

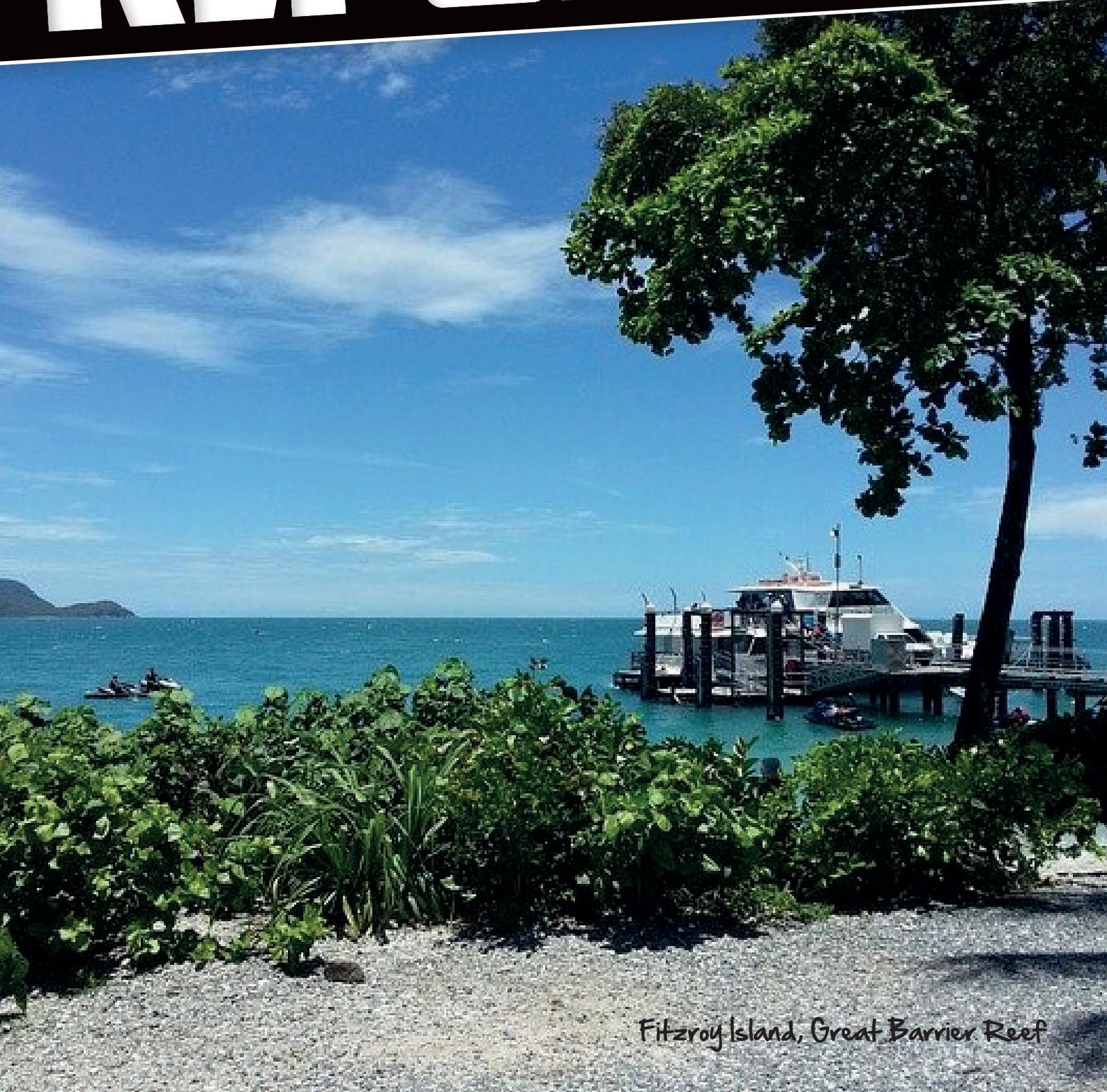


**Queensland**  
**Foster and**  
**Kinship Care**



# REPORTER

ISSUE 440 APRIL 2020



*Fitzroy Island, Great Barrier Reef*

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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.

# IN THIS ISSUE



<b>MINISTER'S ARTICLE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A FEW WORDS FROM QFKC MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A FEW WORDS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>WELCOME NEW QFKC MEMBERS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SERVICE SUPPORT MANAGER UPDATE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NORTHERN REGION NEWS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>HOW OPG ADVOCATED FOR MATT'S RIGHT TO A SAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PARTNERS IN CARE</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</b>	<b>14-18</b>
<b>ACRONYMS</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CREATE FOUNDATION - MAKEIT21</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>BRAVEHEARTS - RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURES OF CHILD ABUSE</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>FUN FACTS</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>FAST REP CONTACTS</b>	<b>25</b>

# MINISTER'S ARTICLE

## Hello Everyone

In these trying times, my highest priority is the health and wellbeing of our children and young people, and the families who care for them – which means you.

The spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus is posing enormous challenges to the way we go about our daily business. We are now working in an environment of rapid change and uncertainty. However, what remains certain is the care and love our carers will provide for children in care.

We continue to identify ways we can support carers better – and thank you for the feedback so many of you have provided to me and the Department in this quest. Keeping you informed is one of the key ways we hope to make sure both you and the children in your care are protected.

There are several ways all of us can all keep up with the ever-changing news and announcements around managing through the COVID-19 issue:

- For the latest, most accurate information, visit [www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus), or if you or someone in your care thinks they might have contracted the virus, contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or your family doctor.
- The Premier also reports regularly to Queenslanders on the latest developments following meetings of the National Cabinet formed in response to the pandemic. You can keep up with the latest through media reports and social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook.

We are also working closely with child safety peak bodies as well as foster and kinship care agencies to make sure they have what they need to support you.

And we will continue to update you, ourselves through regular channels including direct emails.

We are also encouraging as many carers as possible to stay informed through the CarerConnect app.

In February we improved CarerConnect in response to your feedback about more timely responses to child-related costs (CRC). The update enables you to take photos of receipts and submit requests for reimbursement directly to the Child Safety Service Centre. We will continue to take your feedback to make the app more useful to you.

A couple of things I particularly wanted to let you know about:

- As a result of COVID-19 we have moved our annual Foster and Kinship Carer Week to later in the year, with November the favoured month.

For more than 20 years Foster and Kinship Carer Week has given Queenslanders the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the incredibly important work of carers – to thank all carers for your generosity and dedication in providing a safe home to children and young people who can no longer live safely in their own home.

- Ensuring children in care have an appropriate National Disability Insurance Scheme plan is a priority – even more so through the current crisis - and our focus is on ensuring the needs of young people in care who have a disability are met by the right services and supports available through the NDIS.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share news of the appointment of the new Director-General of the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women – Deidre Mulkerin. Deidre brings to the role extensive experience and expertise in family support and child protection systems in Queensland and New South Wales as well as a wealth of knowledge in the national context. She has hit the ground running and doing a great job.

We are committed to doing everything we can to support our foster and kinship carers as part of our child protection team. We don't know everything that is ahead of us through the COVID-19 impact but if we all communicate, then that will help us to be sure we're responding in the best possible way for our kids.

The care you give is crucial to supporting the most vulnerable children and young people in care and I thank you whole-heartedly for all you do.

And thank you for working with us as we strive to do the best we can to support you.

**Di Farmer MP**  
Minister for Child Safety



Hi Everyone,

**A**s Queenslanders we have recently been experiencing some difficult times, many of you suffering the effects of the drought, followed by the impact of the bush fires and now some flooding and the onset of the cyclone season. We are now also experiencing something we have not had to deal with on such scale before, a global health crisis, Coronavirus or COVID-19.

As Australians I am sure we are in a much better position than a lot of countries to fight and survive this crisis. The Health Department has issued guidelines for us all to follow to protect ourselves and our children, simple things that are easy to abide by, self-isolating and seeking medical attention if feeling unwell, continual hand washing and no hand shaking or hugging.

Should you need additional information please contact your support agency or local Child Safety Service Centre for clarification. Also any Health Department updates and changes on the virus situation will be posted on our website: [www.qfkc.com.au](http://www.qfkc.com.au) and Facebook page.

On another note, our Conference, which was scheduled to be held in early May has now been postponed to the 6th, 7th and 8th November 2020. The venue will stay as Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast and, unless you wish to make changes with your registration, there is no need to do anything except change the date in your Calendar.

The keynote speakers have been booked and the workshop topics selected. If you are still thinking of attending we would love to see you there.

QFKC will continue to provide advocacy and support to all Queensland Foster and Kinship Carers through our Fast Representatives and centrally based support staff. Should you need assistance and/or advice on any aspect of caring for children or young people in the Foster Care System the relevant phone numbers are in this Reporter.

Until next time please stay safe, stay strong.



**Hazel Little**  
QFKC President

Hi Everyone,

**A**s you will read in this edition of the Reporter, QFKC has continually tried to ensure that everyone is kept up to date on the work undertaken by the Department and QFKC. While we've been working hard to drive change that has a positive effect on Foster and Kinship Carer families and the children and young people they care for, we are now also presented with an unprecedented challenge, specifically the COVID-19 Coronavirus. This has meant that we may see changes to focus in some areas specifically in dealing effectively with the global pandemic we are now currently facing. Please be assured that QFKC will do everything we can to communicate and inform our carer community and staff of any changes and developments as they occur. Our website: [www.qfkc.com.au](http://www.qfkc.com.au) and Facebook page will also provide regular updates and advise to help ensure you are and stay informed. It is also our aim to continue to keep everyone informed on how we are tracking with the work we are continually trying to progress with the department.

By the time you receive this Reporter, you will no doubt have already been advised that the QFKC 2020 Conference to be held at the Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast has been re-scheduled and is now due to be held from the 6th to 8th November 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation. It is important to understand why we hold these conferences and the importance of having a mix of carers and staff attending. We appreciate the need to help carers and staff stay informed of new and different ways of thinking when caring for our children and young people and that many individuals and organisations are continually striving to consider significant areas of care such as trauma, culture and connection just to name a few. We try to ensure as best we can, the types of workshops that will help carers and staff stay informed and get involved in different ways of caring and thinking about how we can best care for our children and young people. While this is very important, just as importantly, is our networking and simply having some fun. There is an enormous amount of work that goes into the organisation of conferences to help ensure the mix of professional development and entertainment is balanced while giving everyone the opportunity to mix in a like minded community where we all play a part in a child's development. Partners in Care, QFKC Carer Forums and surveys all reflect the need to enhance relationships and the conference is one of the ways in which we can do that. I personally love the conversation I have with so many people, some of whom I am meeting for the first time.

All details for the conference apart from change of date will remain the same. Registered delegates have been asked to hold on to their bookings however, anyone unable to attend the new dates will be entitled to a full refund. If unable to attend, I would encourage you to send a substitute where possible.

All enquiries can be emailed to [conference@qfkc.com.au](mailto:conference@qfkc.com.au) in the first instance. Please be mindful that we have one staff member managing the administration for the conference, so please be patient when seeking a response.

QFKC has also taken the following measures in response to the current pandemic and will continue to inform on how this is impacting on the organisation and of course, provide guidance where we can:-

- All QFKC training modules have been suspended – that aligns with Government Health advice regarding the definition of 'close contact' and putting in preventative measures to stop the spread. Close contact is considered to have taken place if someone is within 1.5 metres of another for more than 15 minutes or in the same room as someone for more than 2 hours. Given all of QFKC's training modules are longer than 2 hours, a decision has been made to place these on hold. All Foster and Kinship Care agencies have been advised of this.
- The QFKC office will remain operational as per usual. The organisation has implemented a Continuity Plan which will ensure the ongoing running of the office, even in the event of a government imposed shut down, or multiple members of staff being unwell. We all have the ability to work remotely and whilst we may need to adjust the way in which we undertake some of our work, i.e. via tele-link instead of meetings in person, this is something QFKC is quite used to given the limited staff we have and the areas we cover. Again it is vital that we keep our carer community as healthy as possible and any type of gatherings that bring Foster and Kinship Carers together will be closely monitored.

We are aware that Child Safety are also mapping all social gathering activities, including Foster and Kinship Care Week and once again we will update. To stay informed and for current information I encourage you to visit the QFKC website: [www.qfkc.com.au](http://www.qfkc.com.au) and Facebook page and to make use of the Department's Carer Connect app which is a great tool for receiving up-to-date messaging from Child Safety.

I would encourage everyone to follow guidelines and ensure you take all necessary precautions. We hope that you and your families remain healthy during this time.

**Bryan Smith**  
Executive Director



## NEWS AND VIEWS:

If anyone has news or date claimers that we can print in the Reporter, add to our website and post on e-news or on **Facebook**, please feel free to email to this to [admin@qfkc.com.au](mailto:admin@qfkc.com.au). We touch every part of the state and are happy to get your news out there. We also welcome your views. It is important that everyone has the opportunity to tell us about positive experiences while also highlighting any challenges that you see in our community. This helps us to better promote healthy and child focused change wherever needed.



# Welcome

## New QFKC Members

*Sandra Abell  
Chris Arnold  
Lionel Boyce  
Tanya Boyce  
Jessica Boyle  
Mark Chandler  
Dianne Dyet  
Allan Gregorenko  
Patricia Hodson  
Katherine Howell  
Megan Jeffery  
Mark Jeffery*

*Leo Leppens  
Charles Morrison  
Joan Morrison  
Charlene Pedley  
Milton Ridduck  
Nathan Seden  
Makita Seden  
Chris Stirrup  
Luis Valladares Bravo  
Danielle Wallace  
Jalisa Wiggins*



Online membership now available at [www.qfk.com.au/membership](http://www.qfk.com.au/membership) for new and renewing Members. Membership can also be renewed by calling QFKC on Ph: 07 3256 6166 and providing credit card details.

# SERVICE SUPPORT MANAGER UPDATE

It has been a rough start to 2020 for Australia with the tragedies of the bushfires and then the Coronavirus. It is hard to protect children and young people from the trauma this can bring. For our children and young people who have already suffered complex trauma, we must be very careful not to over-expose them to other's trauma, whilst providing a balanced approach to helping them understand and manage the tragedies that will surround them in everyday life. Ensure that you have age appropriate conversations with children – don't dismiss their worries, rather try to answer their questions as best you can. Speak to care team members about any ideas they have to assist in these conversations and always be mindful of how they may be getting messages through mediums such as social media and internet.

In the world of Child Protection 2020 is set to be a very big one with review and implementation held strongly on the agenda. You should have seen by now announcements made in relation to a number of things that have come directly out of the Partners in Care initiatives and QFKC forums relating to Child Related Costs and Decision-making. We have prepared a two-page spread to update Carers in this space in the middle of this edition of the Reporter, so please refer to that for the most up to date information.

Also on the agenda this year is the drafting of the bill for legislative change. The first phase of consultation has taken place with Carers providing a clear view on the proposal of the introduction of a Carer Code of Conduct. It has been recognized in the consultation paper, this was not something supported by the carer community and it is hoped this view is reflected in the drafting of the final bill. If you would like to see a copy of this report, please go to the following link

<https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/child-family/child-family-reform/child-protection-legislation-reform>

There have also been some changes that you will notice when you are being re-approved as a Carer as a result of implementation of the Queensland Family and Child Commission recommendations into the Foster Care system. You will now be required to have a medical completed by your GP at every re-approval period and the following has now been identified as needing to take place for every re-approval as per the accepted recommendations from the QFCC's recommendations:

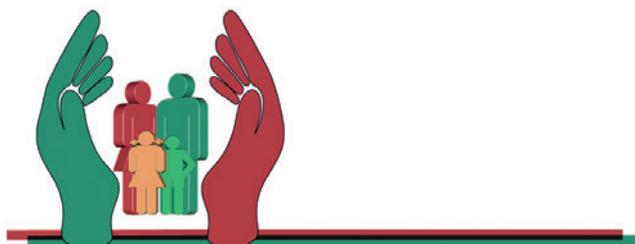
- Assessment interviews with the applicant and household members
- Interviews or information from other sources relevant to the assessment
- A household safety study
- Two referee checks

It is important to stay up to date with so many changes underway in the system, during your home visits with your agency each month, ask them for updates on changes in the system and if they are not aware of any, ask them to find out for you. Many of the changes are significant and absolutely do impact on Carers.

And finally be sure to keep an eye on QFKC Facebook pages, both the open page and the closed Foster and Kinship Carers Qld group which is a closed group but can be joined by carers for the most up to date information. Remember it is our wonderful FAST Reps managing the closed Foster and Kinship Carers Qld group, which is a place you can access support and advice through private messaging and download any number of meaningful documents relating to your caring experience.

**Carissa Inglis**

QFKC Service Support Manager



Hello Members,

**W**ell, the year has started off as busy as ever! It is hard to believe that it is nearly Easter already!

It is with sadness that I would like to inform you that our FAST Rep in Townsville, Leann Pascoe has resigned due to family commitments. Leann was an asset to QFKC during her time in the role and is well respected within her community.

This now means that we are in need of a FAST Rep in Townsville so, if you have friends or know of anyone that might suit this role, encourage them to make contact.

FAST Reps in the Northern region have been participating in lots of different events and forums. These include but are not limited to Partners in Care meetings/events in Townsville, Mackay and Cairns, CSO GRO Training review, Pyjama Foundation training, Carer Mentor Project and KFCW event planning meetings.

## Case Loads

Just a friendly reminder that Case Officers are always here if you need support with any matters. We encourage you to seek support if needed. Remember, there is no such thing as a stupid question! If you have matters that have become too complex or time consuming just let us know so we can either assist or take over the case. We are there to support you so please do not hesitate to make contact if needed. We value the work that you do and want to make sure you feel supported.

I know from speaking with FAST Reps, that it has been busy for you as well with some dealing with matters where there are several areas of concern. A good starting place to begin to address these concerns is to have the carers review the child's Placement Agreement as this document covers what the goals of the Case Plan are and indicates who is responsible.

## Case Plans

The purpose of a Case Plan is to ensure that the child's safety, belonging and wellbeing needs are met. A Case Plan should include the following:

- What are the goals and care needs of the child and how will they be met?
- What are the family's needs and how they will be met?
- Contact arrangements
- Supports available for the child
- How a child's parents will keep them safe
- Who will help?

Remember that all carers should receive a copy of the Case Plan. Carers play an important role in both the developments of the case plan and putting the case plan goals into action. These may include outlining how the carer will assist the child with the following:

- Meeting the day to day needs of the child;
- Support the child to attend and maintain contact with family;
- Assist the child to meet educational needs;
- Assist the child to meet their medical and therapeutic needs;
- Assist the child to transition to adulthood.

Meeting with the CSO to discuss the goals of the case plan is an opportunity to identify if there is a need for additional resources and financial support to support the child. Remember, if there are additional costs these need to be formally approved.

## Placement Agreements

Never underestimate the importance of a Placement Agreement. If time and considerations is taken to review the Case Plan the Placement Agreement will include the child's strengths and needs and identify what needs to be done to ensure these need are met.

A placement agreement should include the following:

- Case plan goals.
- The child's strengths and need and tasks required in relation to theses.
- Detailed family contact arrangements- Who will do this? Remember that it is not a requirement for a carer to facilitate contact- it can be negotiated.

### A carer's role is to:-

- a) Have the child ready and available for contact and,
  - b) Be supportive of contact.
- Identify and record agreed supports and services a carer needs to care for the child including financial supports, training needs and respite support.
  - Specify what contact will look like between the carer, child safety and the fostering agency.
  - Last, but definitely not least, is that it will be an opportunity to discuss any concerns or challenges.

A meeting should be held to review the Placement Agreement. We should not be hearing that carers were just sent an updated copy without the opportunity to discuss how things are going first.

So, if you have cases where there appears to be a lot going on for a carer, ask them to have a look at the most recent Placement Agreement. It could be that there is a need to review if things have changed. Remember that a Placement Agreement is a live document, it should be referred to and can be reviewed at any point if needed.

## Jodie Baird

Case Officer  
QFKC Townsville Office



# HOW OPG ADVOCATED FOR MATT'S RIGHT TO A SAFE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

**T**he Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) is an independent statutory office that promotes and protects the rights and interests of children and young people in the child protection system and in detention, disability and authorised mental health facilities. Community Visitors from the Community Visiting and Advocacy team at OPG visit these children and young people to ensure that services delivered are appropriate to support their wellbeing.

A key function of the role of OPG Community Visitors and Child Advocates is also to undertake advocacy to make sure these children and young people understand their rights, get information and are able to participate in decisions made about their lives. They also raise identified issues or complaints to help get a resolution for a child or young person.

Over the next few months, we are going to look at some real life examples of how our Community Visitors and Child Advocates have supported for the human rights and interests of children and young people, so you can better understand how we may be able to help support the children in your care.

Let's take a look at the first case example:

*A Community Visitor visited a foster care home where both 12-year old Matt and 15-year old Tom were living. During the visit the Community Visitor spoke with both boys in private so they could feel more comfortable opening up about anything that was worrying them.*

*During these conversations with the Community Visitor, Matt expressed that he was being bullied a lot by Tom. He indicated it always happened when his foster carers weren't in the room. Matt said he was being physically and emotionally hurt and that he didn't feel safe with Tom when his foster carers weren't around. Matt wanted to tell his foster carers about what was happening but was worried they wouldn't believe him, or that he would end up being removed from their care. Although Matt loved living with his foster carers, he wasn't happy because of the constant bullying he reported by Tom.*

*After the visit, the Community Visitor brought the issue up with Matt's Child Safety Officer and told them he didn't feel safe at home with Tom. The Community Visitor reiterated that Matt, along with all children and young people, have the right to access a safe living environment, and that this wasn't occurring*

*for Matt. The Child Safety Officer took the Community Visitor's insights on board and committed to look into the matter further.*

*Additionally, the Community Visitor spoke to Tom's Child Safety Officer to advise them about what was happening in the home between Tom and Matt. The Community Visitor asked the Child Safety Officer to follow up with Tom and the foster carers to find out what was occurring from Tom's point of view.*

*A couple of weeks later, The Child Safety Officer advised the Community Visitor that Tom would be moved to another foster care home by himself due to the risk he posed to other young people. They also advised that Tom had been unhappy living with Matt as he felt they didn't get along. When the Community Visitor spoke to Matt at the next visit he expressed how happy he was that he was no longer subject to Tom's bullying, and how much better he got along with the 14-year old boy who was now living in the foster care home with him.*

*Additionally when the Community Visitor visited Tom in his new placement he also seemed much happier in his placement as he was getting more of the one-on-one support from his foster carer that he needed.*

As you can see, the Community Visitor played a vital role in this situation. The Community Visitor was someone that Matt could trust and could tell them about any of the problems in his life. The Community Visitor listened to Matt and his views and wishes and advocated for Matt to live in a safe home environment which was really important to him. By advocating for Matt and working with Child Safety, this was achieved.

To find out more about the role of a Community Visitor and how they can help a child or young person in your care, call us on 1300 653 187 or

Email [publicguardian@publicguardian.qld.gov.au](mailto:publicguardian@publicguardian.qld.gov.au) or visit our website [www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au](http://www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au)



# Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Conference 2020

6 November 2020—8 November 2020

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



Please Note Change of Date to 6-8 November 2020



For further Information please email: [conference@qfkc.com.au](mailto:conference@qfkc.com.au)



## COPING CALENDAR: KEEP CALM. STAY WISE. BE KIND



30 actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together. Please use & share 🙏

**1** Make a plan to help you keep calm and stay in contact

**2** Enjoy washing your hands. Remember all they do for you!

**3** Write down ten things you feel grateful for in life and why

**4** Stay hydrated, eat healthy food and boost your immune system

**5** Get active. Even if you're stuck indoors, move & stretch

**6** Contact a neighbour or friend and offer to help them

**7** Share what you are feeling and be willing to ask for help

**8** Take five minutes to sit still and breathe. Repeat regularly

**9** Call a loved one to catch up and really listen to them

**10** Get good sleep. No screens before bed or when waking up

**11** Notice five things that are beautiful in the world around you

**12** Immerse yourself in a new book, TV show or podcast

**13** Respond positively to everyone you interact with

**14** Play a game that you enjoyed when you were younger

**15** Make some progress on a project that matters to you

**16** Rediscover your favourite music that really lifts your spirits

**17** Learn something new or do something creative

**18** Find a fun way to do an extra 15 minutes of physical activity

**19** Do three acts of kindness to help others, however small

**20** Make time for self-care. Do something kind for yourself

**21** Send a letter or message to someone you can't be with

**22** Find positive stories in the news and share these with others

**23** Have a tech-free day. Stop scrolling and turn off the news

**24** Put your worries into perspective and try to let them go

**25** Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

**26** Take a small step towards an important goal

**27** Thank three people you're grateful to and tell them why

**28** Make a plan to meet up with others again later in the year

**29** Connect with nature. Breathe and notice life continuing

**30** Remember that all feelings and situations pass in time



“Everything can be taken from us but one thing: the freedom to choose our attitude in any given set of circumstances” ~ Viktor Frankl



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



[www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)

Find out more about the Ten Keys to Happier Living, including books, guides, posters and more here: [www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys](http://www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys)



# Partners in Care

## UPDATE

### Update on the progress of Partners in Care Actions

#### Client Related Costs Policy and Procedures

As mentioned in the February Issue, changes to the CRC Policies has been implemented, with one overarching CRC Policy and five corresponding CRC procedures. Eligibility and entitlements have not changed, but the information and processes have been simplified to improve their implementation and consistency with financial delegations and standards of care.

If you would like to familiarise yourself with the CRC Police and Procedures they can be found at the link below under the Child Related Costs Section: [www.csyw.qld.gov.au/child-family/foster-kinship-care/resources-publications](http://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/child-family/foster-kinship-care/resources-publications) .

#### CRC Reimbursement and Carer Connect

The Carer Connect CRC reimbursement functionality has gone live!

The new CRC reimbursement functionality within Carer Connect will enable carers to seek financial reimbursement through the app for eligible CRC costs, this new functionality aims to improve reimbursement timeframes for carers.

If you haven't yet obtained the Carer Connect app, it's free and can be downloaded through Google Play or the Apple Store or alternatively registration can be completed online at [www.carerconnect.communities.qld.gov.au](http://www.carerconnect.communities.qld.gov.au) . Please speak with your Foster Care Agency about registering as their support can assist you through the process.

For those carers that have already registered, please continue to send your ideas and feedback on the app to the project team via [carerconnect@csyw.qld.gov.au](mailto:carerconnect@csyw.qld.gov.au) .

More information is available at [www.qld.gov.au/carerconnect](http://www.qld.gov.au/carerconnect) .

#### High Support Needs Allowance and Complex Support Needs Allowance

As you may be aware, mid last year the High Support Needs Allowance (HSNA) and Complex Support Needs Allowance (CSNA) applications were approved by the Director General (DG) to be extended from 6 month approval period to a 12 month approval period, a big win for carers.

The updated Child Related Costs Policies have provided additional prompt for HSNA and CSNA. The new CRC policy states where costs are regular and ongoing, consideration is to be given to utilising the HSNA and CSNA to support the carer to meet the costs quickly and efficiently. Following this change, further review of the HSNA and CSNA policies and procedures is underway to ensure it remains complementary of this approach.

In particular the opportunity will be taken to simplify eligibility criteria associated with categories, including clarifying the process for applying for these additional allowances and what information should be considered. This further review is also looking at options to align the HSNA and CSNA application with existing implications associated with these changes, further discussions will need to be held before any official changes to the policies can be made.

# Partners in Care

## UPDATE

### Who Decides What? New Guide in development

Similar to our “who pays for what” guide, we are working on developing a similar guide for carers, staff and parents about who decided what.

This development of this guide is a direct response to feedback from carers seeking greater clarity on decision making they can make and comes hot on the heels of new delegations to carers when the chief executive has guardianship. Carers caring for children under the guardianship responsibility of the Chief Executive can now consent to their child’s participation in typical activities any family may undertake – like horse riding, kayaking or other adventure sports, trips away for up to three nights and blood tests.

These changes were made to recognise the role carers can play in the lives of children and help normalise decision for children and young people in long term home based care. We are working to ensure this direction, including that decision making on behalf of children is a responsibility not a right, is made clear in the new guide under development. We look forward to sharing updates on the progress of this guide over the first over the first half of this year.

### Children in the last year of school – care allowance extended.

With the new school year underway, it is timely reminder to carers caring for children in their final year of high school that the carer allowance has been extended for young people in school until the age of 19. As a result of the introduction of Prep into Queensland schools, more and more children are now finishing Year 12 after they turn 18. If the young person in your care turns 18 halfway through Year 12, financial support through the foster care allowance will continue.

Further changes commencing from 1 July 2020 will mean the carer allowance will be extended to all young people until the age of 19 regardless of their education status. These changes are intended to provide permanency and stability for children including after the age of 18.

## DID YOU KNOW! - Human Rights and Foster and Kinship Carers

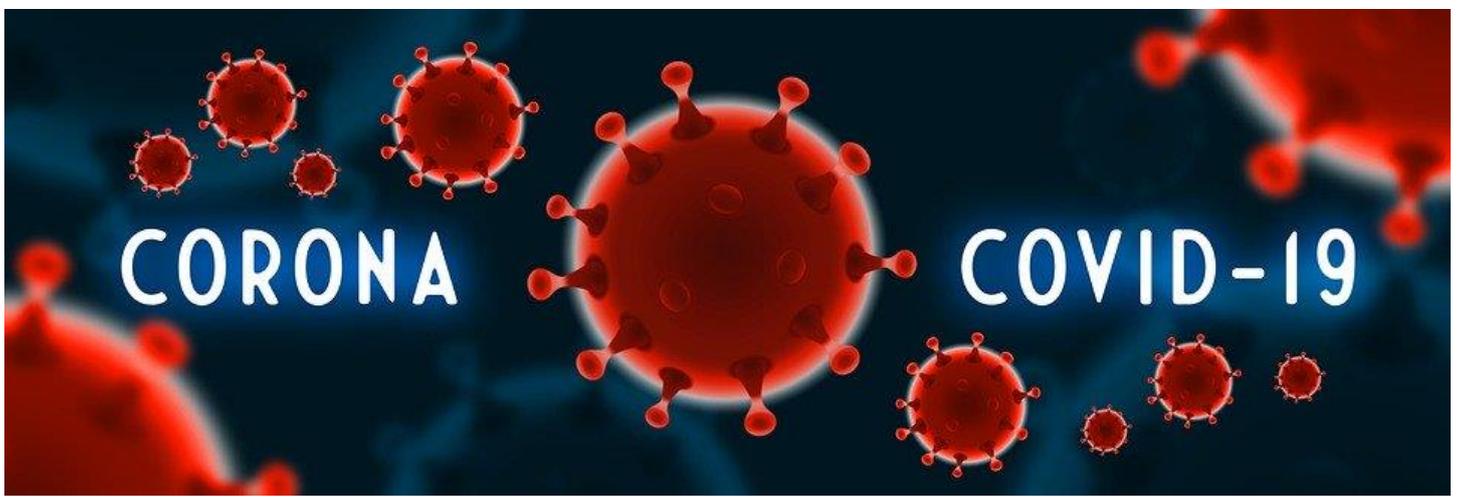
### Your human rights as an approved carer

As a carer your human rights should also be considered in all your dealings with the public sector in Queensland, including your carer agency and local and state government. If a decision is made that impacts on or limits your human rights, you can ask for an explanation from the decision maker (e.g. your local CSSC or foster care agency), and you have the right to make a complaint to the department. This is the same as for every other Queenslanders in their interactions with government.

### Your human rights obligations as an approved carer

When making decisions about children in your care, you need to do two things:

1. Consider their human rights and those of other people likely to be affected by the decision e.g. other children in your home, yourself, and potentially community members.
2. Make decisions that are compatible with human rights – this often means balancing one person’s human rights against another’s e.g. a home curfew might limit a teenager’s freedom of movement while promoting the right to protection as a child – both for them and other children in the placement.



## Frequently Asked Questions

It's important that you stay informed about what's happening with COVID-19. Please visit the [www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19) for information on:

- what is COVID-19 and how it spreads
- what you should do if you have COVID-19
- what you should do if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
- when to self-quarantine.

### **Who can I talk to about COVID-19 and my duty of care to a child or young person?**

Please talk to your foster and kinship care agency if you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19 and how it may impact you and the child or young person in your care.

You can also talk to your child safety service centre or call the Foster and Kinship Care Support Line on 1300 729 309.

### **What information about COVID-19 do I need to give to Child Safety or my foster and kinship care agency to help inform decisions and planning?**

You will need to provide information on whether any member of your household:

- has returned from overseas recently
- has cold/flu symptoms
- is in self-quarantine or home isolation
- has/have had a COVID-19 diagnosis or has been in close contact with someone who has
- is immunocompromised or at a higher risk to complications from COVID-19.

### **Should face-to-face meetings or home visits to carers be limited?**

Yes. It's important to follow the advice from Queensland Health for you and your family to stay safe.

We may arrange to make contact with you by telephone, Skype or similar. For new contact arrangements, we may ask if you can download a suitable app or can access a device with a suitable app so the child in your care can talk by video call over the internet.

These arrangements will be made for carer assessments, re-assessments and case planning discussions with your child safety officer.

## Will COVID-19 responses impact family contact visits?

Yes. In line with advice from [www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/self-quarantine](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/self-quarantine), members should not be physically present in family contact meetings if they:

- have returned from overseas recently
- have cold/flu symptoms
- are in self-quarantine or home isolation
- currently have/have had a COVID-19 diagnosis or been in close contact with someone who has.

It's important for children and young people to maintain connections to their parents, siblings and families, particularly in times of uncertainty or stress.

Maintaining family contact is a legal requirement. It's critical to maintain relational permanency for all children and the Child Placement Principle for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

The health of everyone in your household is important. We'll assess family contact visits on a case by case basis and plan **how** contact will be made, rather than **if** contact will be made.

### How will family contact visits change?

In most cases, it's not a question of 'if contact visits occurs' but 'how contact visits occurs'. Here are some steps we will take to guide how family contact visits will change:

- **Check that people do not have cold/flu symptoms** — if anyone involved in the family contact visits displays cold/flu symptoms, please call your child safety officer. This includes carers and your family members, the child's family members and child safety staff.
- **Check if people are immunocompromised — or at higher risk of complications from COVID-19** — child safety staff will consider information from carers and parents about their risks to COVID-19. This includes people over 70 years old, over 60 years old with pre-existing conditions, or Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people over 50 years old. If any person involved in the family contact visits has received medical advice to self-isolate, and are actively taking steps to do so, then contact arrangements will be adjusted. Child Safety will make alternative arrangements by telephone, Skype meeting or similar.
- **Consider the location** — this will be considered in line with advice from the [www.australia.gov.au/](http://www.australia.gov.au/) on public gatherings.
- **Maintain good hygiene practice** — it is important we all follow the advice from Queensland Health to help stop the spread of COVID-19:
  - Clean your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs.
  - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing.
  - Avoid touching your face, nose and mouth. And avoid shaking hands.
  - Practice social distancing, which includes staying 1.5m away from others as much as you can.

## What happens when a child or young person comes into my care and does not display symptoms?

As a carer, you'll receive all information about the child or young person as part of our regional placement processes. This will include any advice on care arrangements or circumstances in which a child or young person may have had contact with someone else who has identified as having COVID-19.

You should also be advised if the child or young person has any medical issues, such as asthma, that may require medical attention if they start displaying COVID-19 symptoms.

You'll need to ensure all required medical aids are available to the child or young person, such as asthma inhalers, Ventolin or any other medication.

If there are any difficulties with obtaining medical aids, please call your foster and kinship care agency or child safety service centre.

The [www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/information-for-carers/carer-connect](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/information-for-carers/carer-connect) app will help ensure information about a child's needs is shared quickly. We encourage you to download the app, if you have not done so already.

## What is happening with school closures?

In line with current advice from <https://qed.qld.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media/novel-coronavirus>, all Queensland state schools will take an early break from Monday 30 March and reopen on Monday 20 April 2020, unless health authorities advise otherwise.

For children of essential workers or vulnerable children, such as those in out-of-home care, schools will provide supervision during the week of 30 March to 3 April 2020. Essential workers are those who must continue to work in their jobs during this difficult time.

Independent and Catholic schools are making decisions based upon their own situations, so please check with your relevant school for details about attendance requirements.

## What should I do if my child's school or childcare closes and I still need to go to work?

In this situation, please call your foster and kinship care agency to arrange support.

Some carers offer respite care. Carers who offer these short breaks will talk to their foster and kinship care agencies about their availability.

We encourage you to think about your own support networks. Should a child or young person require care while you're at work, you can use your support networks for child care and support for up to 48 hours. This may be particularly important for shift workers.

If you have someone in your own support network who can safely meet the child's care needs, you must talk to your child safety officer about this arrangement and provide the person's name, address and phone number. Members of your extended family, or the child's extended family (for example, an aunt or older sibling), can also help under these arrangements. However, you must also consider the information in the question 'What information about COVID-19 do I need to give to Child Safety or my foster and kinship care agency to help inform decisions and planning?' before making this arrangement.

Please talk to your foster and kinship care agency and your child safety service centre about before you make these arrangements.

## Should I continue to drive the child or young person in my car?

Yes, you can continue to drive the child or young person in your car to essential appointments in line with travel restrictions that may be in place in your area. For the latest information on travel restrictions, please visit [www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/current-status-and-contact-tracing-alerts](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/current-status-and-contact-tracing-alerts).

## Can I claim reimbursements without visiting the child safety service centre?

Yes, the preferred process for claiming reimbursement of pre-approved expenses is through the [Carer Connect](#) app (you can scan and send receipts) or you can post the paperwork to your child safety service centre.

## What happens if I or someone in my household displays flu like symptoms?

If anyone in your household displays flu like symptoms of fever, coughing, fatigue, sore throat and shortness of breath, please call a doctor or 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) immediately.

Once you have received advice from a health professional, please call your child safety service centre and your foster and kinship care agency about the situation.

## Who can consent for COVID-19 testing for children and young people in care?

As a carer, you can consent to COVID-19 testing. Testing for COVID-19 is a diagnostic test and similar to other instances of seeking medical or other health treatment for non-routine, newly presenting conditions. Testing for COVID-19 is a daily care decision that you can consent to.

If a medical practitioner is satisfied that a young person is competent to give consent, then the young person can provide consent.

COVID-19 testing will require a health professional to take a swab from the back of the young person's nose or throat and that swab is tested in a laboratory for the virus.

## **What happens if I or someone in my household is tested positive for COVID-19?**

You must immediately call your child safety service centre and your foster and kinship care agency to discuss your situation and support needs.

You will be supported to care for everyone in your household in line with medical advice you receive, including any hospitalisation or home quarantine measures that are needed. These responses will depend on the severity of symptoms and any underlying health conditions of other household members.

## **What support is available if our household is under self-quarantine?**

Please call your child safety service and foster and kinship care agency to discuss support needs.

If required, you can also call the [www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/queensland-disasters/novel-coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/queensland-disasters/novel-coronavirus-covid-19) on 1800 173 349. This hotline is to help people who have been advised by a medical professional or Queensland Health to self-quarantine at home and have no other means of support.

## **How do I explain COVID19 to the child or young person in my care?**

It's natural for children and young people to be anxious about what they see and hear as the community works together to respond to COVID-19. There is a range of useful links and resources on this page to help you explain what's happening to the child or young person in care.

## **A child in my care is due to travel overseas shortly. Should the planned overseas travel proceed?**

No. You will find that latest advice on the Australian government's [www.smartraveller.gov.au/](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/) website.

## **Are court matters still proceeding?**

The courts are currently open and operating. As the COVID-19 situation evolves, the courts may reduce services for other court matters, however, child protection will remain a priority.

If the situation worsens and there is widespread illness, courts may be closed in affected areas (regional closures). Your child safety officer will inform you of any changes to court dates and court processes.

For More information visit: [www.csyw.qld.gov.au/news/novel-coronavirus](http://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/news/novel-coronavirus)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## 1. Where can I find the latest and most up-to-date information about the COVID-19 virus as a Carer?

- By visiting the QFKC website: [www.qfkc.com.au](http://www.qfkc.com.au) and Facebook Page you are able to receive current information and updates for the Carer Community regarding the virus.
- The Carer Connect app is also a great tool for carers to receive up-to-date messaging from child safety. With community responses and advice about COVID-19 updated regularly the Carer Connect app will be a way to receive any directed advice relevant to carers and is also a way to undertake some tasks remotely – like making CRC applications. Now is a good time to download the app. It is free and can be downloaded through Google Play or the Apple Store or alternatively registration can be completed online at [www.carerconnect.communities.qld.gov.au](http://www.carerconnect.communities.qld.gov.au).

## 2. Where can I find information about family community services and events in my area?

**Oneplace** is an online community services directory for Queensland. The Directory provides information from parenting groups and classes to domestic and family violence support services and is the oneplace go-to resource for children, families, community members and professionals looking to find local support in Queensland.

**More Information:** [www.oneplace.org.au](http://www.oneplace.org.au)

## 3. Where can I find information about young people transitioning from care to adulthood

The Next Step After Care Service is an program providing young people between the ages of 15 and 25 who have been in foster care or other family based care arrangements, with support to build independent lives.

The Service helps to provide young people who have left care with quick access to practical advice and support including things such as:

- managing money and entitlements
- finding somewhere to stay and all the ins and outs of housing and accommodation
- training, jobs and getting a resume together
- keeping safe, strong and healthy
- relationships, including friends and family and
- legal advice.

**Contact: 1800 639 878**

**For More Information:** [www.nextstepaftercare.com.au](http://www.nextstepaftercare.com.au)

## 4. Where can I find information about Carer allowances

The fortnightly caring allowance is the base payment provided to all approved carers when providing direct care for a child in care under the Child Protection Act 1999.

For More Information: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/information-for-carers/money-matters/carers-allowances>

\* All payments and allowances are indexed in January each year in line with the consumer price index (CPI).

While the allowance may not cover all costs associated with caring for a child, it is expected to help with meeting the day-to-day costs of caring, such as:

- day-to-day reasonable clothing and footwear, including one school outfitting per year
- personal care items
- general schooling and education expenses, including lunches and travel
- costs for consulting with a GP (excluding Child Health Passport assessments)
- costs for consulting with medical specialists – one-off and initial visits
- all prescribed and non-prescribed pharmaceuticals
- general travel costs, including fuel costs up to 250km per week (excluding for approved family contact)
- leisure and recreational activities, toys, pocket money, entertainment, hobbies and holiday expenses
- safety equipment such as car seats, bike helmets
- energy and utility costs (pro-rata)
- household goods for the child.

## Who do you contact to find out more?

### For additional information or resources:

- visit <https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/child-family>
- contact your local child safety service centre
- Queensland Foster & Kinship Care on 3256 6166.



# ACRONYMS

When considering the amount of acronyms that can be used in a range of different scenarios and contexts, we felt it beneficial to provide a list of ones you may have heard before and been a little unsure about. This is a great guide for anyone working in the child protection space. It's also recognised that the same acronym can mean different things, so this should offer some help. Feel free to add to this resource as you go.

Recently the language from T2I (Transition to Independence) has changed to T2A (Transition to Adulthood) as independence means very different things to young people and the community more broadly. One reason to raise this now is because QFKC is reviewing its T2A training module in conjunction with Create Foundation and a wide range of other stakeholders to strengthen the module in a range of ways. This will include resources and ideas from those involved and central to this, will be young people as, who better to guide this process than those who have or will transition to adulthood.

APA = Application for Approval (refer to 'Form 3' APA)

ACP = Achievement and Capability Plan

ATSIFSS = Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support Service

CAO = Court Assessment Order

CALD = Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

CCC = Crime and Corruption Commission

CCR = Child Concern Report

CCRU = Central Complaints and Review Unit

CCYPCG = Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian

CMC = Crime & Misconduct Commission (replaced by CCC)

CPIU = Child Protection Investigation Unit

CPCR = Child Placement Concern Report (old terminology)

CPLO = Child Protection Liaison Officer

CPN = Child Protection Notification

CRC-PAS = Child Related Costs – Placement and Support

CRCs = Child Related Costs

CSNA – Child Strengths and Needs Assessment or Complex Support Needs Allowance

CSO = Child Safety Officer

CSPM = Child Safety Practice Manual

CSSC = Child Safety Service Centre

CSSO = Child Safety Support Officer

CSU = Central Screening Unit

DCPL – Director of Child Protection Litigation

DETE = Department of Education, Training and Employment

DJAG = Department of Justice and Attorney General

ESP = Education Support Plan

FAST = The Foster care Advocacy and Support Team

FCA = Foster Care Agreement or Fortnightly Caring Allowance

FGM = Family Group Meeting

HR = Harm Report

HSNA = High Support Needs Allowance

I&A = Investigation and Assessment

ICMS – Integrated Client Management System

IFSS - Intensive Family Support Services

ILO = Interstate Liaison Officer

IPA = Intervention with Parental Agreement

LTG = Long-Term Guardianship

LTG-O = Long-Term Guardianship to Other (aka. 3rd Party Guardianship)

MOC = Matter of Concern (replaced by Harm Report)

NGO = Non-Government Agency

OCFOS – Office of the Child and Family Official Solicitor

OI = Ongoing Intervention

OPG = Office of the Public Guardian

PCO = Permanent Care Order

PSBA = Public Safety Business Agency

PSU/PSS = Placement Services Unit or Placement Support Services

QCAT = Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal

RAI = Referral for Active Intervention

RIS = Regional Intake Service

SDM = Structured Decision Making

SOC = Standards of Care/ SOCR = Standards of Care Review

TAO = Temporary Assessment Order

TCO = Temporary Custody Order / TFC = Transition from Care



# National Pyjama Day

Support little people  
with big dreams

17 JULY  
2020

Wear your PJ's  
to school or work to  
raise vital funds for  
kids in foster care



Register at [www.nationalpyjamaday.com](http://www.nationalpyjamaday.com)





## #Makeit21



CREATE Foundation recently travelled to Bundaberg, Brisbane, Logan, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Townsville to speak with young people (with a care experience) about the topic of a supported placement up to the age of 21. CREATE will release a report in the middle of this year, showcasing the views of young people about this important topic.

The campaign to '#makeit21' has been gaining momentum across different states of Australia. Some state governments have made commitments to provide a carer allowance for kinship and foster carers who have young people up to the age of 21. Other states have confirmed that in addition to extending the carer allowance, they will also offer a supported placement up to 21 for young people who are currently in residential, semi-independent or non-approved placements.

With 30% of young people experiencing homelessness in their first year after leaving care, it is important that all young people have support and a place to call home up to the age of 21. For more information about the #makeit21 campaign please visit: <https://create.org.au/what-happens-when-i-turn-18/> or <http://thehomestretch.org.au/>.



## Responding to disclosures of child abuse

Your response to a disclosure of any kind of child abuse (including sexual or physical) can be the first important step in stopping the abuse and protecting that child or young person from further harm.

This initial response can vary depending on circumstances and needs. Responses may include putting in place protective strategies, engaging appropriate support services or making reports to relevant authorities.

It is important to understand how difficult it can be for a child or young person to disclose abuse or sexual harm. Offenders put a great deal of time and effort into ensuring the child remains silent. Some of the reasons a child or young person may have trouble disclosing include;

- The offender has told them not to tell, and often with accompanying threats such as, “they will take you away from your family if you tell”.
- They think they will get into trouble, or they feel guilty or ashamed.
- They feel that no one will believe them.

### WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON DISCLOSES HARM TO YOU

If a child or young person discloses to you, try to follow these steps:

- Listen carefully to all they say.
- Let the child use their own words.
- Be patient and calm.
- Tell them you believe them and it’s not their fault.
- Let them know you will do everything in your power to help them, but do not make promises that you may not have any control over or be able to keep.
- Let the child know that you will need to tell someone to help keep them safe. Though this may upset the child, it is very important that you act protectively and in the child’s best interest.
- Do not force them to talk about it; you are there to listen to what they want to tell you.
- Do not use direct questions (questions that only require yes or no answers) or leading questions (i.e. “Did he touch you on your private parts?”) Instead, **try using open questions**, for example, “Then what happened?” “Tell me more about that.”
- Importantly: follow your obligation to report as soon as practically possible.
- When documenting, use the child’s exact words as best you can.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON IS BEING HARMED

Sometimes a child or young person’s behaviour or words may lead you to suspect or become concerned that child is unsafe or being harmed.

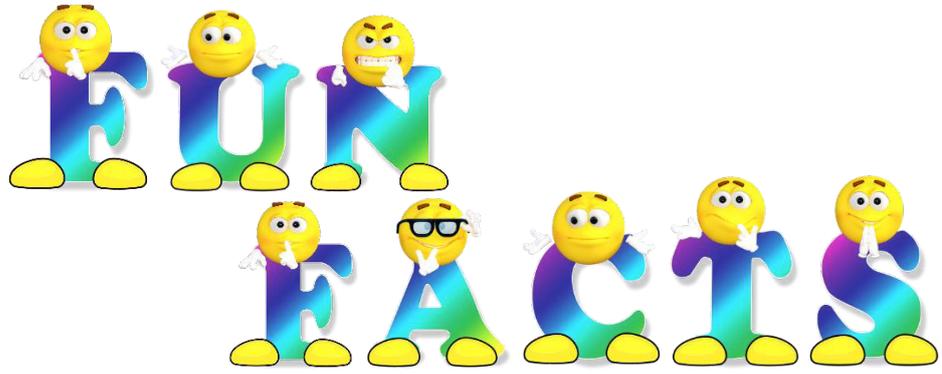
In this situation, it is important that you:

- **If at any time you believe a child is in immediate danger, please call 000.**
- Do not frighten the child or young person by asking confronting questions.
- Let the child or young person know that you are there for them if they ever need to talk.
- Record your concerns including any behavioural observations or conversations you may have had with the child or young person.
- Importantly: follow your obligation to report as soon as practically possible (see link below for a state-by-state contacts list).
- If in doubt, contact the Bravehearts Information and Support Line on 1800 272 831.

### LIST OF CHILD PROTECTION CONTACTS

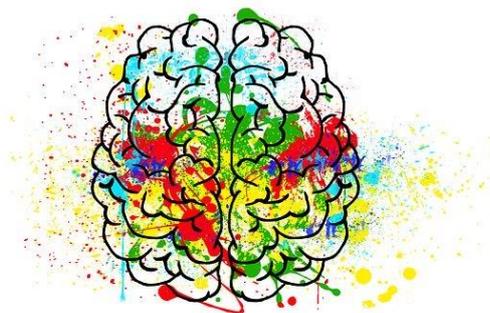
For a list of contacts state-by-state, please see this full article on the Bravehearts website:

**[bravehearts.org.au/responding-to-disclosures-of-child-abuse](https://bravehearts.org.au/responding-to-disclosures-of-child-abuse)**



*By Danny Hemsley*

- Laughing 100 times is equivalent to 15 minutes of exercise on a stationary bike.
- There are more bacteria in your mouth than there are people in the world.
- You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.
- You are about 1cm taller in the morning than in the evening
- During your lifetime, you will eat about 30,000kg of food – that’s the weight of about six African elephants.
- It is believed that the main purpose of eyebrows is to keep sweat out of the eyes.
- Of the 206 bones in the average human adult’s body, 106 are in the hands and feet. (54 in the hands and 52 in the feet).
- Feeling down? Eating spinach, elk, oysters and crab have been proven to positively impact on your mood.
- Motorists who talk on cell phones are more impaired than drunk drivers with blood-alcohol levels exceeding .08.
- When we touch something, we send messages to our brain at 200 km/h.



Source: <https://blog.health.uq.edu.au/blog/2016/03/20-random-health-facts-you-probably-dont-know>

# 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**

Availability: Monday to Friday from 5pm to 11.30pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 7am to 11.30pm.

## Quality Family Based Care

For policy and program information about blue cards, Foster and Kinship Carer Handbook & 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](mailto:fostercare@communities.qld.gov.au)

## Central Screening Unit (CSU)

For information about criminal history checks and blue cards.

Phone: **(07) 3097 5600**

# FAST REP CONTACTS

FAST areas	Representatives	Mobile	Phone	Email
Central Queensland	Lyndal Hughes	0417 744 959		lyndal.hughes@qfkc.com.au
Central Queensland	Tanya Watts	0455 100 294		watts-3@hotmail.com
Central Queensland	Adriana Durn	0403 275 078	4186 7609	adrianadurn61@gmail.com
Moreton	Ian McIntyre	0421 693 999		ianjacob_14@outlook.com
Moreton	Cheryal Higgins	0407 112 197		cheryal.higgins@qfkc.com.au
Moreton	Hazel Little	0412 457 705		littlehazel@bigpond.com
Moreton	Maree Frampton	0428 453 859	5494 2786	bobframpton@hotmail.com
Moreton	Angela Cunningham	0403 157 314		angelacunningham82@hotmail.com
Moreton	Aidyn Deleo	0432 009 905		aidyndeleo@gmail.com
Northern Queensland	Raymond Metzger		4093 3464	raymond.metzger@optusnet.com.au
Northern Queensland	Sarah Grainer	0418 404 539	4033 0941	sarahgrainer@hotmail.com
Northern Queensland	Rayleen Barlow	0499 366 825		raylenebarlow@yahoo.com.au
Northern Queensland	Kerri O'Connor	0407 138 954	4749 0170	kerri.oconnor@qfkc.com.au
South East	David Podger	0448 432 233		david.podger@qfkc.com.au
South East	Sandra Ehlers	0427 168 226		sandra.ehlers@qfkc.com.au
South East	Katie Taylor	0418 788 122		tamborinetaylors@gmail.com
South East	Kathy Smith	0417 826 547		kathy@chicksconqueringcancer.org
South West	Mick Luke	0420 442 482	5464 3423	mick.luke@qfkc.com.au
South West	Cheryl Gill	0419 738 871	4162 7809	cheryl.gill@qfkc.com.au
South West	Natalie Sykes	0431 530 597		natalie.sykes@qfkc.com.au

## Child Safety Service Centres

Moreton Region	South East Region	South West Region	Central Queensland Region	Northern Queensland Region
Alderley Caboolture Caloundra Cannon Hill Chermside Forest Lake (incl. Carole Park) Inala (incl. Bellbird Park, Camira, Gales, Goodna, Redbank) Maroochydore Morayfield Mount Gravatt Redcliffe Strathpine	Bayside Beaudesert Beenleigh Browns Plains Labrador Logan Central Loganlea Mermaid Beach Nerang	Charleville Ipswich North Ipswich South Roma South Burnett Springfield (incl. Bundamba, Dinmore & Swanbank) Toowoomba North Toowoomba South	Bowen Bundaberg Emerald Gladstone Gympie Mackay Maryborough Rockhampton	Aitkenvale Atherton Cairns Cape York North & TSI Cooktown Edmonton Innisfail Mt Isa-Gulf North Cairns & Lower Cape Thuringowa Thursday Island Townsville Weipa



**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 support, advise and advocate for carers throughout the State.

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