**Described Transcript – Sandra and Rick’s long-form video**

**Audio Description:** A full screen graphic shows Sandra and Rick smiling to camera, on a light blue geometric background. Their names and description appear underneath them: ‘Sandra and Rick, foster carers’. There is a Queensland Foster and Kinship Care logo and a Queensland Government logo on the bottom right of screen. Mellow guitar music plays. The image transitions to Sandra and Rick sitting at an outdoor dining table, mugs in their hands. They are talking and smiling together.

**Sandra:** My name is Sandra Ehlers, and I've been a carer for 10 years.

**Rick:** My name's Rick Ehlers, and I've been part of the foster care family for 10 years.

**Audio Description:** The shot cuts to a wooden sculpture of the word “Love:, then a plaque reading “My heart belongs to my family”. The shot cuts to Sandra sitting in an interview-style set up in front of a dining table.

**Sandra:** We currently provide care for permanent children, but we've done emergency care and short-term care, prior to that. Just the knowledge of there being kids out there that needed a home and needed stability and love was the draw for me. We had physical room here and my biological children weren't as dependent on us anymore for things. So we had the capacity to be able to provide for other children.

**Audio Description:** Sandra is outside in the garden. We see a series of shots: festoon lights strung up along the side of the house. A weather-vane with a rooster on top of the roof. A close up of a tomato plant with a small fruit growing. Sandra checks the plants. She smiles and talks to a young child, whose identity is not seen. They examine the plants together.

**Rick:** It's just rewarding. When you give a part of yourself and you get to see the child take it on, you know, it might be a little bit, or it might be a lot. But anything that you give to them, it just lights them up and you get to see that, and you know that you've helped somebody for as little as it may be, yeah, that reward that you feel yourself it's pretty good.

**Audio Description:** Rick is playing a small board game with a child. We cannot see their identity. They role a set of dice, and move markers along the playing board. Rick talks to the child as they play. The shot cuts to him in an interview-style set up at the kitchen bench.

**Sandra:** Just the look on this little child's face watching my 15 year old play with toys on the floor and teaching this little boy how to play, it opened my 15 year olds eyes as to why we were really doing this. That it's not just about having little kids around. It's not just about the fun and the noise, and you know, that there's a genuine need for these kids.

**Audio Description:** Rick is outside in the backyard. He is pumping up a bike tyre.

**Rick:** It's a tough world. It truly is. It's not easy. And especially when you're just a little person, it's that much harder if you don't have a family to support. By saying that, I'm not trying to say I'm replacing their family, but just to help that little bit and just to see them grow. It truly is a growing process. And that part of it is rewarding.

**Audio Description:** Sandra is putting away children’s books onto a bookshelf. The shot cuts to her sitting at the dining table with a support worker. Various paperwork is on the table in front of them. They are talking and looking at the paperwork together.

**Sandra:** There's been lots of challenges along the way, but you work your way through them. Our agency comes out to visit us, to make sure that everything's okay, that everything's tracking fine, that the girls are happy and healthy. They're also available by phone. They also email through upcoming and available training to look through, to see if there's any new training modules that would be helpful for our placement. It's not just about adding to your own family. It's the reward of seeing the other family succeed as well. You can't think that you'll be bigger than their family, or more important than their family. We all need to work together to be the family for the children. Every child deserves to be safe, to be fed, to be loved, to be clothed, the right to education, the right to medical care. Some people don't have the capacity to provide these things. It doesn't mean they don't love the children. They just don't have the capacity. So we can be a team, and together we can give the children all of their needs. Everything can be fulfilled.

**Audio Description:** Sandra is in the kitchen cutting up carrots. She places the carrots into a container in a child’s lunch box. She closes the lid of the container once it’s full of carrots. The shot cuts to Rick. He is reading a book to a young child, who sits in his lap. The shot cuts Sandra, sitting with the children as they colour in a colouring in book. She is talking to them as they colour in.

**Rick:** I just think if you've got fears of being a foster carer, being afraid to share part of yourself, don't be because whatever you give back to the children, you'll get back in tenfold. It might not be straight away. It's not an instant gratification, but you will get there. It'll put a tear in your eye one day, and you'll just look back and you think, "Wow, you know, I could have done a million things with my time, but what I've chose to do to help these children, money can't buy that."

**Audio Description:** A close up shot of lots of medallions for various different sports, hanging from a series of hooks. Sandra dressed in running wear, and she is tying up a child’s shoelaces. A close up as the child attempts to tie their laces on their own. The shot cuts to Sandra and a child running down a street together. A Queensland Government logo graphic appears, with a URL underneath it. This reads: qld.gov.au/fostercare . The screen then transitions to an authorisation statement, reading: Authorised by the Queensland Government, William St, Brisbane.