# 09-FC\_Meegan and Stephen

**Meegan:** I've been foster caring for just over 14 years now. I've just seen the need for foster carers. The children coming into care were outweighing the carers. I felt like that I had quite a lot to give - not only a house and all those sorts of material things, but the love and the support and the nurture to make a difference.

**Stephen:** When I first met Meegan, she told me she was a foster carer, and I thought the idea of being a foster carer was great. It probably took a year for me to finally say, yeah, let's do it. And it was great.

**Meegan:** To be able to connect to a child on a different level, emotionally, and know that they trust you, it's rewarding in itself. But just to really stop and see the look on someone's face when you know that they feel safe is amazing. Because of my indigenous background, I - we do a lot of indigenous care and a lot of work with indigenous community. It is a big part of who I am. So, I do like to really, really help the children discover who they are, with their indigenous backgrounds.

**Stephen:** After our first placement, it was very challenging, and I was ready not to - not to do it again.

**Meegan:** There's been times where we've thrown your hands up, like no, that's it. We're not doing this anymore. It's too hard, it's too emotional. It's, what can we do? And then we get up the next day, like it's not that bad, look at those faces. One of my big passions is helping young mums - the mums that are still in care themselves, but have had their own children. So helping break that cycle, helping them gain the skills and confidence for parenting. So, really keeping the families together essentially, so that the mums can grow up and keep their children with them, and be confident young adults and parents at the same time.

**Stephen:** You always have to keep it in the back of your mind that they aren't here forever. As hard as it is to see them go, that's just part of what we do. I'd like them to leave with confidence, and knowing who they are. And -

**Meegan:** We can give them what we can while they are here, in the time that they're here, which is really important, in being able to cope until the next - you know, when they move on, whether it be family or back home to mum and dad, or just out into the big wide world. And our arms are wide open, so they just keep coming and going, and that's just -

**Stephen:** That's just how it works.

**Meegan:** Sometimes we have a cry, sometimes we have a break, and then we'll get back up and do it again. Yeah.