



Supporting our foster and kinship carers

An Information Guide

Child Safety and Foster and Kinship Care Services are committed to working in partnership to support carers to meet the needs of children and young people in care.

This commitment includes:

Informed placement matching to ensure children and young people are matched with carers who are able to meet their needs. Where the matching process identifies that carers will require additional supports to meet the needs of children or young people, these supports should be negotiated and agreed between Child Safety and the Foster and Kinship Care Service before the child or young person enters the care arrangement.

Child Safety will ensure a placement meeting is held within three working days to identify and agree on any further supports that may be needed. These, in addition to other important information will be outlined in the [Placement Agreement](#).

New departmental policies and tools have been developed for use by Foster and Kinship Care Services and departmental staff to assist with informed placement matching. These can be found at: (<https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/resources/childsafety/practice-manual/foster-care-matching-partnership-approach-639.pdf> and <https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/resources/childsafety/practice-manual/foster-care-matching-tool.docx>)

Foster and kinship carer support workers will meet with carers to **identify training and development needs and opportunities**. Training and development opportunities are available through flexible delivery to suit learning styles and needs and to ensure carers have the skills to meet the needs of the child or young person.

Training and development plans for foster carers are documented in Foster Care Agreements. More information is available at (<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-carer-agreement>).

The training and development plans for kinship carers are documented in the [Placement Agreement](#) (<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/case-plan-and-placement-agreement>).

Financial and practical supports are available through many sources. Foster and kinship carer support workers can provide carers with specific information on request.



Read more about the [financial support available to foster and kinship carers](https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/money-matters) (<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/money-matters>).

Foster and kinship carer support workers will assist carers to identify **respite** options including through carer's own support networks. Respite can be planned breaks on a once-off or regular basis, for a few hours, a day, a night, a weekend or for part of the school holidays. Respite will be arranged in a way that best meets the child's need for safety, wellbeing and belonging.

Foster and kinship carer support workers will ensure carers have access to **regular and on-call support** including after hours assistance via phone. Foster and kinship carer support workers develop support plans which will outline the frequency and purpose of regular contacts with carers. Child Safety Officers (CSOs) will also conduct monthly home visits with the child or young person in care and will discuss any support needs with the carer to ensure the case plan goals can be met. If incidents occur, carers can debrief with foster and kinship carer support workers or CSOs depending on need and availability.

In some locations **additional supports** may be available to carers.

- Child Safety Support Officers (CSSOs) may provide identified support to enable the child's case plan goals to be met, for example, transporting children and young people in care for family contact appointments and to school. CSSOs can provide local knowledge of community organisations and facilities to support the care arrangement. Some Foster and Kinship Care Services can also provide intensive wrap around support for the care arrangement (e.g. youth worker or peer support).

The availability of these additional supports will vary between Child Safety Service Centres and Foster and Kinship Care Services as they are dependent on local resourcing and the type of placement support purchased from individual Foster and Kinship Care Services.

Foster and kinship carer support workers will work in partnership with departmental staff to negotiate support arrangements for carers and to ensure any required approvals are in place.

For more information on who to contact for support take a look at the following website [contacts](https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/who-to-contact) (<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/who-to-contact>).

This information guide provides an overview of information and resources available to support our valued Queensland foster and kinship carers. Links are included above, however for more detailed information, please visit the department's website: <https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/child-family/foster-kinship-care> and the Queensland Government's website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care>

