



Bill & Marianne'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.

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Bill and I became foster carers a couple of years ago. We both thought long and hard before committing to foster caring and clearly indicated that we would commence with respite care, as we both work full-time in demanding roles and had no prior foster carer experience.

We expressed our interest via a website and were assigned to a particular agency. After a comprehensive and (what we consider) a very intrusive training and assessment process, we received a child very quickly – within a couple of days of being approved as foster carers.

In a short period, it became apparent that this was a primary placement. Information conveyed to us at the point of placement was incorrect, and (we believe) falsely provided. Factually incorrect information provided to us included:

- That the child needed primary care, not emergency;
- The level of trauma the child had experienced;
- That reunification was an option when it was not.

It is not clear why such important information was incorrect given the child had been known to Child Safety for a number of years.

We invested about two years in the system comprising lengthy training and assessment, as foster carers. We formed a strong bond with the child and created some very special memories,

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especially for the child. We are no longer carers and have lost contact with the child, who at age ■ has landed in residential care. This is not a positive outcome for any of the parties involved.

