**Justin transcript**

- My name is Justin and I'm a foster carer. I've been a carer for about three years. I currently have two kids in my care.

It's definitely worth doing, you know. It's been life changing for me, and I wouldn't change it now. Like, you know, I love my two like they're my own.

So I'm a single gay male, so I can't have kids unless I do surrogacy. And that's something I'm still working towards, even with the kids. It's actually opened my eyes more as to what is involved in having kids. And I think it's better prepared me to be able to have my own and, you know, raise them right, and do what's right by them.

I've definitely learned a lot of strategies and things to help get me through. The youngest needs the routine. He needs to know what's happening next. So I try to be very clear with the routines and structure, very clear with my expectations and the house rules, you know, but always run them through the house rules when they arrive and yeah, just have fun. I quite enjoy getting down their level and you know, whether it's arts and craft, you know, and playing with the toys or whatever. Just try to let them see that I am a safe person. And then after that, you know, we just build on from there.

Take the leap, so long as you can provide a happy, healthy safe home. That's the main goal. It's worth it. It's worth it for you. And it's worth it for them.

A lot of the time, you know, you're held back by your own fears, but they're your own barriers that you're putting up.

Go into it knowing they're not there forever. Then if there is things you need, you will have to speak up, but you'll get all the support you need. You know, the Department, everybody's there to do what's best for these kids. You're their advocate. You, you know, think they need something, speak about it and they'll do it. Everybody's there to support everybody.

I still want to have my own kids. So, it's made me want it more actually, you know. Having these ones and yeah. Taking all the ones on respite and yeah. There was lots of hard times, but, you know, seeing the growth and seeing them from what they were to what they are now, it's heaps worthwhile.