**11 - DES AND DAVEENA - LONGFORM**

**TRANSCRIPT**

- I'm Des. I've been a foster carer for five years now. I've always been a big kid at heart. My own kids grew up and moved out so I ran out of play mates.

- We always wanted to do foster care, but it just wasn't the right time in our lives with our own family. And then I had a baby at 42, and he was growing up as if he was an only child. And we thought now was the right time.

- [Des] We have six foster kids at the moment. Yeah, we didn't plan on that.

- We did our foster care training. We got our certificate on the Friday and straight into it on the Monday, and it's just been awesome. If we had a bigger house, there'd probably be more.

- To see the difference in the kids, to see how they've gone from being traumatised and having the problems that trauma brings to having a teacher saying they're doing a great job, that's what it's all about. It might not fix all their problems, but you can give them a normal life.

- Just welcome them with open arms. Try to explain that while they're with us, they're loved and we're going to give them the best life that we can.

It's important for Indigenous children to go to Indigenous carers. We really need Indigenous carers to keep the culture going. Indigenous carers understand Indigenous children. We understand the Indigenous way of life. From the heart, we know. The culture's going. The stories aren't being told any more. We need that. And I think it's very important for the children to know where they're from and to be proud of who they are and their kin.

- To anyone who's considering becoming a foster carer, if you've got a place in your home and your heart for a child, then do it please. The world needs people to help people, and the children are the future for us all. So help them have a better future.

- Foster care is an awesome thing. Just the love from these children is just amazing. I'd be lost without them.

- [Des] It makes me feel very proud.