**Karyn and Ron transcript**

- We're Karyn and Ron and we're foster carers. I've been fostering for 14 years. We sell plants and do gardening and landscaping, offers lots of flexibility in our life and we both love it. We love gardening, love plants and it's great for the kids, they love it too.

- The very first question they asked me is why do you want to do this? Why do you want to become a foster carer? Every child deserves a chance, a chance at education, a roof over their head, clothes on their back, shoes on their feet, food in their belly, something that I had all my life. So it was a given for me and stepping into this world, not every child has that. You need passion, you need drive and the kids have to come first.

- Foster kids have fed my passion to make sure they get the best of the best, that the system works for them. You can show them trust and love and give them ambition and drive and show them the future, what's available, what's available in the world and it's just amazing to see them glow and grow and progress. It's like, wow. The agency offers really good support. There's always more training that you can do, speak to people who've done it before and they can give you some great tips. It's your friends, your family, you know, there's a social network out there that you can use for support and learning.

- Therapists, the Department, they have social workers, friends, family ... it's just not us, it's everyone around us.

- All these kids come from so many different backgrounds and reasons to come into care. And it's probably the most important thing to do is to look at the child and not sum them up by the behaviours that you're seeing. We forget that it's really just a little, tiny person here, who is just going through so much stuff in their minds and their hearts that you need to step back and go, this is what we're doing it for and then come from a fresh perspective.

- It is an absolute roller coaster. You'll see great highs, you'll see dark lows. How it all balances out, it makes it makes the trip interesting and makes the trip worthwhile.

- There's so many kids that need help out there and they just need someone to go, someone to love them. I've learned so many different ways to look at the world from my little people. It's just the most rewarding thing and it's life changing.