# Transcript – Jim and Renee Allan

*Instrumental music in the background throughout the audio.*

**Renee:** My name is Renee Allan.

**Jim:** And my name is Jim Allan.

**Renee:** So we first, when we first got married, we’d made a decision that we weren’t going to have our own children, but we really felt like we still had something to offer our community and young people so we sort of looked at the Aunties and Uncles program, but really we decided that we wanted to offer a bit more and to have someone in our home so we started the process to become foster carers. We took our time and just worked through the training and spent a lot of time talking about it and discussed it with our families, made sure it was the right thing that we wanted to do.

**Jim:** When she first arrived it was, well I wouldn’t say it was, well if it was chaotic it was for us, not for her. We had sort of been running around, we put the dog next door with the neighbours because we didn’t know if she was you know, loved dogs as much as we did, so we didn’t want that to be too much of a problem certainly initially. We’d sort of run around trying to decide what to have for dinner and you know funny things like making sure the house is tidy when I’m sure a five-year-old really isn’t bothered if the cushions are out of place but it was just that sort of anxious time but when she arrived she just bowled on up. Yeah, she was great.

**Renee:** She really relished our attention. I think she’d come from a place where she was one of a number of siblings and with us, you know, she had our sort of attention twenty-four seven really and I think that was really something that looking back was probably one of the greatest benefits for her as just having that one-on-one attention that’s consistent and constant.

**Jim:** So this week, our last week of the holidays we are, we’re going away with friends, just really supportive friends. They’ve all got children themselves. They’ve got six children, so she’ll be one of quite a few, and I think it will really be good. She’ll get to mix with other people apart from her school friends. But I think it will really be good for her. We’ll all have a great time.