**Michael Scott transcript**

- I'm Michael, my partner, Scott and I are both foster carers for two amazing children. The idea of going into foster care came from a while ago when I was having a bit of a sabbatical from work and did some volunteer tutoring, of some disadvantaged kids in maths, and I sort of looked at the environment and said, "You know maybe this is something "that we should help out with."

- Mikey was the instigator. He had an Auntie who is a foster carer, and after having conversations with her, I think Mikey really felt that that was a path that he'd like to go. Obviously, it's something that was important to him, so I followed suit. It was extremely daunting to begin with. You know, you go through all of these doubts, what will the kid think of me? What happens if I make a mistake? What are the repercussions? It's that fear of the unknown. The department and the associated organisations put us through training, before we were officially ticked off as foster carers, and that essentially covered things like managing trauma, and managing possible behavioural concerns. We started with respite care, just to test the water, so to speak, and we felt that we could go to full-time.

- Child Safety and our care agency have been really good with giving us support. If there was someone out there who was a single person going, "How would I make this happen?" Certainly, there's so many supports within the system to help you out. We've both got very good friends and family, who are extremely supportive and, you know, there's times that we've needed help, especially with Scott being a shift worker, and it's lovely that our support network are actually excited to help out, and actually fill that gap. I think foster caring has really changed my perspective on life and perspective on families, really, perspective on the community. Even if you're only making a difference to that one child or two children, well, you're providing them some safety, some love, some stability, so whether they're with you for a day, a week, a year, or, you know, 18 years you're giving them something that they'll appreciate for the rest of their lives.

- Having that responsibility for someone else is a big thing. It's a challenge that I quite enjoy, and does make me feel proud of who I am. If you can provide just, a place where they can come home to, and feel comfortable within themselves to be, and know that they've got a regular meal, sort of on the table, and they've got people that have an unconditional love for them, I believe that that is the foundation to a happy kid's upbringing.