

Child Safety Commission of Inquiry



Jesse's story

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Nothing in this story constitutes a finding of fact by the Commission of Inquiry. Instead, these stories have been published to show how people are experiencing the current child safety system in Queensland. Any views expressed are those of the person who shared their experience, not of the Commission of Inquiry.

Content warning: Some material may be distressing. These statements may include references to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, suicide, or self-harming behaviours, and may contain strong or confronting language. Some narratives may be about First Nations people who have passed away. Readers are encouraged to engage with this material in a way that supports their wellbeing.

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My name is Jesse.

I am 11 years old and will be turning 12 soon.

I have been living in residential care since 2022. The staff who look after me are kind and treat me with respect. I appreciate the care they provide to keep me safe.

When I first moved into residential care, the experience was very difficult for me. I did not know anyone, and everything felt unfamiliar and overwhelming. At night, the person who helped me go to sleep was often different from the person who was there when I woke up. This made me feel scared and confused, as I was living with people I did not know. I often felt lonely and anxious, many nights I wondered if I would ever be able to go home or see my family again.

Over time, I have adjusted to living in care, but being away from my family has always been emotionally hard for me.

After more than three years, I am now allowed to visit my family again. These visits mean a lot to me, thank you.