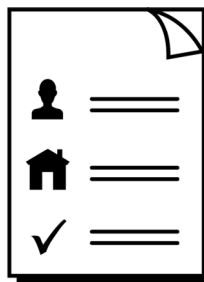


Foster or kinship care Fact sheet



Easy Read

About this fact sheet

Blue Card Services

This fact sheet is from Blue Card Services.

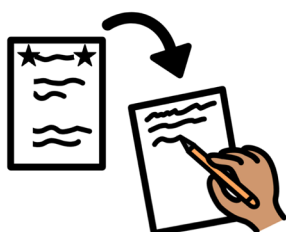


This fact sheet is written in a way that is easy to understand.



You can read more information about this topic on our website at

www.qld.gov.au/bluecard



We add a star before and after *hard words*.

Then we explain what the words mean.



You can ask someone to help you read and understand this fact sheet.

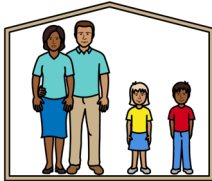


Contact information is at the end of this fact sheet.

About us



We work with people and groups to keep children safe.



We help people to become *foster carers* and *kinship carers*.

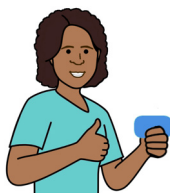


Foster carers look after children in the community.



Kinship carers look after children in their family or children they know.

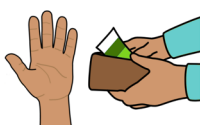
What is a blue card?



A blue card is given to people who are *approved* to work or volunteer with children.

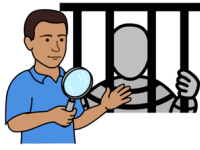


Approved means a person can be a foster or kinship carer.



A blue card is free for foster and kinship carers and adults who live with the carers.

What is a blue card check?

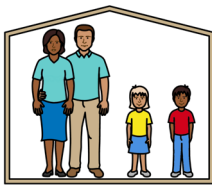


We check to see if people have been in trouble with the police in Australia.



The checks help to keep children safe.

Who must have a blue card?



You **must** have a blue card if you are

- a foster carer



- a kinship carer



- an adult who lives with the carer.



Some adults who visit the home might need a blue card.



Approved carers should ask their Child Safety Officer who needs a blue card.

Who cannot apply for a blue card?



You **cannot** apply for a blue card if you

- have a *negative notice*



- have been convicted of a *violent or sexual crime*.



A negative notice is a legal paper that says you **must not** work or volunteer with children.



A violent or sexual crime means you hurt someone.

For example, *sexual assault* or *child abuse material*.



Sexual assault means you do a sex act that someone does **not** want.



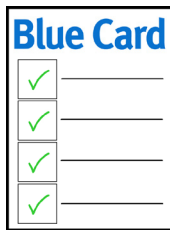
Child abuse material means you have or share pictures of children being sexually assaulted.



You can check to see if you meet all the rules **before** you apply for a blue card.

Visit www.qld.gov.au/applybluecardeligibility

How to apply for a blue card



You **must** follow 3 steps to apply for a blue card.



Step 1 Get a Customer Reference Number or CRN



Your CRN is shown on Department of Transport and Main Roads letters and cards.

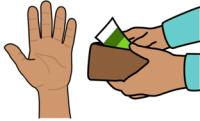
The Department is also known as TMR.



We check your CRN and use your TMR photo on your blue card.



If you do **not** have a CRN or your photo is old you can visit a TMR customer service centre.



You do **not** have to pay to get a CRN or photo. It is free.

Step 2

Get an online account



Visit www.qld.gov.au/applybluecard



We will check your details with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.



If everything is ok, you will get an online account number.

Step 3

Call Child Safety



Tell Child Safety your online account number.



Child Safety will link you to its service.

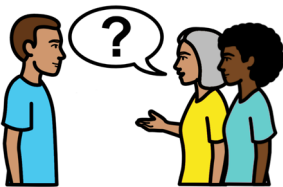


When you are linked, we will contact you to say you can finish your online application.

Help with your application



You can ask us for help.



You can allow a person you trust to talk to us about your application.

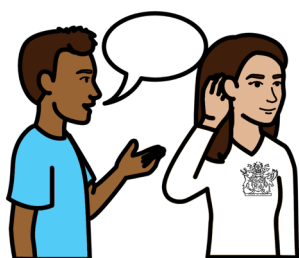


Child Safety can also help with your application.

Your information is private



If you apply for a blue card, we will **not** share your private information with anyone unless the law says we must.



We **must** tell Child Safety if your application is approved or not.

What is a submission?



If your check is **not** ok, we might ask you to write a *submission*.



A submission can include a letter or email telling us

- your side of the story
- what your life is like now
- your ideas about keeping children safe
- why you should get a blue card.





You can also give us

- information from your doctor



- proof that you did a course



- *references*.

References are letters written by people who know you.

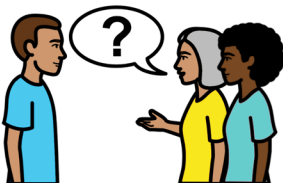


We do **not** have a set time to review submissions.

Help with your submission



You can ask us for help with your submission.



You can allow a person you trust to talk to us about your submission.

Child Safety can also help with your submission.

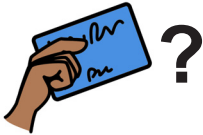
What happens if your police information changes?



If you have a blue card and your police information changes you **must** tell us. For example, if you are charged with a domestic violence crime.



We might ask you to give a submission.



We will decide if you can keep your blue card.



In some cases we can **suspend** or **cancel** your blue card and you **cannot** work with children.



Suspend means your blue card is on hold until we get more information.



Cancel means you **cannot** have a blue card.



Blue Card Services

Contact information

For more information about your blue card application, contact Blue Card Services.



Call 1800 113 611
or
07 3211 6999



Email info@bluecard.qld.gov.au

yarn@bluecard.qld.gov.au
– for First Nations peoples.



Visit www.qld.gov.au/bluecard



For more information about being a foster carer, call the Queensland Foster Care recruitment line.

Call 1300 729 309



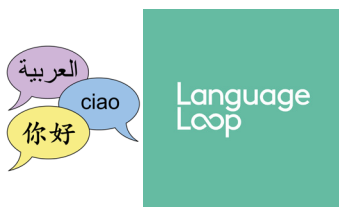
You can also apply online at
www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/eoi-foster-care

For more information about being a kinship carer, call the local Child Safety service centre where your relative is being supported.



Visit

[www.cyjma.qld.gov.au/contact-us/
department-contacts/child-family-contacts/
child-safety-service-centres](http://www.cyjma.qld.gov.au/contact-us/departments-contacts/child-family-contacts/child-safety-service-centres)



If you need an interpreter, contact Language Loop.

Call 1800 512 451



If you need help to hear or speak, contact the National Relay Service.

Call 1300 555 727

Visit

www.communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs



If you feel worried or sad, contact Lifeline.

Call 13 11 14



If you want to talk to an Aboriginal or
Torres Strait Islander, contact 13YARN.

Call 13 92 76

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