

Foster Care Program

Young person's questionnaire

Version A (Young person in care)

Introduction

The Foster Care Program is undertaking a review of its services. As part of the review we need to hear from everyone involved: carers and their families, young people, program staff, birth parents.

So we need your help. Could you please complete the following questionnaire.

All young people in foster care (12 years of age or older) are being asked to complete it.

The questionnaire is anonymous and confidential.

Please complete the questionnaire and seal it in the envelope provided. The completed questionnaire will not be seen by your carer family or the Foster Care Program staff. It will be opened and collated by an independent person.

The answers to the questionnaires will be used to:

- Better understand how all those involved see the current foster care program
- Identify everyone's ideas for improvement.

No individual questionnaires will be returned to Foster Care Program. No information will be returned to Foster Care Program or circulated in any way which identifies particular individuals or families.

A copy of the collated responses and major findings will be made available to all foster care families and staff.

Many thanks

If you have any queries about this questionnaire please ask your foster carer or caseworker.

Instructions for filling out the survey

Most questions ask you to **circle a number** - ③ -2 -1 0 1 2 3

In some questions you are asked to write in some words or numbers, eg,
How old are you? **14 years**

1. What is it like for you?

In the following questions indicate how much you agree with each statement by circling the most appropriate number

-3 = Strongly Disagree

-2 = Disagree

-1 = Partly disagree

+1 = Partly agree

+2 = Agree

+3 = Strongly Agree

0 = in between

During the past three months how much would you agree with the following.

	Strongly disagree					Strongly agree
a) Overall I am enjoying my life	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
b) I like learning things at school/TAFE	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
c) I have a group of friends at school/TAFE	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
d) I have hopes for the future.	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
e) I get a say in making decisions.	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
f) Being in foster care makes me feel really different from other kids.	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
g) I have as much to look forward to as any of the other kids in my class at school/TAFE.	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
h) I get stressed out whenever I see my birth family.	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
i) Often it is hard for me to understand my feelings.	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
j) My life seems all mixed up and doesn't make sense to me.	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
k) I like to spend time with my friends.	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
l) I like to bring my friends home.	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
My foster family						
m) Overall I like growing up with this family	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
n) Most of the time I feel I belong here	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
o) Most of the time I get on with everyone in the family	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
p) We have lots of good times together	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
q) We often get into too many arguments in the foster family	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3
r) I want to grow up here	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2 +3

My caseworker								
	Strongly disagree				Strongly agree			
s) My case worker sees me enough	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
t) Listens to me really well	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
u) Offers help when I need it	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
v) Is available when I need her	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
w) Helps me make sense of my life	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
x) Keeps me in touch with my birth family	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
y) Can be trusted	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
z) Understands me well	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
aa) Is easy to talk to about personal issues	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
bb) Has explained to me why I am in foster care	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
My Birth Family								
cc) I have enough contact with my birth parents.	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
dd) I look forward to and enjoy this contact	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
ee) My foster family are respectful of my birth family	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
ff) I am comfortable talking about my birth family in my foster family	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	
2. Agencies that work with you								
In the past three months how good have the following agencies been at doing their job for you? (NA = not applicable, eg, I don't see a counsellor)								
	Terrible				Fantastic			
a) School/TAFE	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	NA
b) DoCS	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	NA
c) Local doctor	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	NA
d) Other health services, eg, speech therapist	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	NA
e) Counsellor	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	NA
f) The foster care program	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	NA

3. Past placement experience

Have you been in a previous long term placement where it was not possible to stay?

Yes

No

If yes, please complete the following questions

If no, go to the next section (4)

	Strongly disagree		Strongly agree
a) The most recent time when I was changing placements I felt I had a say and was listened to	-3	-2	-1 0 +1 +2 +3
b) I felt support through the time of change	-3	-2	-1 0 +1 +2 +3
c) I understood what was happening and why it was happening	-3	-2	-1 0 +1 +2 +3
d) Overall I am better off in my current placement than the last placement I had	-3	-2	-1 0 +1 +2 +3

4. Best and worst of being in care

a) What are the best things about being in this foster family?

.....

b) What are the worst things about being in this foster family?

.....

c) What would you change if you could?

.....

5. You

a) How long have you been in foster care?

.....yearsmonths

b) How old are you? years

c) Are you male female

To both maintain confidentiality and also allow staff, carers' and young people's questionnaires to be matched to the right young person, each questionnaire is being identified by a code. The code for this questionnaire is:..... The independent research collating and analysing the questionnaires will only have these codes so he can match questionnaires together - he has no personal details that could be used to identify you, your birth family or carers. No completed questionnaire will be returned to Foster Care Program. To ensure your confidentiality seal this completed questionnaire in the envelope provided.