Who do you contact to find out more?

This fact sheet is one of 11 resources produced for prospective foster and kinship carers. If you would like additional information or resources:

- call the department’s Foster Carer Recruitment Line on 1300 550 877
- visit www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety
- contact your local child safety service centre
- you can also contact Foster Care Queensland (a non-government organisation for carers) on 3256 6166.
Becoming a foster carer

Once you have decided that you are interested in becoming a foster carer, there are a number of steps you will go through to become an approved foster carer.

The aim of this approval process is to make sure that you are:
• suitable to be a foster carer and all members of your household are suitable persons to associate with children and young people on a daily basis
• able to meet the standards of care in the Statement of Standards, outlined in the Child Protection Act 1999
• able to work towards achieving goals for the safety, care and protection of children and young people.

Steps to becoming a foster carer

To become a foster carer, you need to:

1. **Complete an Application for Approval form**
   This will provide important information to the department to help with personal history checks for you and your adult household members. This includes consideration of criminal and child protection history, and where necessary, domestic violence and traffic history.

2. **Complete a blue card application**
   This must be completed by applicants and any other adult members of the household. The department can assist with this process. For more information, see fact sheet 8 in this series ‘Blue cards’.

3. **Complete a household safety study**
   This will be completed by the person making the assessment and includes mandatory safety requirements that must be met prior to you being approved as a carer.

4. **Complete a health and wellbeing questionnaire**
   This questionnaire will be completed with the help of the person making the assessment. Medical assessments may be required as part of the process.

5. **Referee checks**
   Referee checks are discretionary and may occur at any point during the assessment, including employer referee checks if you are in child-related employment.

6. **Complete required interviews**
   These will be conducted by the person making the assessment. You, your children (depending on their age), any adult household members and significant others will be interviewed.

7. **Complete pre-service training**
   This training will provide you with the skills and knowledge you need to commence your role as a foster carer.

Approved applicants

If your application is approved by the department, you will:
• receive a letter confirming that you have been approved as a foster carer
• receive a Certificate of Approval as a foster carer. This is for an initial 12 months and requires renewal every two years thereafter, upon application and approval
• work with the department and your non-government foster and kinship care service to develop a Foster Carer Agreement detailing the support available to help you fulfil your role, ongoing training requirements and the types of placements you are willing to consider.

If your application is not approved by the department, you will receive a letter stating the reasons for the decision and your right of review.