

Child Safety POLICY

Title: Title: Foster care training

Policy No: 383-5

Policy Statement:

The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (Child Safety) is committed to foster carers being provided with appropriate levels of training to ensure that the care provided to children and young people subject to statutory intervention under the *Child Protection Act 1999* (the Act) meets the standards of care set out in the Statement of Standards in Chapter 4 of the Act.

It is a legislative requirement that Child Safety must only grant approval or renewal of approval as a foster carer to an applicant who is a 'suitable person' as defined by Schedule 3 of the Act and Part 4 of the Child Protection Regulation 2000. Completion of training required by Child Safety is one aspect of assessment of suitability for foster carers.

Kinship carers will be encouraged to participate in training where appropriate, however, the completion of training is not a requirement for approval as a kinship carer.

Long-term guardians who continue to hold a certificate of approval as an approved foster carer will be subject to ongoing requirements regarding the completion of training.

Any long-term guardian may choose to participate in training as a support to the care arrangement, but it is not a requirement.

Child Safety is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the *Human Rights Act 2019*, Child Safety has an obligation to act and make decisions relevant to the training of carers in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights.

The safe care and connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with family, community, culture and country will be a key consideration when working with foster and kinship carer applicants.

Principles:

Principles underpinning the implementation of this policy include:

- The safety, wellbeing and best interests of a child, both through childhood and for the rest of the child's life, are paramount.

- Child Safety staff will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and obligations under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.
- The provision of an appropriate level of training and support increases the likelihood that foster carers will provide care consistent with the principles of the Act and promotes the provision of quality care and positive outcomes for children and young people.
- Child Safety has a responsibility to provide, or ensure the provision of, training and support to enable foster carers to develop the knowledge and skills required to fulfil their legislative responsibilities under the Act.
- All carers have the right to access quality training that is provided in a timely, consistent way and that is responsive to different adult learning styles.
- Foster and kinship carers granted the long-term guardianship of a child under the Act will be supported to the extent appropriate in the circumstance, in accordance with departmental policy and procedures, with a view to promoting the ongoing stability of the long-term guardianship care arrangement for the child.
- The five elements of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (prevention, partnership, placement, participation and connection) outlined in section 5C of the Act, apply to all processes, decisions and actions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait children.

Objectives:

This policy aims to ensure that foster carers participate in appropriate training, to support them to meet the legislative requirements associated with their approval under the Act, and where requested, kinship carers and long-term guardians have their training needs responded to in relation to the child in their care.

Scope:

This policy refers to approved foster carers under the Act, including foster carers who have provisional approval.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Direct support to approved carers is provided by the staff of foster and kinship care services and Child Safety staff.
- The Child Safety Officer for a child is responsible for responding to requests for support by a long-term guardian.

Authority:

Child Protection Act 1999, section 133 (6)

Child Protection Regulation 2000, section 9 (1 and 2)

Delegations:

Refer to instruments of delegation for delegations relevant to the approval of foster carers.

Records File No.: Not applicable

Date of approval: 20 April 2022

Date of operation: 20 April 2022

Date to be reviewed: 20 April 2025

Office: Investment and Commissioning

Contact: Tertiary Care and Support

Links:

Procedures

Procedures and Guidelines for *Quality Care: Foster Care Training*
Child Safety Practice Manual

Related Policies

Carer learning and support (457)

Carer participation (460)

Foster care matching: a partnership approach (639)

Related Legislation or Standards

Statement of Commitment between the Department of [Child Safety], foster care services and the carers of Queensland

Rescinded Policies

383-4 Foster care training

Deidre Mulkerin

Director-General