



# CARER CONNECT

Official Newsletter of Shared Family Care  
December 2020 | ISSUE 19

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
**SMILE EVERY DAY!**

## IN THIS ISSUE

PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATE  
CEO UPDATE  
STAFF LIST  
STAFF PROFILES  
INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT  
LEARNING LANGUAGE  
BILLABONG SANCTUARY  
CARER CONNECT APP  
BLUE CARD INFORMATION  
CARE GIVER ALLOWANCES  
CAREGIVER TIP #4

MANAGING ANXIETY  
QUEENSLAND FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARE  
POOL SAFETY CERTIFICATES  
HEALTH ASSESSMENT  
CREATE FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS  
LAMINGTON WREATHS  
KIDS CORNER  
2021 CALANDER  
PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORTS  
LETTER TO CARERS

# PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATE

Well as we come to the closing of another year, I hope that you have been able to get your free Christmas gift photo from Little Bees marketing. I have seen a few and they are so adorable. I would like to send a very big thank you to Jye and Jacinta Bancroft for all their hard work in providing these beautiful photos for you all.

What a year it has been, and most of us have never experienced anything like it before. It's been a challenge with some very unsettling times, especially as many of us have been separated from our family and friends. Shared Family Care have taken things in our stride, working from home for nearly two months with a few problems with internet reception and learning a new way of working. But I am sure I do not have to remind our wonderful carers who experienced huge challenges with home schooling and self-isolation with children. I just want to thank you all so very much for all the wonderful work you do, we really do think that you are all superstars.

It would be remiss of me not to look back over the achievements of our team in the last twelve months. We have seen some co-workers move on such as Jenny and Vicki and new ones take up their positions Yana, Janine. We have had an increase in our funding obligations to be able to employ additional positions, Joshua, Anne-Marie & Emily. We have also seen Ainslee start her own family with a lovely baby boy Henry, she will be on maternity leave for a few months. We now have an intensive Family support worker Mary, to support our carers with challenging behaviours and to support our new carers coming on board.

This year saw our administration trainee Kaelen-Jae graduate and become a fully trained administration worker. Early next year we will see a new administration trainee come on board. 2021 will see SFC and Corporate moving to our new bigger office space, which is so very exciting. Foster carer pre-service training has been offered throughout the year with the three fostering agencies in town offering training every month to new EOI's. We will be inviting our experienced carers to be involved in this as part of a panel. This has already been very successful with some of our carers already participating. If you would like to be involved for next year, please let us know as your knowledge and experience is highly valued, to be shared with new carers coming on board.

# PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATE

We will also be offering standard training this way in the new year to all our carers. Janine and Josh completed our first foster care training in Charters Towers, and we hope to be making this at least a yearly training. We would also be offering this in Ayr if we can get enough carers interested.

Recently Shared Family Care completed the Human Service Quality Framework external audit, nil operational non compliances we recorded for the program. This is a huge achievement in such a highly regulated service, and this is indicative of the commitment and dedication demonstrated by the staff of Shared Family Care and Althea Projects Corporate Team. Shared Family Care remains the largest funded organisation for the provision of foster carer support services in the Townsville Regional area.

Despite COVID-19 Shared Family Care program has experienced a very productive year over the past 12 months with a huge emphasis on recruitment of new foster carers. Shared Family Care has continued to support 100 Foster and Kinship Carers, 200 children and provided 71, 379 placements (bed nights) for children in care. What an amazing effort, so well done to all our carers that support so many children to have a safe place to stay.

Remember our office will be closing early on Christmas Eve, 24th December and will remain closed until 9am on the 4th January 2021. During that time, you still have access to 24 hour support either by phoning the office on 4779 3332 and listen to the options or alternatively you can phone directly on 0418 150 229. The staff will not be responding to emails during this time so you will need to phone the above numbers if you require assistance. I would like to wish you all the best for 2021.

From the team at Shared Family Care please stay safe and have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Amazing Year in 2021.

Judy Williams  
Program Manager,  
Shared Family Care

# CEO UPDATE

As the year draws to a close, I want to send my sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone for working with us to change the lives of children and young people.

It certainly has been an unusual year, yet I believe as a team and Althea Projects overall we are stronger and more capable for adjusting our services and implementing new learnings to continue to offer the best services we can in the community. I am confident you have all done the same as you have navigated your way through the year.

Next year presents us with many opportunities that brings great optimism for us as a service. Shared Family Care and Corporate office will co-locate to new premises in the new development being built in Fleming Street. All going well we should be moved no later than end of June 2021; however, we are at the mercy of the weather. We are excited about the move, as it will give us more space, including rooms to better engage and meet with carers.

I also hope for us all personally that travel is again possible. I know many of us have had extended periods of not being able to holiday and meet up with family living outside of our local community and I appreciate this has not been easy.

So let's bring on 2021 and make it great.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and special blessings throughout the coming year.

Paula, Althea Projects CEO

# STAFF LIST

The list below are all current workers employed at Althea Project - Shared Family Care

## **PROGRAM MANAGER**

Judith Williams - [judith@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:judith@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **TEAM LEADER**

Justin Pascoe - [justin.pascoe@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:justin.pascoe@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **QUALITY MANAGER**

Kelli-Ann - [kelli-ann@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:kelli-ann@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **INTAKE OFFICER**

Katisha Skeene - [katisha.skeene@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:katisha.skeene@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Kaelen-Jae - [kaelen.watts@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:kaelen.watts@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **CULTURAL ADVISER**

Lena Watego - [lena.watego@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:lena.watego@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **FAMILY CASE WORKER**

Beverley Barry - [beverley.barry@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:beverley.barry@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **FAMILY CASE WORKER**

Ainslee Tirendi - [ainslee.tirendi@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:ainslee.tirendi@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **FAMILY CASE WORKER**

Mikayla Johnstone - [mikaylaj@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:mikaylaj@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **FAMILY CASE WORKER**

Natasha Hood - [natashahood@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:natashahood@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **FAMILY CASE WORKER**

Janine McFarlane - [janine.mcfarlane@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:janine.mcfarlane@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **FAMILY CASE WORKER**

Joshua Burke - [joshua.burke@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:joshua.burke@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **FAMILY CASE WORKER**

Emily Fiamingo - [Emily.Fiamingo@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:Emily.Fiamingo@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **ASSESSMENTS OFFICER**

Yana Bull - [yana.bull@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:yana.bull@altheaprojects.org.au)

## **INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER**

Mary Elwin - [mary.elwin@altheaprojects.org.au](mailto:mary.elwin@altheaprojects.org.au)

MEET THE TEAM



# STAFF PROFILE

Hi there, my name is Beverley Barry I'm a Family Case Worker here at Shared Family Care. I've worked for Shared Family Care for three years now.

## WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AT SHARED FAMILY CARE?

I predominantly work with Kinship Carers, and very much enjoy this role. My passion is to keep children with their family, children need a sense of identity and to know who they belong to.

## WHY DO YOU WORK IN THE SECTOR?

Working with Kinship carers is very rewarding, there is satisfaction in knowing that the children are placed with people who will grow and develop within their family network. Families are complex, beautiful and unique entities; good and bad. Children have the right to be a part of their family, have a right to belong to people who genuinely love and adore them. Sometimes this is for a short time until their parents get better and sometimes it's for a long time; either way children have the right to belong and be loved!

## WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF THE JOB?

There are many unique qualities and difficulties regarding Kinship placements, having the opportunity to help families settle into their new role as carers is what makes this part of the role so rewarding. If I haven't had the pleasure in meeting you all yet, I do welcome the opportunity in the future!

## IF NOT THIS ONE, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU LOVE TO BE DOING RIGHT NOW?

If I didn't have to work, I would run my own Café; there is something incredibly soothing and satisfying about preparing good food for people.

Take Care, Bev

# INTENSIVE FAMILY SUPPORT



Shared Family Care would like to support all our carers to maintain healthy relationships with the children in their care and assist with extra targeted intensive supports when things are not going so well at home. To assist this, we now have an Intensive Family Support Worker who can provide a range of intensive in-home educational, mentoring, coaching and support to foster and kinship carers.

My name is Mary Elwin and I will be working alongside foster and kinship carers and their Family Case Workers to identify and provide extra support that may be required to maintain positive placements. Support provided will look different for each family as it will be tailored to support the needs of the carer and targeted around the immediate difficulties in the home. It will also require a certain commitment from each foster and kinship carer to participate.

## Mary's Background

My background, education and training are all in the areas of Early Childhood – Education, early intervention, family support and disability. I have had several roles over the past 27 years which have required me to support and build on the capacity of families, carers, educators and students in their roles of caring for theirs and other people's children.

Some examples are:

- Teacher Aid – Special Education
- Inclusion Support – supporting Educators-Child Care
- Tutor for students completing their Early Childhood Diploma
- Family Day Care Coordinator – supporting Educators
- Family Intervention Worker – supporting families and their children who were involved with the child protection system
- Early Childhood Early Intervention Coordinator – providing NDIS supports for children under 7yrs

I have extensive training and knowledge in early childhood development and education, disability and NDIS system, inclusion of all children, attachment and trauma related behaviours and strategies, as well as registrations to be able to provide a number of parenting programs such as, Triple P- Stepping Stones, Triple P – Seminar Series and Circle of Security.

If you think you would like extra support at any time, please discuss this option with your Family Case Worker and a referral can be made should this be the best option for you.

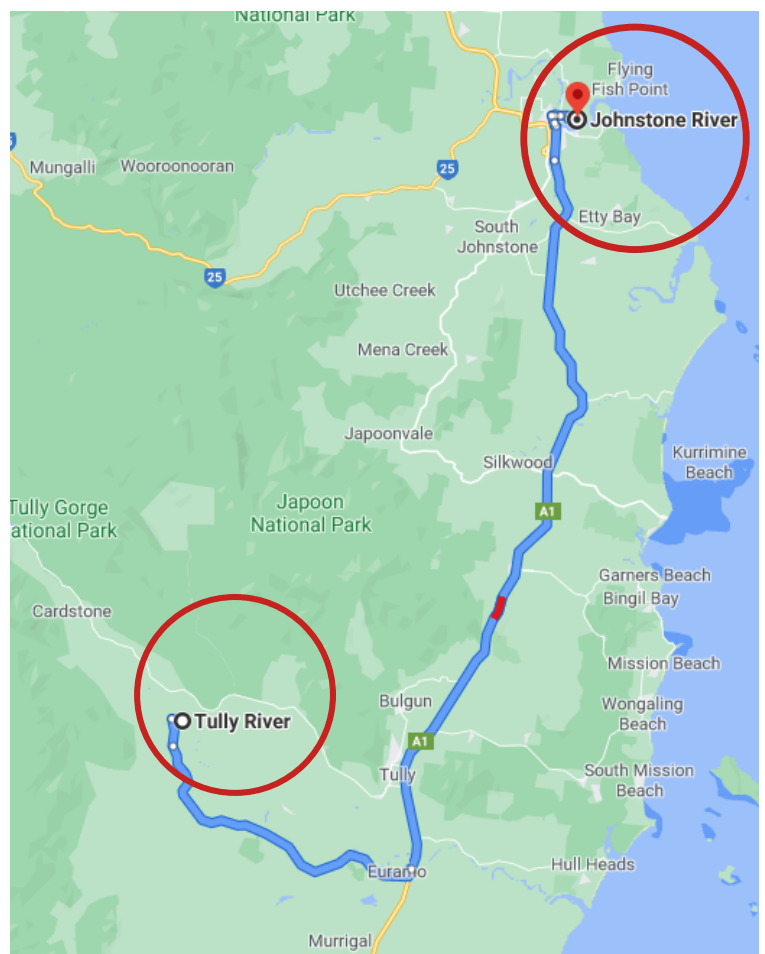
# LEARNING LANGUAGE

Shared Family Care is going to make it a standing page in the Carer Connect Newsletter to have an indigenous Australian word and/or words and definition, as well as which tribe it originates from.

## GUDJAGAY

means **CROCODILE** in the Dyirbal language.  
Pronounced 'Good-jah-guy'

The Dyirbal language is spoken in North Queensland along the Tully River and the Johnstone River Catchments.



To learn more about Dyirbal, listen to Uncle Ernie Grant talking about Dyirbal language and culture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSq-jSjbA6M>



# BILLABONG SANCTUARY

**School Holidays are just around the corner and what better way to spend your holidays then feeding a Kangaroo, cuddling a Koala or watching the Crocodile's feed.**

Shared Family Care offer access to Billabong Sanctuary all year round for Carers, children in care and biological children.

Billabong Sanctuary have a range of activities for a family fun day, with food services available at Blinky Bill's licensed cafe, including hot and cold drinks, freshly made meals and desserts, gluten free options are available too or you are welcome to pack a picnic and use their free gas BBQ's on site.

Head over to their website to view opening and closing hours, show times and the facilities available. Please be aware of the COVID-19 restrictions that have been put in place to ensure all guests and staff members are kept safe, this can also be found on the Billabong Sanctuary website or contact their friendly staff on (07) 4778 8344.

Carers please take note, there is a height requirements for handling Koalas, for the safety of your children and the Koala's.

# CARER CONNECT APP



## Important update to Carer Connect!

In exciting news foster and kinship carers can now take photos of receipts and submit CRC requests for reimbursement directly to your local CSSC through the CarerConnect App.

Carers using the App will have noticed a new 'CRC Reimbursement' tab has been available since February and is there to help you submit CRC applications.

The App is available to all carers. Carers not already using the App can register via <https://carerconnect.communities.qld.gov.au/#/login-or-register>

For carers with frequent CRC, using the App can be a real time saver.

## Changes to CRC Delegations!

At the same time as improving the App, the Department has also introduced new financial delegations for Business Officers and Senior Business Officers to support quicker processing of CRC reimbursement under \$250.

These changes have been developed as a direct result of carer feedback through Partners in Care forums and should see real time improvements for carer reimbursements.

# Blue Cards – No Card, No Start Law

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### FOR FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS

**New Legislation changes will come into effect from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 for Blue Cards No Card, No Start laws.**

These changes have been made as a result of the 2017 Queensland Family and Child Commission's report – *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: Review of the blue card system*. Although the report showed that the Queensland Working with Children Check system is one of the strongest in Australia, there is opportunity to provide a more streamlined and stronger system.

#### WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHANGES?

*No Card, No Start law* identifies that people cannot work with children or young people until their Blue Card application has been approved. These new rules ensure that employees will be bound by the same rules as those for volunteers and business applicants.

*Expiring Cards Rule* has changed, this means that people can continue to work with children and young people if they lodge their renewal application before their current blue card expires. If their blue card expires before they lodge their renewal application they will be subject to the No Card, No Start law.

*Expiry date for exemption cards* – Queensland police and teachers will need to renew their blue cards prior to their expiry if they still require their blue card for work purposes.

*Changes to police information* – No Card, No Start law incorporates a more streamlined process for applicants to advise Blue Card Services of any changes to their police information.

*Stricter rules for restricted persons* ensures people who are considered to be a restricted person cannot access an exception to screening by virtue of being a volunteer.

### CHANGES FOR FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARERS

**Do I need to child safety to sign my blue card application or renewal application**

No. Child Safety are no longer responsible for verifying identification (ID) for a blue card application.

When applying for a blue card applicants will be required to verify their ID through the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). The verification process can occur either through the Blue Card online application portal or in person at TMR.

Child Safety is also no longer required to advise blue card applicants of the disqualified person rule, this will be the responsibility of the applicant when they complete their application.

**I cannot access the online portal, can I still submit a paper based application?**

Yes. Blue Card Services will continue to accept paper based applications. If you need to apply for your blue card via the paper based system, you are still required to follow the new No Card, No Start law and processes. If you do not have a form of photo ID with TMR, for example a driver's licence, you will need to attend TMR to prove your identity and obtain a photo and Customer Reference Number (CRN).

**What role does Child Safety play in my Blue Card application?**

To apply for a Blue Card as a volunteer (free of charge), you will require an online account number which will be supplied to you once you verify your identity through TMR. You must supply this online account number to Child safety as a part of your carer application form (APA) to ensure you are linked to Child Safety.

Once linked, Blue Card services will notify you and you will be able to begin your Blue Card application free of charge.



**I am being considered for provisional approval (PAC), do I need a blue card?**

No. Child Safety Central Screening Unit (CSU) will continue to conduct all required checks for provisional approval applicants, including personal, child protection and criminal histories.

However, once provisionally approved, you will need to have obtained a blue card before your provisional approval expires.

**My blue card is due to expire, is there a time limit to lodge a renewal application?**

You must complete your renewal application before your current blue card expires. A renewal application can be submitted by a carer any time prior to their current blue card expiring. Your current blue card will remain valid once you have submitted your renewal application, meaning you can continue your caring role while your renewal application is being processed.

If you are renewing an existing blue card for the first time under the new No Card No Start laws and you do not have a form of photo ID with TMR, for example a driver's licence, you will need to attend TMR or you will need to contact Blue Card Services directly.

**I have a new adult household member (AHM) planning to live in our home. Does the person need to have a blue card before they can move in?**

No. As long as you have correctly informed Child Safety of the change in circumstances and completed the 'Change in Carer Circumstances' form. The new AHM will need to complete the 'New Adult Household Member' form and begin the blue card application process.

Just like carers, an adult household member will need to complete the verification of ID process with TMR in order to provide their online account number to CSU to be linked to Child Safety as a volunteer.

CSU will complete the required checks such as personal, child protection and criminal history. An adult household member can remain in the carer household if CSU deem them suitable while blue card services complete their application.

**My blue card has expired and I haven't yet lodged a renewal application, what happens now?**

If your blue card expires before you lodge a renewal application, you will be subject to the No Card No Start laws.

Any children placed in your care will require a new care arrangement until you receive your new blue card approval.

A renewal application cannot be lodged after your current blue card has expired. A new blue card application will need to be completed starting with the verification of ID process.

**A young person in my household will be turning 18 in a few months and will remain living in my household. When can they apply for their Blue Card?**

A young person is able to apply for a blue card from 17 years and 9 months of age.

The young person will need to follow the No Card No Start blue card process, beginning with the verification of ID through TMR.

If no response has been received from Blue Card Services regarding the young person's application and their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday is approaching, please ensure immediate follow up with Blue Card Services occurs to ensure continuity of care for the young person.

If a young person turns 18 and Blue Card Services have not advised of an outcome of their blue card application, the new AHM process will need to be followed, pending follow up with Blue Card Services.

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For further information regarding Blue Cards No Card No Start associated processes please refer to the [Blue Card Services Website](#).

Link to the [online applicant portal](#)

Link to the No Card No Start [forms](#)

Link to [Blue Card applications](#) information

# FOSTER CARE ALLOWANCES

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

*Fortnightly Caring Allowance rates schedule*

**Effective: 1 January 2020**



<b>FOSTER CARE ALLOWANCES</b>		<b>2019 Rate</b>		<b>2020 Rate</b>	
Start-up allowance: Age 0-18			\$106.29		\$108.50
Establishment Payments: All Ages			\$531.36		\$541.66
	Daily Rate	Fortnightly	Daily Rate	Fortnightly	
Caring Allowance: Age 0-5	\$35.24	\$493.36	\$35.91	\$502.74	
Caring Allowance: Age 6-10	\$37.96	\$531.44	\$38.69	\$541.66	
Caring Allowance: Age 11 & over	\$41.26	\$577.64	\$42.05	\$588.70	
Regional Remote Loading: Age 0-5	\$3.53	\$49.42	\$3.60	\$50.40	
Regional Remote Loading: Age 6-10	\$3.80	\$53.20	\$3.88	\$54.32	
Regional Remote Loading: Age 11 & over	\$4.13	\$57.82	\$4.21	\$58.94	
<b>HIGH SUPPORT NEEDS ALLOWANCES - Age 0-18</b>					
High Support Needs Allowance	\$12.39	\$173.46	\$12.63	\$176.82	
<b>COMPLEX SUPPORT NEEDS ALLOWANCES - Age 0-18</b>					
Complex Support Needs Allowance 1	\$16.05	\$224.70	\$16.36	\$229.04	
Complex Support Needs Allowance 2	\$32.09	\$449.26	\$32.70	\$457.80	
Complex Support Needs Allowance 3	\$48.14	\$673.96	\$49.06	\$686.84	



# CAREGIVER TIP #4

Shared Family Care are going to make it a standing page in the Carer Connect Newsletter to have a Caregiver Tip.

## How to Foster your Child's Mental Health

### Queensland Mental Health Week 10th October - 18th October

- Be present and actively listening
- During elevated or escalated emotions respond calmly
- Encourage, support and praise your child regularly
- Encourage learning from natural consequences
  - e.g. Natural consequences allow children to prepare for adulthood by helping them think about the potential consequences of their choices.
- Have scheduled family time and incorporate family rituals/traditions
- Teach your child coping mechanisms
- Encourage independent learning
- Create a home routine
- Listen first, talk second
- Acknowledge positive decisions
- Encourage play and exercise
- Make sure your child gets enough rest
- Show love and affection every day
- Practice mindfulness e.g. Blowing bubbles, Have your child focus on taking in a deep, slow breath and exhaling slowly to fill the bubble.
- Let your child express their emotions and actively talk about emotions and feelings
- Eat healthy meals
- Spend time with your child e.g. Reading books, playing, cooking, etc.
- Let them know you're always there for them
- Accept mistakes
- Set an example of healthy behavior
- **PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

# MANAGING ANXIETY

## Resources and links to help manage anxiety during the time of COVID-19

### **The Brave Program**

The Brave Program is an interactive, online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety (designed for 7 - 17 years old). The programs are free and provide ways for children and teenagers to cope better with their worries. Programs for parents also included.

**<http://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/>**

### **Black Dog Institute Online Clinic**

The Black Dog Institute Online Clinic is suitable for anyone over 18 years old who is worried they may be developing a mental health problem or would like to get a better understanding of their mental health. The Online Clinic takes you through a range of clinical assessments for common mental health conditions and you will receive a personalised report with suggested support services that suit you and free or low-cost resources for you to access.

**<https://onlineclinic.blackdoginstitute.org.au/?s=covid-19>**

### **MyCompass**

MyCompass is a personalised self-help tool for your mental health. It has resources and information for young adults and seniors. It creates personalised health kits to help you learn new ways to deal with thoughts, feelings and behaviours. It includes 14 interactive learning activities that are quick easy and accessible, and it has a schedule of support for 7 weeks (which is recommended).

**<https://www.mycompass.org.au/>**

### **Black Dog Institute Mental Health And Coronavirus Webinar Series**

The Black Dog Institute Mental Health and Coronavirus Webinar Series includes tips for managing anxiety, working from home, checking your mental health and how to help when you're worried about someone else's mental health.

**<https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/education-services/settling-the-mind-mental-health-and-coronavirus-webinar-series/>**

### **This Way Up**

This Way Up will teach practical tools to take care of your mental health. This site offers a range of self-paced online courses that teach clinically-proven strategies to help you improve that way you feel. Courses cost \$59 or you can get access for free, supported by your GP, Psychologist or other mental health professional. This site is run by clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, researchers and web technicians.

**<https://thiswayup.org.au/>**

### **Mind Spot**

Mind Spot is a leading Australian digital mental health clinic which offers free, therapist guided online assessments and treatments for adults troubled by anxiety, depression, stress and chronic pain. They also have a 'COVID-19 and Coping' resource page.

**<https://mindspot.org.au/>**

### **Selectability**

Selectability are offering five free sessions with their wellbeing counsellors in Townsville, Mount Isa, Charters Towers, Ingham and Palm Island. For more support, contact the Mental Health Hub team at **[mhhubtsv@selectability.com.au](mailto:mhhubtsv@selectability.com.au)**

### **eCouch**

eCouch is a free, online self-help, self-paced education program. It provides information about a range of mental health issues, what causes them, how to prevent them, and how to treat them. It provides you with a set of strategies that might help improve life. It includes exercise, reading materials and a workbook to track your progress.

**[https://ecouch.anu.edu.au/new\\_users/mhl\\_portal/info](https://ecouch.anu.edu.au/new_users/mhl_portal/info)**

# Queensland Foster and Kinship Care

## Become a FAST rep

FAST is a team of trained specialist local Foster and Kinship Carers who volunteer to provide advice, support and advocate on behalf of other Foster and Kinship Carers. FAST representatives are attached to one of seven regions across Queensland and have the capacity to provide advice, support and advocate to all carers in their regions. FAST representatives can also provide face to face supports to carer within proximity or tele link into meetings where needed. They provide a local avenue for Foster and Kinship Carers to receive advice, support and/or advocacy on individual matters.

Any carer is able to approach QFKC to become a FAST representative. A carer must fill out an application with a 'selection criteria' and a 'position description'. Once the application is received, QFKC seeks feedback from key stakeholders in the relevant region. An interview panel then takes place with the applicant to explore applicant's views on the role, what they hope to offer and other relevant areas. The applicant is then invited to attend two days of Induction training and then a final recommendation is made considering all of this information to QFKC's Executive Director.

*Our Vision - Leave no child in foster care behind.*

*Our Mission - Represent, Advocate, Inform, Support and Excel.*

*Our goal - To contribute to the development of an inclusive, responsive and fair foster care system.*

To learn more about becoming a FAST representative, carer, events that are happening, news and/or training, **visit [www.qfkc.com.au](http://www.qfkc.com.au)**

To speak to someone over the phone, call **(07) 4779 9513**



# Queensland Foster and Kinship Care Returning Carer Program

Queensland Foster and Kinship Care are excited to announce the establishment of the **Returning Carers Program**, a program that allows for the streamlining of approval process for eligible carers wishing to return to the foster carer role. Queensland Foster and Kinship Care has received funding for one full time position for a period of 12 months which will be dedicated to the assessment of eligible returning carers with a targeted goal of a 6 week assessment/approval period.

Whilst Queensland Foster and Kinship Care will be undertaking some targeted recruitment through our Social Media avenues, it is important that our Foster and Kinship Care agencies are aware of the Returning Carer Program and how this program can benefit your organisation. If you have an enquiry from a returning carer who meets the eligibility for the program, you are able to refer the carer/s to Queensland Foster and Kinship Care for the assessment process and the carer/s will then be allocated to your agency once approval is granted by the CSSC Manager, all within the targeted 6 week time frame. This will be at no cost to Foster and Kinship Care agencies at all and is open to all agencies across the whole of Queensland.

We are really looking forward to working alongside our Fostering and Kinship Care Services to deliver this program.

If you have any questions at all, please contact our Recruitment Program on:

Email, **[recruitment@qfkc.com.au](mailto:recruitment@qfkc.com.au)**

To speak with someone over the phone, call **3256 6166**



# POOL SAFETY CERTIFICATES

## **Pool Safety Certificates - Do you need one?**

Yes, if you care for a child in out-of-home care and the home that you live in has access to a pool you are required to supply a Pool Safety Certificate as soon as possible. This is including non-shared pools on private property or shared pools in unit or apartment complexes.

## **What is classified as a Pool?**

A Pool is classified as an above or below ground structure used for swimming or bathing, including some portable pools or spas. If the structure can hold more than 300 millimeters of water, then it is classed as a pool and it must meet the pool safety standards.

Fishponds are usually exempt from the standards.

## **What is a Pool Safety Certificate?**

A Pool Safety Certificate is a document that is issued by law as an indication that the 'pool' conforms with the safety standard. A pool safety certificate needs to be supplied if there is a child in out-of-home care that will be living at the property with a pool.

## **Renting a property with a pool?**

Owners of rented properties are required to obtain a pool safety certificate before renting the property and these are valid for two (2) years from the date of issue for non-shared pools (i.e. a pool on a private property) or valid for one (1) year for shared pools (i.e. units or apartment complexes).

## **If you are unsure whether the house you are looking to move into already has a pool safety certificate, you can find out via the Queensland Building and Construction Commission website under the Pool Register.**

Pool safety certificates are enforced to help keep people safe when using pools, especially children and young people. Take the minute to check if there is a pool safety certificate, and make sure the children that you care for are kept safe and sound.

*<https://www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/home-building-owners/pool-safety/find-pool-safety-inspector-search-property-psi-login>*



# Health Assessments

For children in Out-of-Home Care

Attention  
carers

## Why Health Assessments?

Evidence suggests that children in Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) are more likely to have poorer physical, mental, and developmental health than their peers. Only three per cent of young people in OOHC are reported to be without health problems.

In accordance with elements of the *National Clinical Assessment Framework for Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care* (OOHC), the Department of Child Safety Youth and Women (DCSYW) funded a state-wide strategy for PHNs to develop a project to improve health outcomes for children in OOHC.

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) have engaged with stakeholders throughout Townsville to develop a localised Health Pathway for children in OOHC and are currently trialling children through the pathway.

While the project is still in its infancy stages, DCSYW are identifying children suitable for the trial. Eventually all children coming into care and being placed on orders (and those already in care) will partake in the health screens.

## Carer involvement in the project:

- Identify GP/practice of preference or one that is familiar with the process
- schedule an appointment and attend the preliminary assessment with the child, taking authority to care and any other helpful information to the visit
- schedule an appointment and attend the oral health assessment with the child, taking authority to care and any other helpful information to the visit
- schedule an appointment and attend the comprehensive assessment with the child
- schedule an appointment and attend any specialist referrals with the child, taking authority to care and any other helpful information to the visits.

## Within 30 days of a child entering care

An appointment is made with GP for preliminary health check and screening.

## Within 90 days of a child entering care

The child returns to the GP for a comprehensive health check. A health Management Plan is completed. Referrals are made to specialist services, if required.

## Health reports

Child Safety receive all medical information and reports resulting from assessments and screening throughout the process. This information is stored on the child's file for safe keeping and presented to the child on transitioning from care. No identifying information is shared with NQPHN.

## Information and reports

Child Safety receive all medical information and reports resulting from assessments. No identifying information is shared with NQPHN.



# Happy Holidays

**You're invited to...**

**When:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Where:** Barra Fun Park

**505 Allambie Lane Kelso**

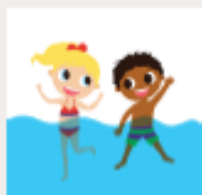
**Time:** 10.30-1.30pm

**TOWELS BATHERS & HATS**

**BBQ LUNCH & DRINKS PROVIDED**

**COOL DOWN WITH CREATE STAFF**

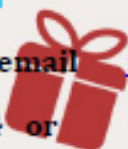
**OR JUST CHILL OUT ☺☺☺☺**



**SUNSCREEN AVAILABLE**

**RSVP text or email** [monica.abel@create.org.au](mailto:monica.abel@create.org.au) or [donna.clemments@create.org.au](mailto:donna.clemments@create.org.au)

**0421068 254 or 0432 480 589**



# LAMINGTON WREATHS FOR CHRISTMAS



These lamington wreaths are easy to complete, using store-bought lamington fingers with whipped cream in between each lamington finger and topped with your choice of fruit, melted chocolate, or even re-create the bottom option by adding cherries, meringue pieces, macarons and pomegranate seeds.

You can also turn these lamington wreaths into a gluten free option by using Susan Day lamingtons and making your own vegan whipped cream, using coconut milk and sugar.

More details at  
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-8984617/Home-bakers-making-delicious-lamington-WREATHS-Christmas.html>

*Merry Christmas*





# Dear Santa,

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Draw what you want for Christmas



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**





# 2021

## School calendar

### Queensland state schools

<b>DECEMBER 2020</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>JANUARY 2021</b> S M T W T F S 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>FEBRUARY</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	<b>MARCH</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>APRIL</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
<b>MAY</b> S M T W T F S 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	<b>JUNE</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>JULY</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>AUGUST</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>SEPTEMBER</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
<b>OCTOBER</b> S M T W T F S 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>NOVEMBER</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>DECEMBER</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

School terms	School holidays	Public holidays	Staff development/student free days	Student free days
Part public holiday after 6pm			Student free days for some schools in regional, rural and remote areas	

There are 193 school days in 2021.

Semester 1, 2021 commences for teachers on 21 January and for students on 27 January, 2021.

#### STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Staff professional development days for teachers are 21 and 22 January, 15 and 16 April and 3 September 2021. Schools are able to decide when they undertake the required hours for professional development for the flexible days, as long as they are on the flexible days, in the school holidays or out of school hours.

#### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Queensland public holidays are set by the Industrial Relations Minister.

Public holidays for local show days are not shown due to diversity of dates across the state.

#### FINAL DATES FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE

19 November is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. 26 November is the final date for student attendance in Years 10 and 11.

Some schools in regional, rural and remote areas will close for the summer holidays on 3 December.

*The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change.*

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit

[www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)



**Queensland  
Government**



DEAR CARERS,

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE TIME TO THANK YOU FOR  
ALL YOUR HARD WORK, SUPPORT AND DEDICATION  
THROUGHOUT 2020. WE HOPE THAT YOU ENJOY THE  
CHRISTMAS BREAK AND HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR.  
FROM EVERYONE AT SHARED FAMILY CARE WE WISH YOU A  
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL IN 2021

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 3PM CHRISTMAS EVE  
AND WE WILL REOPEN FROM 9AM MONDAY 4TH  
JANUARY.

FOR ANYTHING URGENT DURING THIS TIME PLEASE  
CONTACT 0418 150 229.