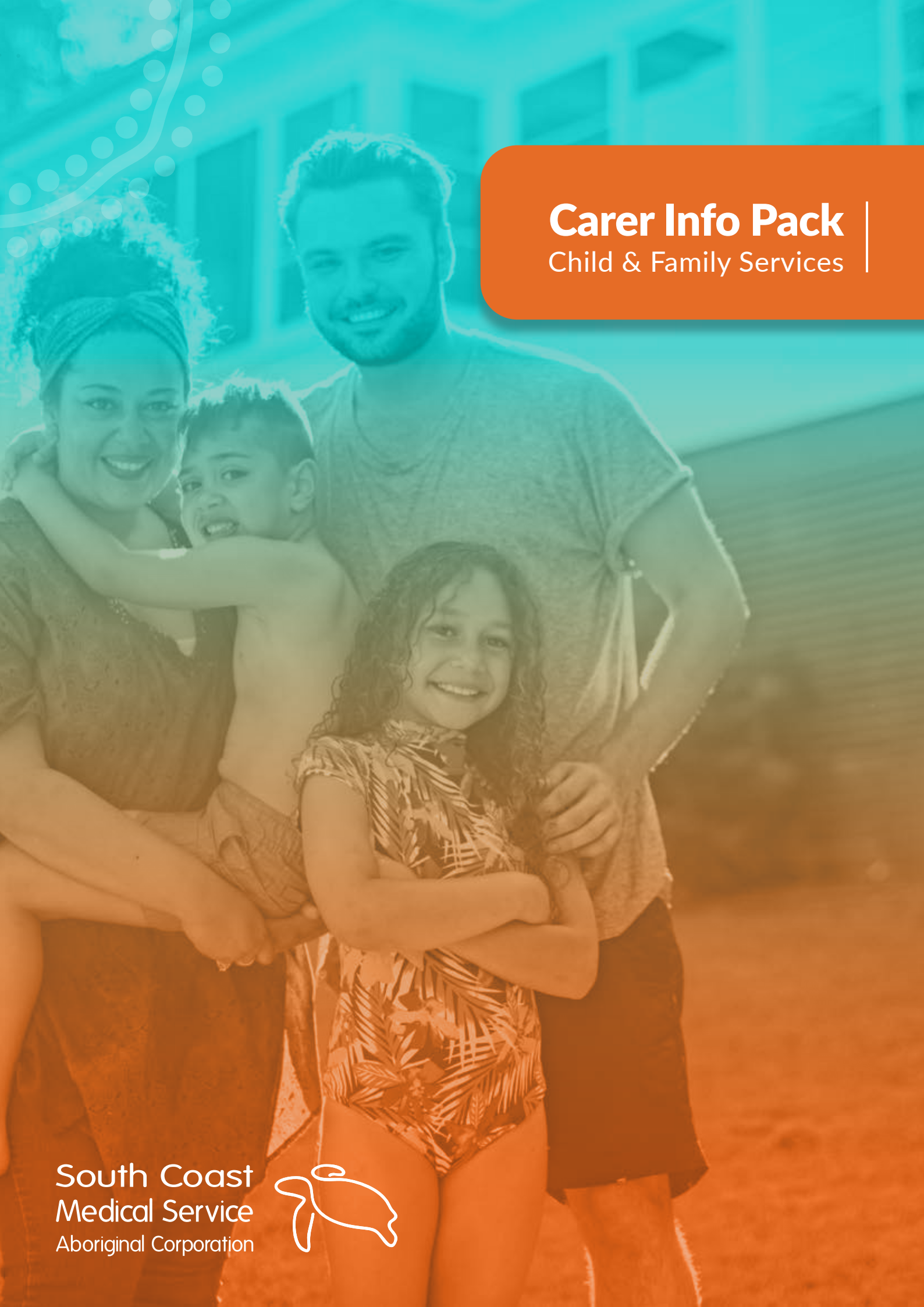
Carer Info Pack

Child & Family Services



South Coast
Medical Service
Aboriginal Corporation

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"We acknowledge the traditional custodians, past and present, on country we work and live in."

The South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation embeds Cultural Safety Standards and Principles in it's resources.

Thank you for your enquiry

Thank you for your enquiry about becoming a Foster Carer with the South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation, Permanency Support Program (SCMSAC PSP).

This package provides an overview of what our service offers and information about your role and responsibilities as a Foster Carer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

" A Foster Carer" provides care and a safe, secure and nurturing family environment, for children and young people, who are unable to live with their own families.

The SCMSAC PSP provides different types of care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people such as:

- Long-term
- Short-term
- Respite
- Crisis Care

We understand being a Foster Carer is challenging and rewarding for both you and your family. Despite this, Carers and their families can experience a number of positive benefits. This information will help you understand and appreciate what you as a Foster Carer can offer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

If you choose to become a Foster Carer with our service, you won't be working alone in your journey. We will provide training, resources and specialist support when you need it.

Our commitment to ensuring our Foster Carers receive every support necessary, includes:

- Individual day-to-day and scheduled support
- Ongoing education and training
- Encouragement and assistance to create a Foster Carers support group
- Specific training where needed, such as trauma training
- Financial assistance to meet children and young people's needs
- Access to resources and relevant support services

If you feel that you would like to become a Foster Carer with us, please get in touch using the details at the back of this booklet.

We see significant and life-long benefits for children, young people and their families who we support through our Permanency Support Program. For many children and young people, the right care can help them move on in their lives, and develop into healthy adults.

Section 2

What is Foster Care?

Foster Care is caring for someone else's child and/or young person in your home, when their birth family is unable to. There are many reasons why a birth family becomes unable to care for their child and/or young person, some of these are detailed on the next page.

Our Foster Care families aim to provide a safe, nurturing and loving home environment. Foster Carers understand and accept that a child and/or young person in their care has their own family, and that they are not replacing that family.

What is PSP?

SCMSAC is the only Aboriginal non-government organisation within the Shoalhaven and Far South Coast providing Permanency Support to Out of Home Care. Our services and programs are designed to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people in the NSW care system. We are a fully accredited agency under the Children's Guardian NSW Standards for Statutory Out-of-Home Care. We are also accredited under the Australian Quality Improvement Council's Health and Community Services Standards, see our website for more details: **www.southcoastams.org.au**

We support Aboriginal Foster Care placements for children and young people aged 0-18 years. We have offices in Nowra, Batemans Bay, Goulburn and Wollongong. From these offices, we support Foster Care placements in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Far South Coast and Goulburn area.

Working together with the PSP team and other professionals, our Foster Care families help meet the needs of the child and/or young person, and support them through their return-to-family journeys.

We don't expect Carers to know all the answers through this journey - it is a shared experience by all.

Caseworkers, in partnership with our Foster Carer's, provide support services to children who are unable to live safely with their birth families. We strive to place children and young people in a safe, well-functioning, stable foster home allowing them to develop to the best of their potential.

We work closely with birth parents and family members, and encourage participation in permanency decisions, with the goal of restoration. We also adhere to the Office of the Children's Guardian strict guidelines.

Key Points:

- The Foster Care PSP Service Guidelines are a great resource detailing best practice, ensuring quality support is provided
- Help from the PSP team is always available for Carers and families
- Foster Care families also receive a Foster Carer's allowance
- Foster Care is not adoption or replacing a child in your family

NSW Office of the Children's Guardian

Quality Innovation Performance

Why children and young people enter Foster Care

A common misconception is that children/young people only enter care because they have been abused. Although that is one reason, there are more. Children/young people enter care for various reasons:

- Parents become overwhelmed with their problems, and cannot meet their needs
- Parents become unable to provide adequate care and supervision
- Parents are unable to provide a safe environment
- Parents are unable to control their own environment
- Depression and other mental health conditions effecting their family
- Drug or alcohol abuse by their parents or caregiver
- Lack of appropriate parenting skills
- Family breakdown and/or conflict
- Neglect
- Abandonment
- Death in the family
- No support network for parents

SCMSAC facilitate many workshops internally and with other agencies

Section 4

Understanding the child or young person in your care

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children or young people entering care can experience many emotions and trying to understand how they might feel can help a great deal. A child or young person can feel:

- A need to *'identify*'* as Aboriginal, or Torres Strait Islander
- Loss of belonging
- Depression, sadness and anxiety
- Confusion or frustration about - *'fitting into'* their new environment
- Distrust or uncertainty about strangers and feeling unsafe around them
- Shame/blaming themselves for being in care
- Anger towards being 'taken away', or being *'put in the homes'*
- Feeling restricted, trapped or *'locked up'*
- The need to feel accepted
- Overwhelm, with having no control or voice about being in care
- Abandoned/deserted by family
- Loss of security and stability

One of the first obstacles a child or young person in care will have to overcome is familiarising themselves with strange territory and accepting the different lifestyles of their foster family. They have to adjust, and if they struggle with this, they may unknowingly set themselves up for rejection.

It is our job to work together to provide a safe environment for children or young people in care.

Children and young people need to express their feelings in a safe environment. If they can't verbally express how they feel, they may express it through their behaviours.

We provide behaviour support and management training during these stressful times.

* To *identify;* to possess a sense of identity or belonging to a culture, group, race, region or tribe.
SCMSAC applies many cultural practices including cultural support and activities that explore identity.

Understanding the child or young person's family

It is usually not the family's choice when a child or young person enters PSP Foster Care. Here are a few points to remember when interacting with the child/young person's family. The family may feel:

- Distressed that their child/young person was removed
- Confused - unable to understand the reason for the child/young person's removal
- A sense of guilt or loss, inadequacy, intimidation, powerlessness, humiliation, and/or depression
- Angry that Foster Carers are looking after their child/young person, when they can't do it themselves
- Jealous of Foster Carers
- Shame, resentment, overwhelm
- Mistrust that a Foster Carer won't be able to understand or meet their child's needs
- Afraid that they will never get their child back

After a child or young person is removed from their care the parent may find motivation to change their situation, or they may simply give up hope.

Some useful tips:

- The Foster Carer can ask the child or young person to give or make their parent something special
- The child/young person could save a portion of their pocket money to buy their parent a present

These gestures of positivity and connection can benefit all parties.

Can you think of other ways to support connection between a child and/or young person in care, and their birth family?

Foster Carers can have a positive effect on parents if they can *'work with'* the parents, such as promoting quality *'family time'.*

Section 6

Foster Care Best Practice

Matching children and young people with the right Foster Carers is very important. We need different types of people who can meet children and young people's varied needs. Some important characteristics of Foster Carers are:

- A commitment to providing quality emotional and physical care
- A good understanding of why children/young people enter Foster Care PSP, and what their needs might be
- Healthy relationships with other adults, young people and children
- Consistent and positive parenting skills based on an understanding of children/young people's needs
- A welcoming home and family that is open to others
- A willingness to provide a warm, safe, trusting, nurturing and caring environment
- A willingness to meet all medical and educational needs
- An ability to remain calm during moments of stress, and have a good sense of humour

All Foster Carers will need:

- ☑ **National Police Check**
- ☑ **Working with Children's Check**
- ☑ **Prohibited Employment Declaration Check**
- ☑ **Community Services Check**

These checks are a requirement for all people involved in providing care. If you have had a minor offence in the past you are still encouraged to apply. The SCMSAC PSP will assess each case on its merits.

Please get in touch with our team if you have any questions.

- The ability to work in partnership with the SCMSAC Foster Care PSP team
- A positive approach to supporting a child/young person with birth family contact and permanency planning
- A commitment to developing skills through training and undertaking personal education

In the beginning, you may identify characteristics that you feel need improving. Our training program is designed to help you build these skills, and develop confidence in your role as a Carer.

Carers Rights and Responsibilities

All Foster Carers have rights and responsibilities. We cannot ask you to do things beyond your capacity. We will help you work out how to manage each challenge.

As a Foster Carer you have the ***right*** to:

- Respect, consideration, trust and recognition
- The right to placement of a child or young person suitable to your personal preferences, temperament, life experience and employment background
- Clear direction and support from management and access to SCMSAC policies and procedures on request
- Information on the child's/young person's background, relevant to caring for the child, in line with SCMSAC policies and procedures
- Your own style and basic routine, as far as the needs of the child/young person allows
- Initial orientation and further training and workshops
- Be included in the family and child planning process and to freely make suggestions
- A paid allowance to cover expenses of caring for the child or young person

Your ***responsibilities*** are not burdensome, but they are demanding:

- All foster carers and any family members over the age of 18 living in the home are required to undergo a Working With Children Check and a police check. Additionally, carers must complete the full assessment process.
- Foster Carers must do everything reasonably possible, to meet the child/young person's needs, and must be able to separate the child/young person's needs from their own.
- Foster Carers must complete training to help them understand the requirements of their job, and become a fully authorised Carer.
- Foster Carers must work with the SCMSAC PSP Service, in the best interests of the child/young person and their family, to meet their needs and permanency goals.

Examples of Case Plan Goals:

- ☑ **Restoration**
- ☑ **Guardianship**
- ☑ **Kinship Care**
- ☑ **Long term Foster Care**
- ☑ **Transition to independent living**

Foster Carers personal experiences
Words of encouragement

"I was born in Nowra and have three children in their teens. I moved back to this area around ten years ago and now work in the local area. I have worked for the local council, homework centre, hearing mob, with our elders, and also care for Aboriginal children when they come into care."

"As a member of our community I was very motivated to care for kids as I saw firsthand that our kids needed their own kind to care, and they needed to remain in their communities. I feel this was so important to the kids and the families."

"My children's mates turned up looking for a place to stay and then friends wanted time out, so I would look after their kids and then a few people told me I should see about Foster Care. So I made a call and never looked back."

Q) What do you think children/young people need from a Foster Carer?

Support – Let the child know they can talk to you. Be there for them. Listen a lot. Make them part of your mob so they feel they belong even if it is just for a little while.

Q) What do your own children think about being part of a foster family?

My children think it's great. They can help out. They try to help as much as they can.

When I became a Carer, the agency I was employed by gave me support and training. Anyone who does caring for kids will get training on how to care for children who have special needs. I found the training helpful and it gives me more ideas on how to talk and support our kids when they come into care.

Q) What advice would you give to anyone who is thinking about becoming a Foster Carer?

Talk to your family about this because they always think differently, and try to have a supportive team. Sometimes it's hard not to get connected to the children, and when they leave, it can be hard on us. But most of all, being a Carer, you get a lot of joy out of just knowing you helped out when they needed someone. I really enjoy being a Carer.

Working with the Foster Care PSP Agency

The SCMSAC PSP places Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children/young people in the care of authorised foster and kinship carers. Placement occurs after training, assessments and relevant checks on the applicants are complete.

PSP Agency Caseworkers understand how difficult being a Foster Carer can be. Caseworker's support Carers in many ways, especially when the child/young person has difficult behaviour.

The Agency Caseworker needs to see and speak with the child/young person as a normal and vital part of the process. The Agency Caseworker needs to know how the placement is going, for the child/young person, and the Carer.

A Carer needs to be able to work closely with the Caseworkers to effectively meet the needs of the child/young person in their care. The Agency Caseworker must have up to date info such as: the child's progress, behaviour, and their overall wellbeing, as this guides what extra supports may be needed.

If the Agency Caseworker or Carer cannot meet as often as is needed, both parties must try to arrange a contact time that is suitable for both.

The Foster Care PSP offers a variety of training sessions and workshops for Carers. Carers should access these sessions as much as possible, to build skills in handling different situations. Building knowledge and skills as a Carer is an important and integral part of the PSP.

Case Study

Jenny and Olivia

Six-year-old Jenny lives in a loving home with her parents and younger sister Olivia. They are playing in the park one day when Jenny approaches a frightened dog which growls and then bites Jenny. Jenny needs three stitches in her arm.

This was a scary experience for both girls and months later they are showing signs of post-traumatic reaction. The girls have bad dreams that involve dogs. They are vigilant when out, looking to see if there is a dog nearby and they become upset if a dog approaches them. However, Mum and Dad are patient. They tell the story of the day Jenny's arm was bitten by a dog many times. They also notice that the girls act out what happened with their toys. They use this as an opportunity to show them how the parents and the doctors were on hand to help them, and that this kept them safe. Slowly and gradually they introduce the girls to a range of trusted dogs owned by friends. By the time Jenny is eight years old this incident is well behind them and the girls frequently pester for a dog of their own!

Luka

Compare Jenny and Olivia's experience to that of Luka. As a young child Luka witnessed the destruction of his home city of Sarajevo. He became used to staying alert for snipers on his daily trip out to collect bread and water for his family. He witnessed the death of his uncle and cousin when a bomb landed on the block where the apartment was. Throughout this Luka experienced a sense of belonging within his family and community. His immediate family survived the siege but the experience left him troubled by his dreams even years later. Additionally, he never lost the vigilance to danger that he developed during those war years. Even a distant car backfiring would have him running for cover. Despite this Luka grew up to be a successful worker and father.

While Luka experienced multiple traumatic events in his childhood, the support of his family and community meant he recovered well enough to lead a full and productive adulthood.

A key factor in Luka, Jenny and Olivia's recovery was a close family within which they could recover from the trauma they experienced. The children were able to develop resilience because of the parenting they experienced.

Matthew's Story

Children in Foster Care rarely have the same experience as Jenny, Olivia and Luka.

Let us reflect on Matthew's life. Even before he was born he was hearing the violent arguments between his parents. His mum could barely soothe herself, as she was alert for the next beating. She had no space to keep her developing baby in mind. Her high stress levels led to increased levels of stress hormones, which surrounded Matthew as a foetus.

After he was born the arguments continued. Sometimes Matthew was held between his fighting parents.

At least once he was snatched from his mum's arms and flung onto the bed by his dad. As a baby Matthew instinctively signalled his distress to his parents by crying and screaming. But when he did, at best he was met with no response from his parents. Worse they yelled at him, told him to shut up and even on occasion hit him. Matthew learned not to signal when he needed soothing, but with no capacity to soothe himself all he could do was sleep through his distress.

One night police were called by neighbours to Matthew's home. They found Matthew in physical danger while his parents fought.

Matthew was removed in the middle of the night to a foster placement. He was found to be a *'good'* baby, no trouble to care for, spending large amounts of time asleep. When he *'woke up'* in his toddler years, he was highly active, prone to tempers and unusually self-reliant, with both his Carers and his birth parents, who he saw every couple of months. He rarely turned to his Carers for comfort, even when he experienced pain or distressing experiences.

Like Luka, Matthew experienced complex trauma which was chronic and prolonged and began before his birth. However, unlike Luka, Matthew did not have parents he could trust to love and care for him. He had no support that he could rely on during the worst part of his experience. Matthew had to learn to become self-reliant, an ability he clung to throughout his childhood. The trauma that Matthew experienced occurred within his family and this has had a major impact on him.

Matthew's brain is wired for danger and a lack of trust in others. He has learnt how to behave this way with his Mum and Dad and this impacts upon his behaviour with his Foster Carers and at school.

Matthew also experiences emotions such as sadness, anger or worry more intensely when he thinks his Carers are unavailable or, worse, if they argue or became stressed. For Matthew these are a reminder of the more intense arguments and stress of his Mum and Dad. His Carer telling him *"no"* or being displeased with him can cause sadness, anger or worry, which can lead to the triggering of a memory of his early childhood trauma experience. This reinforces Matthew's need to be self-reliant. It moves Matthew further away from being able to seek comfort from his Carers who he sees as both the source of the distress and unavailable as comforters.

Matthew is a difficult child to parent. How he learnt to cope with neglectful and frightening parenting early in his life and to cope with the subsequent separation and loss of these parents and his emergency Foster Carers, affects his ability to make good attachments.

His need to stay in control means that he is not open to a reciprocal, loving relationship with his Carers. He works hard to be self-reliant; to hide his need for comfort. But when his stress reduces he continues to demonstrate coercive, attention-needing behaviours, demanding that his Carers remain attentive to him.

Belinda and Mike are Matthew's long-term Carers. They have an older birth child, Daniel, whom they have parented successfully. When parenting Daniel, his parents felt safe and competent. They enjoy being with him, but can also recover easily from times of conflict when Daniel is more oppositional. Belinda and Mike always make sure to repair their relationship with Daniel following such times, and so he experiences unconditional love. Belinda and Mike feel rewarded in the parenting task, they want to approach and interact with their child, tune into his needs and make sense of his behaviours and their responses to them. They are able to provide Daniel with warmth, openness and empathy as well as providing boundaries for his behaviour and sufficient structure to help him stay safe.

With Matthew, all of these parenting abilities are challenged. Whilst they offer the same unconditional love as for Daniel, Matthew does not trust this. Structure and boundaries can trigger his fears of being hurt or abandoned again and he responds with rage and terror.

It is hard to enjoy being with Matthew as Belinda and Mike find themselves waiting for the next rage-filled episode. They try to attune to Matthew's needs, but his behaviour leaves them feeling confused and helpless. They try to give love and warmth, but it never feels like it is reciprocated. They offer nurture but Matthew rejects this in favour of his feelings of control.

They feel no pleasure in this relationship and find it hard to tune into his needs or to make sense of his behaviours. They experience a painful sense of failure as parents. They feel like withdrawing. They quickly become defensive as they shout, nag and plead with him.

Fortunately Belinda and Mike can think, plan and self-monitor even at their most stressed with Matthew. They are also able to seek and use the support of friends, family and professionals. This self-awareness and ability to draw upon support allows them to stick with Matthew, rather than rejecting him.

Belinda and Mike found some good professional support and this, combined with good friends and some supportive family members, helped them withstand the worst times. Belinda had the hardest time as Matthew feared her love the most and rejected her attempts to connect with him. It was particularly tough in his early years when only she witnessed this side of him whilst to everyone else he was charm itself. At eight years of age, Matthew struggled to make sense of his experience of being in care.

He figured *"I must be a bad kid!"* and dreamed of parents who would not have rejected him. The increased stress that this brought meant his anger and rage became visible to everyone. Even the smallest of boundaries and the kindest of *'no's'* led to a fear that he would be rejected and would lose this family too. Belinda and Mike worked with their professional supporters to understand this and to remain connected with Matthew even when he was fighting them. Most difficult for them was balancing Matthew's enormous needs with those of their older son, so that Daniel also got what he needed from his parents. With support and therapeutic help they managed and they had some calm years.

There were some good family times as Matthew began to believe in what was on offer. They could not be as spontaneous as they would have liked, change and transition would always be difficult, but there was laughter and fun. It was also good to see Matthew's developing friendship with Daniel, and to watch the two of them enjoying finding their feet in the wider world.

It was seat belt time as Matthew hit his teens. All the old doubts and fears seemed to resurface as Matthew again tried to figure out who he was and where he belonged. For a while the old Matthew was back with his need to control, reject and hate within the family. Luckily their professional support was on hand ready to mobilise and together they all figured out what was going on. Belinda and Mike revisited old strategies. At night they watched him sleeping and remembered the love they would always have for him.

A therapist worked with all of them so that Matthew could experience his Carer's acceptance and understanding of his biggest rages and worst fears.

Matthew left home when he was ready, which was in his mid-20s. He came back often, sharing with them his success as an engineer. As he approached 30 he found a steady partnership with Ruth. The proudest moment of Belinda and Mike's life was watching Matthew hold his small infant son. As they watched the two gaze at each other they knew that despite the ups and downs, they had got there and that Matthew no longer had to carry the legacy of his early days.

Adapted from Matthew's Story in Golding, Kim S. (2013) *"Why are you afraid of being parented?"* in Howe, David (ed) & Alper, Joanne (ed) Assessing Adoptive and Foster Parents, Jessica Kingsley, pp. 19-36. Reproduced by permission of Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Reflections

The experience of trauma is unfortunately common amongst children placed in Foster Care. It can have a devastating impact, and those children who need the most help to recover, have a range of difficulties that affect their ability to elicit or use *'parental'* support. These children are difficult to parent and can be resistant to the support that Carers can offer.

Potential Carers need to be clear about the impact of trauma on children and on the adults that care for them. They will not only need to be able to understand the experience of the child and the impact of this on their behaviour, but also need to be prepared to adjust their parenting to take into account the impact of this early experience. Flexibility and adaptability in the face of challenges will be important attributes when parenting children who have experienced developmental trauma.

Carers need a particular resilience if they are to stay open and engaged in their parenting of a traumatised child like Matthew. Only then will they be able to avoid feelings of defensiveness in their parenting and continue to offer warm, nurturing care even in the face of rejecting and controlling behaviours. They will learn to understand and accept the child's inner life and to recognise and meet their hidden as well as his expressed needs. In this way, and with good support, they are able to remain receptive and open in their parenting.

The challenges that developmentally traumatised children display can be powerful reminders of past difficulties. Carers will need good self-awareness and resilience in light of these past difficulties if they are to stay present for the children. Dealing with a challenging relationship can place strain on anyone's resources. Living with two challenging relationships in one can overwhelm even the most secure of Carers.

This is why an exploration of past relationship history, including early attachment experience, is an important part of the assessment of potential Carers. It is not so much the quality of this past experience that is important, but how far the potential Carers have been able to process this experience. Are they able to reflect on this experience from a distance and reach an understanding of how it might have influenced the person that they have become? This means that the Carer is able to function in the present without being taken back to old struggles. They will be able to respond to the child in an attuned and sensitive way.

Carers need the capacity to understand complex, challenging and often quite perplexing behaviours in foster children. They will need to be open to support from skilled professionals who can join with them in making sense of the children.

They will additionally need the emotional resources to retain this understanding under stress, and the self-awareness to know when emotional resources are running dry so that they can look after themselves and maintain some emotional resilience.

Carers who are open to self-care and recognise its importance can remain open to the parenting challenge being presented, and are likely to be more resilient over the long term than parents who see themselves as at the bottom of the list when it comes to having support for themselves. Prioritising children's needs is an important quality in a potential Carer, but being able to prioritise their own needs is equally important. Getting the balance between self-care and the care of others is an important attribute for successful parenting.

Self-awareness is a key concept for potential Carers to understand. It not only helps the potential Carers during the assessment process, but more importantly it will help prepare them to better recognise and understand the emotional impact of trauma in members of the Carer's family.

Parenting developmentally traumatised children is a challenging task; it can take Carers to places that they did not know existed as they absorb the rage, hopelessness and fear of their young children, and experience their sense of inadequacy. It is also a rewarding task: watching a child gradually learn to trust and accept care; feeling their hand in yours for the first time; smiling when they tell you *'I love you'* and mean it; watching them finally get invited to a birthday party and managing it without a meltdown! All of these small experiences can bring an exquisite satisfaction that can only be experienced when a Carer has lived through the lows and hard times of caring for a child who lacks trust and rejects care. The journey is up and down, and adolescence has the Carers hanging on with their fingertips again, but the small moments of success make the journey worth it.

Questions and Notes

Questions and Notes

Section **12**

Reference to additional information

My Forever Family cares for those who care for children in the NSW Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) system.

My Forever Family supports all people interested in or currently providing Foster Care, Kinship Care, Guardianship or Open Adoption.

Visit the website for more information about Foster Care

www.myforeverfamily.org.au

Registration of Interest in Foster Care

I/ we have read the Information Pack for potential Carers, including *"Matthew's Story"* and: (mark one)

☐ I/ we would like to be contacted by a worker from your agency to arrange an Information Sharing Session

☐ I/ we have already arranged with your agency to attend an Information Sharing Session

ON DATE: ..... /..... / .....

1. Last name

Person 1 ..... Person 2 .....

2. First and middle name(s)

Person 1 ..... Person 2 .....

3. Home address

.....

.....

.....

4. Contact phone numbers

Home ..... Person 2 .....

Work ..... Person 2 .....

Mobile ..... Person 2 .....

5. Email address

Person 1 .....

Person 2 .....

6. **Please complete table below for all members of your household**

Name (first, middle and last name)	Date of birth	Male or Female	Relationship to Person 1	Relationship to Person 2

7. **What language(s) do you speak at home?**

.....

.....

8. **Are you of Aboriginal background?** (mark one)

☐ Yes ☐ No

9. **Are you of Torres Strait Islander background?** (mark one)

☐ Yes ☐ No

10. **Have you or any members of your household applied to, or been authorised to be a Carer with any other agencies?** (mark one)

☐ Yes ☐ No

11. What type of care are you interested in applying for?

- ☐ Emergency care
- ☐ Respite care
- ☐ Interim/ restoration
- ☐ Long term fostering
- ☐ Fostering with a view to guardianship

Signature of Applicant 1 ..... **Signature of Applicant 2** .....

DATE: ..... /..... / ..... DATE: ..... /..... / .....

Please return by mail to:
Manager: Child & Family Services
PO Box 548, Nowra NSW 2541

Or in person to:
Carer Recruitment and Support
Level 2, 61 Kinghorne St, Nowra

Or email: psintake@southcoastams.org.au

For more information:

1800 215 099 or:
(02) 4448 0200
psintake@southcoastams.org.au
www.southcoastams.org.au

South Coast
Medical Service
Aboriginal Corporation