

The journey to becoming a foster carer

Once you've decided to express an interest in becoming a carer, there are 4 stages before you can begin caring for a child. The time taken for each stage can vary based on individual circumstances. Please allow 3 months from the time you apply .



1. Explore

- » Fill in an Expression of Interest form or call the Foster Carer Recruitment Line on **1300 550 877**.
- » You'll be connected with a foster carer recruitment service
- » Join an information session



2. Apply

- » Complete forms and checks
- » Attend an interview
- » Undergo an assessment
- » Complete introductory training



3. Approval

- » Sign a foster Carer Agreement
- » Receive a letter of confirmation and Certificate of Approval



4. Get ready

- » You'll be connected with a local foster care support service
- » Complete ongoing training



5. Begin caring

- » Welcome a child into your home
- » Receive ongoing support and training from your foster care support service

How are carers supported?

Once you are approved as a foster carer, your recruitment service will connect you to a local foster care support service that will provide ongoing support and training.

Carers receive a fortnightly caring allowance and other financial support to help with the costs of caring for children in their home.

More information

For more information about becoming a foster carer, you can:

- call the Foster Carer Recruitment Line on **1300 550 877**
- visit **qld.gov.au/fostercare**

Become a foster carer



All children deserve to
live in a safe home with
a caring family.

1288_JUNE2026 Photography: Pixel Frame

What is a foster carer?

Foster carers open their homes to children who are unable to live at home with their own families. This can be because they have been abused or neglected, or are at risk of abuse or neglect.

When children can't live safely at home, the first choice is for them to be cared for by their extended family or community (this is known as kinship care). When that's not possible, the next best option is for them to be cared for by foster carers.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are unable to live with their extended family or community, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander foster carers play a vital role in keeping children and young people safe and connected to culture.

Carers come from all walks of life. It's important for carers to come from all parts of the community so we can match the needs of children requiring care.

Carers must be over 18 years of age and eligible to obtain (or already have) a blue card.

Rewards and challenges of being a carer

Becoming a carer is a very big decision. Bringing other people's children into your family can be very rewarding but it may not always be easy. It will affect your life and the lives of those around you.

The rewards

- » Help keep children safe.
- » Support children to reach their full potential.
- » Help parents develop new ways of relating to their children.
- » Use your skills and life experiences to help others.
- » Strengthen your own parenting skills and knowledge.
- » Be a highly valued and important member of a caring team.
- » Grow your social and personal connections.

The challenges

- » Responding to difficult behaviours.
- » Demands on your time and energy.
- » Finding space in your life for yourself.
- » Helping your own children with feelings about sharing their parent, their home and their lives.

- » Continuing when positive changes are small or slow.
- » Saying goodbye to a child when they leave.
- » Sharing the decision-making for the child.

Experienced carers say the rewards far outweigh the challenges and are most often found in the day-to-day moments as they share their lives with children.

Foster carer stories

You'll find stories from carers talking about their experiences at **qld.gov.au/fostercare**.

What are the different types of foster care?

There are different types of family-based care which may suit you, your family and your lifestyle.

The care you provide might be:

- » for a few nights, months, or long-term
- » emergency care for children in urgent situations
- » short breaks for other foster carers (also known as respite care).

You can choose the level of commitment you're able to make based on your own family situation.