Meet Steve and Lisa...

"William and Bella came into our care when they were three and five years of age. It was a challenge caring for them in the beginning.

However, with the training, guidance and support of Churches of Christ Care and the Department, we know we are not alone. This support enables both of us to provide acceptance, consistent boundaries and love to William and Bella.

As a result William is now attending kindy and Bella is at school enjoying time with family and friends. Steve and I love spending time with them. Our lives have been enriched since they became part of it.

Yes, we are foster carers."

Meet Sam...

"I went to live with Don and Noela when I was 12 years old. They gave me a loving home where I had my own room and made me feel safe and accepted.

Now I am part of Don and Noela's family, along with their three other children, who are like brothers and sisters to me.

I am now 15 and I'm doing really well at school. I have a part-time job and play soccer on weekends. Don comes to watch me play every Saturday and I can hear him cheering on the sideline.

I am Sam, and Don and Noela are my foster carers."

fosterwithus.com.au

Children, Youth and Families Directory

Head office	1800 222 273
Brisbane	1300 880 307
Bundaberg	07 4152 0709
Fraser Coast	07 4120 0600
Gold Coast/Logan	07 3387 6200
Ipswich	07 3282 5401
Mackay/Whitsunday	07 4953 5097
Moreton Bay	07 5490 6400
Mount Isa	07 4740 1333
Townsville	07 4771 8888

Churches of Christ Care Head Office
41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore Q 4069
Phone: 07 3327 1600
care.cofcqld.com.au

Churches of Christ care

Churches of Christ in Queensland is a church and community organisation that includes a group of affiliated, mainstream Christian churches and a range of care and community services and faith-related groups. We have been an active part of the Queensland community for more than 130 years and are a significant presence within Queensland with over 200 services in more than 100 communities. We also work in partnership with Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania.

For more information about Churches of Christ in Queensland, visit cofc.com.au

Churches of Christ in Queensland

Supported by the Queensland Government

May 15 - 02.03.00

Foster carer. Could you be one?

1800 222 273

Churches of Christ care

Bringing the light of Christ into communities

Children, Youth and Families

Churches of Christ Care is one of the leading not-for-profit providers of family support, out-of-home care and transitional services in Queensland.

We provide foster and kinship care, intensive foster care, and residential and supported independent living services to approximately 2,800 children and young people under child protection orders each year.

We assist a further 480 children and families through our Assessment and Intervention Services and are supported by over 800 dedicated and compassionate foster and kinship carers who work closely with staff to provide a vital safety net for children and young people who have often come from backgrounds of abuse and neglect.

Our services have been through rigorous processes to be licensed by the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and to comply with standards set down by the Child Protection Act 1999. This includes the requirement for anyone who interacts with children to have a Blue Card issued through the Queensland Government Public Safety Business Agency.

We work closely with the Department to recruit, screen and train foster carers. Carers are continually monitored and must be re-approved by the Department every two years.

Types of foster care

Foster Care

Foster care is family based care in an approved carer's home for a child or children who are in desperate need of a safe and loving environment. Time frames vary and can range from a few days to many years, both full-time and part-time.

Kinship Care

Kinship care is when a member of the extended family or someone important to the child provides care to the child when they are no longer able to live with their parents. This style of care supports the individual needs of children and young people, enabling them to retain connections with their family, community, language and culture.

Intensive Foster Care

Intensive foster and kinship care provides a safe and nurturing environment for a child with challenging behaviours and circumstances.

Who can become a foster carer?

Everyday people from all walks of life can become foster carers. We welcome carers of different ages and backgrounds, partners and sole carers, men and women, with children or without. The most important requirement is a commitment to the best outcomes for the child, and a willingness to work within the formal requirements of the fostering process. If you have an open heart and a stable home, you could help transform a young life.

Why become a foster carer?

Caring for children and young people at a difficult time in their lives can be challenging but is also hugely rewarding. Many young lives have been turned around and given new inspiration thanks to the support and dedication of foster carers. They are the backbone of the child protection system, providing consistency, stability and the bonds of trust that many children have sadly been denied.

Some of the rewards* include:

- helping keep children safe
- helping children reach their full potential
- helping parents better relate to their children
- using skills and experiences for the benefit of others
- enhancing own parenting skills and knowledge
- being a valued and contributing member of a team
- expanding social and personal contacts.

Some of the challenges* include:

- managing your own children's feelings
- responding to behaviours that may be new to you
- saying goodbye when they return to their families
- feeling confident they will be safe when they leave
- finding space in your life for yourself
- persevering when observable changes may be small
- sharing decision-making for children placed with you.

Assessment, training and time frames

The process of becoming a trained and approved foster carer involves background screening that may include health, child protection, traffic, criminal history and domestic violence checks, as well as talking to personal referees. It takes an average of three to four months to complete the process. We provide training and guidance both before and during your time as a carer. Training is presented in a number of ways including home visits, online and face-to-face sessions.

Churches of Christ Care

Established in 1930, Churches of Christ Care is one of the largest, most diverse not-for-profit organisations in Australia, operating more than 150 care services throughout Queensland and Melbourne, Victoria, with the support of approximately 3,200 staff and almost 900 volunteers. The organisation is built on a foundation of Christian values, offering help to all those in need regardless of religious background.

*Source: The Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.