management Committee.

Following the meeting, light lunch will be provided

Please RSVP by Friday 3rd September 2021 to **E:** admin@qfk.com.au or **P:** 3256 6166

Welcome!

New QFKC Members

Jamie Bateman

Alex Von Muralt

Zoe Von Muralt

Billy Harris

Jenny Harris

Linda Neal

Steven Grist

Aurora Daniels

Luke Roberts

Ashleigh Roberts

Phill Smith

Pennie Smith



CKKO **What's in the free CKKQ backpacks?** **Care Kits for Kids Qld Inc.**

Toiletry kits
Face washer / soap
Toothbrush / toothpaste
2 in 1 Shampoo-Conditioner / roll on deodorant
Brush / comb / hair bands / hair clips
Sanitary pads Ultra thins individually wrapped
Nappies / baby wipes / toddler pullups

New / handmade children's clothes sizes 000 to 16:
Baby wear : singlets / onesies / sleepwear
New underwear / crop tops / pyjamas
New socks
T-shirts / shorts / long pants / tops / dresses
Jackets / hoodies / beanies / quilts / wraps

Education / activity kits:
Colouring, writing or scrap books A5
HB and coloured pencils / markers / pens
Erasers / wooden rulers
Reading books
Small soft toy / doll

Backpacks for boys and girls all ages

Care Kits for Kids Qld Inc.

Care Kits for Kids Qld Inc. is a not-for-profit registered Qld charity which distributes comprehensive, free Care Kit backpacks for children in crisis and out-of-home care all year round, through Qld agencies which help them. We are all volunteers and want to show practical love and support to children in crisis; that they matter and their community cares.

New backpacks are filled with age/size/gender-appropriate donations of new clothing, toiletry, educational and comfort items, available to services such as Qld Police Child Protection Services, Qld Child Safety agencies, Foster and Kinship Agencies and Domestic Violence agencies and other programs which help support these children.

Order forms can be requested any time by email: carekitsforkidsqld@gmail.com . For any queries, phone Chris Rafter on Ph: 0407 141 998.

Care Kits for Qld can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/carekitsforkidsqld/> and will soon have a website at carekitsforkidsqld.org.au .





Transition to Adulthood (T2A) Month is held in November each year. T2A Month highlights the needs of young people as they make the journey from the child protection system to adulthood, experiencing positive life outcomes along the way. The theme for T2A Month in 2021 is 'Hopes and Dreams'. Every young person has dreams for their future. We want to see care-experienced young people listened to, supported and empowered to thrive; pursuing their dreams in life. Please go to www.createyourfuture.org.au/t2a for useful information, handy resources and positive events.

YOU'RE INVITED TO

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2021 ONLINE DINNER PARTY!

JOIN US FOR DINNER!

WHAT: REGIONAL ONLINE DINNER PARTY

WHEN: 6PM – 7:30PM FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2021

WHERE: ONLINE (YOUR OWN DINNER TABLE!)

JOIN US FOR A FABULOUS NIGHT OF FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES, SPECIAL GUESTS AND WONDERFUL COMPANY! THIS EVENT IS FREE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A CARE EXPERIENCE WHO LIVE IN REGIONAL QUEENSLAND.



Every September CREATE Foundation celebrate Child Protection Week. Off the back of our extremely successful online dinner parties last year, we will be hosting a Regional Online dinner party this year on Friday the 10th of September and the best part is... we come to you!

Participating households will be sent recipe and ingredients to create a culinary masterpiece. There will be games, fun and prizes! Winning household will receive a \$100 Hello Fresh voucher! First in, best fed! RSVP today:

qld@create.org.au .





1. Sortli, a mobile app to help with transition.

Sortli (short for 'sort out your life') is a free mobile app for young people transitioning to adulthood, to help them think about their future life and plan for their transition to independence. It's a fun, informative and easy-to-navigate app that can be installed on a mobile device, so that it can be accessed anywhere at any time. Download for Apple or Android.

Sortli has been developed by young people who have already left the care system and are living independently, as well as professionals who work with young people in care. Sortli is a pocket companion to services and support. It provides a step-by-step guide for all the important areas of a young person's life, such as finding a place to live, looking after health needs, managing a budget, finding a job, or doing some training and general life skills.

It works by helping young people to set their own personal goals and milestones, keep track of their progress and celebrate their successes. The information they enter into the app is stored on their mobile device only and is not provided back to the developers, the government or anyone else. Sortli covers sensitive topics and is not suitable for young people under 15 years of age.

For More Information visit:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/information-for-carers/everyday-caring/child-leaves-your-care/resources-and-services>

2. About the Carer discount card for Foster & Kinship Carers?

The Carer Business Discount Card scheme recognises the valuable contributions of carers throughout Queensland. The card entitles eligible carers to a wide range of discounts on goods and services from participating businesses across the state.

All approved foster and kinship carers in Queensland are eligible for the Carer Business Discount Card. Your card remains valid for 4 years while you are an approved foster or kinship carer. Only the person named on the card can use it. You will automatically receive the card within 20 business days of being approved and you will continue to receive replacement cards for as long as you are a foster or kinship carer.

If you have been a foster or kinship carer for 2 months or more and have not yet received a Carer Business Discount Card, please contact Card Services, Smart Service Queensland on 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Smart Service Queensland may contact your child safety service centre to make sure your records are all up to date.

For More Information: [Carer Business Discount Card for foster and kinship carers](#) | [Community support](#) | [Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

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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 \(cyjma.qld.gov.au\)](#) 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. Where can I find more information for Foster and Kinship Carers

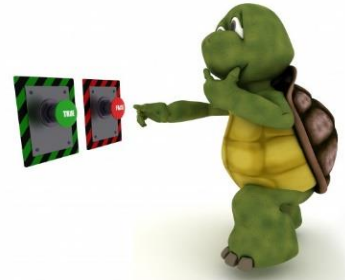
The Qld Government website below provides information for existing Foster and Kinship Carers on the following topics:

1. Qld Government commitment to Foster and Kinship Carers and children and young people in their care, Carer Rights and Responsibilities, legal matters and service relationships.
2. What to do when a child enters your care, helping them settle in, about their case plan, placement agreement and keeping track of their life history.
3. Kinship Carer Responsibilities
4. How to attend to the everyday caring of the child in your care.
5. Financial support available for foster and kinship Carers.
6. Where to get help as a Foster and Kinship Carer.
7. Carer Connect App.

For further information:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/information-for-carers>

True or False ...



By Danny Hemsley

1. Meryl Streep has won two Academy Awards.
2. Marrakesh is the capital of Morocco.
3. Indina Menzel sings 'let it go' 20 times in 'Let it Go' from Frozen.
4. Waterloo has the greatest number of tube platforms in London.
5. M&M stands for Mars and Moordale.
6. The Great Wall of China is longer than the distance between London and Beijing.
7. There are more than 219 episodes of Friends.
8. 'A' is the most common letter used in the English language.
9. A lion's roar can be heard up to eight kilometres away.
10. In Harry Potter, Draco Malfoy has no siblings.

Interesting
FACT

Did You Know ...?

The first oranges were not orange.



The original oranges from Southeast Asia were a tangerine-pomelo hybrid, and they were actually green. In fact, oranges in warmer regions like Vietnam and Thailand still stay green through maturity.

10. **False** - Skylar Malfoy is his younger sister
9. **True** - 'E' is the most common letter and appears in 11 percent of all English words, according to Oxford Dictionaries
8. **True** - London to Beijing is only 8,136 km, The Great Wall of China is 21,196.18 km
7. **True** - there are 236
6. **True** - M&M stands for Mars
5. **False** - M&M stands for Mars
4. **True** - she sings it 21 times!
3. **False** - it's Rabat
2. **False** - Kramer vs. Kramer in 1980
1. **False** - she's won 3! Best Actress for *The Iron Lady* in 2012, Best Actress for *Sophie's Choice* in 1983, Best Supporting Actress

Source: <https://www.cosmopolitan.com/uk/worklife/a32612392/best-true-false-quiz-questions/>

Reporter



Support for grandparents and non-parent carers of children

Grandparent Advisers provide extra support for non-parent carers, including grandparents, foster carers and kinship carers who have taken on parental responsibilities for children.

They can help you by:

- providing tailored information about payments and support services based on your family circumstances
- arranging appointments for grandparent carers and non-parent carers with specialist staff, including social workers
- arranging referrals to federal, state and community service providers, and
- helping with any other Medicare, Centrelink or Child Support enquiries.

Payments and services

If you're a grandparent or non-parent carer of children and live in the same house as a parent, you may not be eligible for payments. If you're in this situation, you can contact us to discuss your circumstances.

If you're a grandparent or non-parent carer of children, you may be eligible for:

- Family Tax Benefit – to help with the cost of raising children
- Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy (Grandparent) – to help with the cost of child care
- Medicare payments – to help with health care costs
- Double Orphan Pension – to help with the costs of caring for children who are orphans or who can't be cared for by their parents

- concession and health care cards, including Foster Child Health Care Card – to help with accessing cheaper health care services and medicines, and
- child support – you may be able to receive child support from one or both parents.

You may be eligible for other payments and services. Contact us to discuss your circumstances.

We have specialist staff available to provide additional support to your family, including:

- social workers
- Financial Information Service Officers
- Indigenous Specialist Officers
- Multicultural Service Officers
- Community Engagement Officers.

Next steps

For more information about assistance available for grandparents, and non-parent carers, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/grandparentcarers or servicesaustralia.gov.au/nonparentcarers

To speak to a Grandparent Adviser, call **Freecall™ 1800 245 965**.



FAST REP CONTACTS

FAST Region	Representatives	Mobile	Phone	Email
Sunshine Coast and Central Qld	Adriana Durn	0403 275 078		adrianadurn61@gmail.com
	Hazel Little	0412 457 705		littlehazel@bigpond.com
	Maree Frampton	0428 453 859	5494 2786	bobframpton@hotmail.com
	Tanya Watts	0455 100 294		watts-3@hotmail.com
Brisbane and Moreton	Ian McIntyre	0421 693 999		ianjacob_14@outlook.com
	Katherine Keane	0499 203 848		katherine.keane@qfkc.com.au
Northern Qld	Kerri O'Connor	0407 138 954	4749 0170	kerri.oconnor@qfkc.com.au
	Lyndal Hughes	0417 744 959		lyndal.hughes@qfkc.com.au
Far North Qld	Sarah Grainer	0418 404 539	4033 0941	sarahgrainer@hotmail.com
	Raymond Metzger	----	4093 3464	raymond.metzger@optusnet.com.au
South East	David Podger	0448 432 233		david.podger@qfkc.com.au
	Katie Taylor	0418 788 122		tamborinetaylors@gmail.com
	Michelle Eastabrook	0414 840 965		Shelley_T_71@hotmail.com
	Sam Bonaccorso	0412 882 072		sam.bonaccorso@qfkc.com.au
	Sandra Ehlers	0427 168 226		sandrat@live.com.au
South West	Amanda Preston	0404 873 485		amanda.preston@qfkc.com.au
	Cheryl Gill	0419 738 871	4162 7809	cheryl.gill@qfkc.com.au
	Colleen Humphrey	0448 182 322		colleenmario@hotmail.com
	Mick Luke	0420 442 482		mick.luke@qfkc.com.au
	Nikki Gallatly	0421 084 440		nikki.gallatly@gmail.com

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

Changes can occur from time to time, for updated lists please visit the QFKC website <https://qfkc.com.au/fast>

QFKC TEAM

QFKC Management Committee

Hazel Little	President	0412 457 705	hazel.little@qfkc.com.au
Saskia Smith	Vice President	0428 912 924	saskia.smith@qfkc.com.au
Linda Smith	Secretary	0414 681 059	linda.smith@qfkc.com.au
Sarah Grainer	Treasurer	0418 404 539	sarah.grainer@bigpond.com
Cheryl Gill	Committee Member	0419 738 871	cheryl.gill@qfkc.com.au
Ian McIntyre	Committee Member	0421 693 999	ianjacob_14@outlook.com
Kerry McFarlane	Committee Member	0411 778 183	kerrym81@bigpond.com
Sam Bonaccorso	Committee Member	0412 882 072	sam.bonaccorso@qfkc.com.au

QFKC Sub Committee and Coordinators

Training and Conferences	Hazel Little	0412 457 705
	Linda Smith	0414 681 059

QFKC Staff

Bryan Smith	Executive Director	bryan.smith@qfkc.com.au
Carissa Inglis	Service Support Manager	carissa.inglis@qfkc.com.au
Marijka Kelly	Foster & Kinship Care Recruitment & Exit Team Leader	marijka.kelly@qfkc.com.au
Jodie Baird	Case Officer - Townsville	0400 647 664
Danny Hemsley	Case Officer	07 3256 6166 e: admin@qfkc.com.au
Michelle Leggett	Case Officer	
Angela Cunningham	Case Officer	
Margaret Savic	Case Officer	
Joanna Brennan	Case Officer	
Michelle Resnikoff	Business Support Officer	
Karen Stein	Senior Administration Officer	
Colleen Knipe	Administration Officer	

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.



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.

ABN 16 454 122 946

QFKC Head Office
7/10 Depot Street Banyo QLD 4014
P: 07 3256 6166

QFKC Townsville Office
Ronan Street, Vincent QLD 4814
P: 07 4779 9513

E: admin@qfkc.com.au
www.qfkc.com.au