

Children, Youth and Families



1800 222 273

care.cofcqld.com.au

Children, Youth and Families Directory

Brisbane	1300 880 307
Bundaberg	07 4152 0709
Fraser Coast	07 4120 0600
Gold Coast/Logan	07 3387 6200
Ipswich	07 3282 5401
Mackay/Whitsunday	07 4953 5097
Moreton Bay	07 5490 6400
Mount Isa	07 4740 1333
Townsville	07 4771 8888

In Queensland there are always young people needing care. These children really need your help. We would be pleased to tell you more about becoming a foster carer and answer any other questions you have. If you think you could welcome a child into your home for some weekends, a month or longer term, contact your local office.

Churches of Christ Care Head Office

41 Brookfield Road, Kenmore Q 4069
Phone: 07 3327 1600
care.cofcqld.com.au



Churches of Christ in Queensland is a church and community organisation that includes a group of affiliated, mainstream Christian churches and a range of care and community services and faith-related groups. We have been an active part of the Queensland community for more than 130 years and are a significant presence within Queensland with over 200 services in more than 100 communities. We also work in partnership with Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania.

For more information about Churches of Christ in Queensland, visit cofc.com.au

Supported by the



Who can become a foster carer?

Everyday people from all walks of life can become foster carers. We welcome carers of different ages and backgrounds, partners and sole carers, men and women, with children or without. The most important requirement is a commitment to the best outcomes for the child, and a willingness to work within the formal requirements of the fostering process. If you have an open heart and a stable home, you could help transform a young life.

Caring for children and young people at a difficult time in their lives can be challenging but is also hugely rewarding. Many young lives have been turned around and given new inspiration thanks to the support and dedication of foster carers. They are the backbone of the child protection system, providing consistency, stability and the bonds of trust that many children have sadly been denied.

Rewards for foster carers

The responsibility of becoming a foster carer is not to be considered lightly; however, some of the rewards* include:

- helping keep children safe
- helping children reach their full potential
- helping parents better relate to their children
- using skills and experiences for the benefit of others
- enhancing own parenting skills and knowledge
- being a valued and contributing member of a team
- expanding social and personal contacts.

Assessment, training and time frames

The process of becoming a trained and approved foster/kinship carer involves background screening which may include health, child protection, traffic, criminal history and domestic violence checks, as well as talking to personal referees. It takes an average of three to four months to go through the assessment process. We provide you with training and guidance both before you become a foster carer and during your time as a carer. Training is presented in a number of ways including home visits, online and face-to-face sessions.

*Source: The Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.



Bringing the light of Christ into communities



Children, Youth and Families

Churches of Christ Care is one of the leading not-for-profit providers of family support, out-of-home care and transitional services in Queensland.

We provide foster and kinship care, intensive foster care, and residential and supported independent living services to approximately 2,800 children and young people under child protection orders each year.

We assist a further 480 children and families through our Assessment and Intervention Services and are supported by over 800 dedicated and compassionate foster and kinship carers who work closely with staff to provide a vital safety net for children and young people who have often come from backgrounds of abuse and neglect.

Our services have been through rigorous processes to be licensed by the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and to comply with standards set down by the Child Protection Act 1999.

This includes the requirement for anyone who interacts with children to have a Blue Card issued through the Queensland Government Public Safety Business Agency. Churches of Christ Care works closely with the Department to recruit, screen and train foster carers. Carers are continually monitored and must be re-approved by the Department every two years.

Types of foster care

Foster Care

Foster care is family based care in an approved carer's home for a child or children who are in desperate need of a safe and loving environment. Time frames vary and can range from a few days to many years, both full-time and part-time.

Kinship Care

Kinship care is when a member of the extended family or someone important to the child provides care to the child when they are no longer able to live with their parents. This style of care supports the individual needs of children and young people, enabling them to retain connections with their family, community, language and culture.

Intensive Foster Care

Intensive foster and kinship care provides a safe and nurturing environment for a child with challenging behaviours and circumstances.

Other services

Assessment and Intervention

Assessment and Intervention provides information to support children, their families and foster carers. While the wellbeing of children must always be our first concern, we never forget the importance of the child's natural family. We offer various services to help work towards the best outcomes for children, including counselling support during children's visits to their family, assessment of when it is safe for children to return home permanently, mediation to help resolve disagreements, and key training delivery such as parenting skills and anger management.

Immediate Response

Immediate response is a licensed residential care service offering short-term, safe and secure placement options. Young people are supported to maintain contact with significant others and provided with emotional, physical and social support.

They receive opportunities to build self esteem, to have role models for social development and relationship building, to develop practical life skills, to build support networks within the local community, and to engage in educational, training or employment opportunities.

Residential and Supported Independent Living

Our residential care and supported independent living services provide care to children and young people between 12 and 17 years of age. Young people are given physical, emotional, social and therapeutic support in an environment that teaches them valuable life skills and how to be part of a community. They are assisted with preparing nutritious and low cost meals, budgeting and financial management, maintaining a healthy home, gardening and house maintenance, job seeking, personal health and hygiene practices, accessing support services and networks, and securing education, training and employment opportunities.

Churches of Christ Care

Established in 1930, Churches of Christ Care is one of the largest, most diverse not-for-profit organisations in Australia, operating more than 150 care services throughout Queensland and Melbourne, Victoria, with the support of approximately 3,200 staff and almost 900 volunteers.

The organisation is built on a foundation of Christian values, offering help to all those in need regardless of religious background.

Our services provide Christ-inspired care and compassion to vulnerable people at different stages of their life journey, and include early childhood, family support, out of home care and transition to independence programs; community housing; retirement living; home and community care; and residential aged care.