**CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS**

**TRANSCRIPT [CAIRNS]**

- My name is Sarah and I'm from the North Cairns Lower Cape office and I am the Senior Team Leader.

As a department, I think that our biggest goal is that children find permanency and stability in their home environment and that the children that we're helping support and cultivate now are obviously the parents of the future, so the more support, the more stability they get here, that's going to give them the opportunities, the skills to be able to provide to their own children and I think that's the gap.

We've got a really, really big job ahead of us and that's why we need more people here doing this important work. If we don't close this gap, we're going to have these same challenges into the future.

I mean, this part of the world is just spectacular. You've got the reef and rainforest on one side, got the beaches, the Daintree, everything's really accessible. It really is a breathtaking part of the world.

I can't express enough how important it is to get skilled, enthusiastic people coming into the department and committing to this work which keeps children safe, which keeps them together with their family and their community which provides them with support and skills and opportunities to become successful members of society into the future.

It's our job, it's more than that. It's our passion. Is it tough? Yeah, it's tough but is it rewarding? Absolutely. I mean, the smiles, the high fives, the thank you cards that you get at the end of the year or when you close off with a family and they genuinely look you in the eye and thank you because you've made a real difference to their life, I don't think anything can replace that.

It takes a lot to get to there and sometimes you don't get that letter but it's okay because there's other people around you, your teammates, your management team that are patting you on the back.

But I can guarantee people genuine change and interest and fast pace. It's never boring. It's the most important job there is in terms of children's safety.