**FC - 09 - Melissa and Scott Fuller - Long Form - V07**

**TRANSCRIPT**

- We're Melissa and Scott and we're foster carers. I identify as Indigenous. My side of the family is from Palm Island.

- My mob is Kalkadoon. I'm from the Mount Isa region out through the West of Queensland.

- A foster carer is someone who can provide love, a home, a caring environment, a family environment.

- There's all different types of foster care. Sometimes they might stay for a night or a weekend, a week, a month, and sometimes they might stay for 18 years.

- We've been in foster care for over 16 years now. We first started kinship care. The minute I could have another child come in that we could help and provide a home to, then the doors opened.

- We had five kids, three girls and two boys. So yeah, another one in the mix wasn't too hard to take. I wasn't sure whether we were cut out for it, whether we would be successful or we could help somebody else. The kids were a little bit scared at first, as we were. But yeah, we all got along pretty well. And yeah, it's just second nature now to the whole family.

- Scott and I are a team, we support each other. You know, times can be crazy and you're running one way and he's running the other, but everything comes together.

- Our kids are very nurturing towards the other children, they're very accepting. I think the kids that come into our care are already quite accepting and thankful that somebody's reached out to them. And I think it'll make our children better adults.

- I love when a child first walks through your door and you give them that hug. They might be a little bit standoffish, like not sure, like who are you kind of thing, but then as time goes like that relationship and that trust that grows with you and that child, it makes you feel so... like your heart can't give any more love. There is a huge need for more Indigenous carers, and every opportunity we get, we put out there how rewarding it is and how their choice to become a foster care can make a difference to an Indigenous child out there.

- It's important for the Indigenous children to have the connection with culture, so they can live it and carry it forward into the future. If the connection's broken, who's going to pick it up later? If you're thinking about becoming a foster carer and you're Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, please, please have a go. It's a very, very rewarding thing to do. We feel very blessed to have the children in our care, to have that opportunity.

- If you've got the love to give, a roof over your head that you can take someone in and give them that same experience, then go for it.

- I'm very proud to know that I come from an Aboriginal background and that I'm a Kalkadoon man and I'm a foster carer. The kids have taught me much more than I thought I could ever learn, and I feel blessed to have them. So this journey over 16 years has been absolutely fantastic. I hope it goes on for a lot longer.