



AIDRWA

Aboriginal & Islanders Development
Recreational Women's Association

Information Pack: Kinship Carer

Kinship Care

Some children and young people are unable to stay at home because their families are not able to look after them or because they may be at risk of harm.

Child Safety will turn to extended family or someone the child knows to provide care. A Kinship Carer is a person related to the child or considered to be a part of the family or a close friend.

In cases where Kinship Carers are looking after children who are related to them, they are supporting both the children and their parents. Caring for a relative's children not only protects the children but also reassures their parents they are being well looked after while they rebuild their family. It can offer safety and security for both children and their parents while the issues affecting the family are being addressed.

Kinship Carers can provide care in an emergency, for respite and for short, medium or long periods of time.

As a Kinship Carer you will need to provide a safe, stable and support environment and meet the emotional, education and social needs of children and young people in your care, that aligns with the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

Before you begin

Becoming a Kinship Carer is a serious decision. It is important that you take time to speak with your partner, your children and any other significant people in your life to consider the impact being a Kinship Carer may have.



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How to become a Kinship Carer

You may be approached to become a Kinship Carer when it is assessed that a child is unable to live at home. Alternately, you may express an interest in caring for a child from your immediate family or community who is already in care.

To become a Kinship Carer you must be:

- To be over the age of 18 years old
- Eligible to obtain or already have a Blue Card
- Have personal history checks undertaken
- Willing to participate in an assessment process
- Willing and able to provide safe, stable and supportive home for a child or young person

To become a Kinship Carer, you will be assisted to complete the following forms and interviews:

- **Application of Approval Initial form** - This gives the Child Safety information to complete personal history checks for you and your adult household members. This includes consideration of criminal and child protection history, domestic violence and traffic history.
- **Blue Card application** - This must be completed by you and any other adult members of the household.
- **Household Safety Study** - This will be completed by the person making the assessment and includes mandatory safety requirements that must be met prior to you being approved as a carer.
- **Health and Wellbeing Questionnaire** - This will be completed with the help of the person making the assessment.
- **Required interviews** - This will be conducted by the person making the assessment. You, your children (depending on age), any adult household member and significant others will be interviewed.

Initially you will be an approved kinship carer for 12 months and requires renewal every 3 years thereafter, upon application and approval.