



## Director-General's COVID-19 UPDATE

Deidre Mulkerin | Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Dear foster and kinship carers

There are lots of very positive announcements to share with you this week!

Over the weekend, the [Queensland Government](#) announced that some restrictions on our way of life will be lifted. From midnight this Friday 30 April, you and the members of your household will be able to:

- go for a drive within 50km of your home;
- have a picnic;
- go shopping for non-essential items, for example, for clothes and shoes; or
- visit national parks.

At this stage, all other restrictions remain in place and maintaining social distancing and hygiene are still important requirements.

### Temporary changes to dual carer allowances

It's very important to us that we support you as best we can in keeping the children or young people in your care safe and healthy, with this being even more in focus during these challenging times.

If you become unwell with the Coronavirus and are temporarily unable to care for the children or young people placed in your care, you will continue to receive your carer allowance under the Dual Carer Allowance — Emergent Respite policy, while the child is cared for by another carer.

To ensure you have recovery time before the children can be returned to your care, this allowance will be extended to be available for more than 20 days.

### Carer Connect

Carer Connect is an app developed for foster and kinship carers to access support information related to caring for the children and young people placed with you. It's also a very useful way of sending alerts and updates, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The good news is that respite carers will now also be able to access critical information about children and young people placed with them, through the Carer Connect app. This includes Medicare Card numbers, any serious health conditions or disabilities and signed Authority to Care forms.

Respite carers will also be able to share posts to kicbox, view and add information under 'Who am I' and 'Routines' and submit any pre-approved child-related cost reimbursements.



If you haven't downloaded the [Carer Connect app](#), I encourage you to do so. For the Kicbox app, which can be downloaded via the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), please contact your child safety officer for information.

Should you have any questions about these improvements, please email [carerconnect@csyw.qld.gov.au](mailto:carerconnect@csyw.qld.gov.au)

### **COVIDSafe app**

The Australian Government has launched COVIDSafe — a contact tracing app to help reduce the spread of coronavirus through early notification of possible exposure.

It uses technology to automate and improve what our health officials currently do manually. It will speed up the process of identifying people who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with coronavirus.

COVIDSafe only keeps contact information for 21 days. This covers the maximum incubation period for the virus and the time it takes for someone to be tested for COVID-19. You can find out more information, including details on data privacy [here](#).

The use of the COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary. It is a personal choice and individuals will make their own decision whether to download and use the app.

You can download the app via the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

If you have any questions, please talk to your child safety officer or foster and kinship care service. And don't forget, you can now call the Foster and Kinship Care Support Line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1300 729 309 for support.

Thank you again for your commitment to looking after our children and young people. Please also take time to look after yourself.

Warm regards

### **Deidre Mulkerin**

Director-General  
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women