

Key Messages

- Can you open your heart and home to a child?
- Every child deserves a safe, stable home with positive relations to family, community and culture
- Supporting children stay at home with their families when it is safe is always the best option for children. It is the best option for families and the community.
- Parents sometimes can't care for their children and children need to be looked after by someone else. Sometimes this is for a short time and sometimes for much longer.
- Caring for children from our culture and faith is important.
- Maintaining culture is very importance for children and families. It helps children understand where they have come from and it helps them develop their identity.
- Being looked after by foster carers who share the same culture and/or faith and/or language, can make it easier for children.

- What do you need to do as a foster carer?
 - ✓ Having a genuine interest in a child's wellbeing and future
 - ✓ A willingness to help them understand their past
 - ✓ An understanding that the child has another family, a mum, a dad, grandparents, maybe siblings
 - ✓ A willingness to help a child have safe, fun and positive relationships with their other family...that is their parents, siblings, aunties, uncles, grandparents, relatives
 - ✓ A commitment to include a child as part of your family
 - ✓ A willingness to help a child stay connected with their family, cultural, language and religion
- Foster carers with SSI have support from a caseworker and access to bilingual workers and support from other carers as well as financial support to meet the cost of caring for the child
- Being a foster carer is not for everyone. It is a rewarding but also a challenging role. **Is this a role for you?**