



Kinship Care

Initial Approval Assessments

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What is kinship care

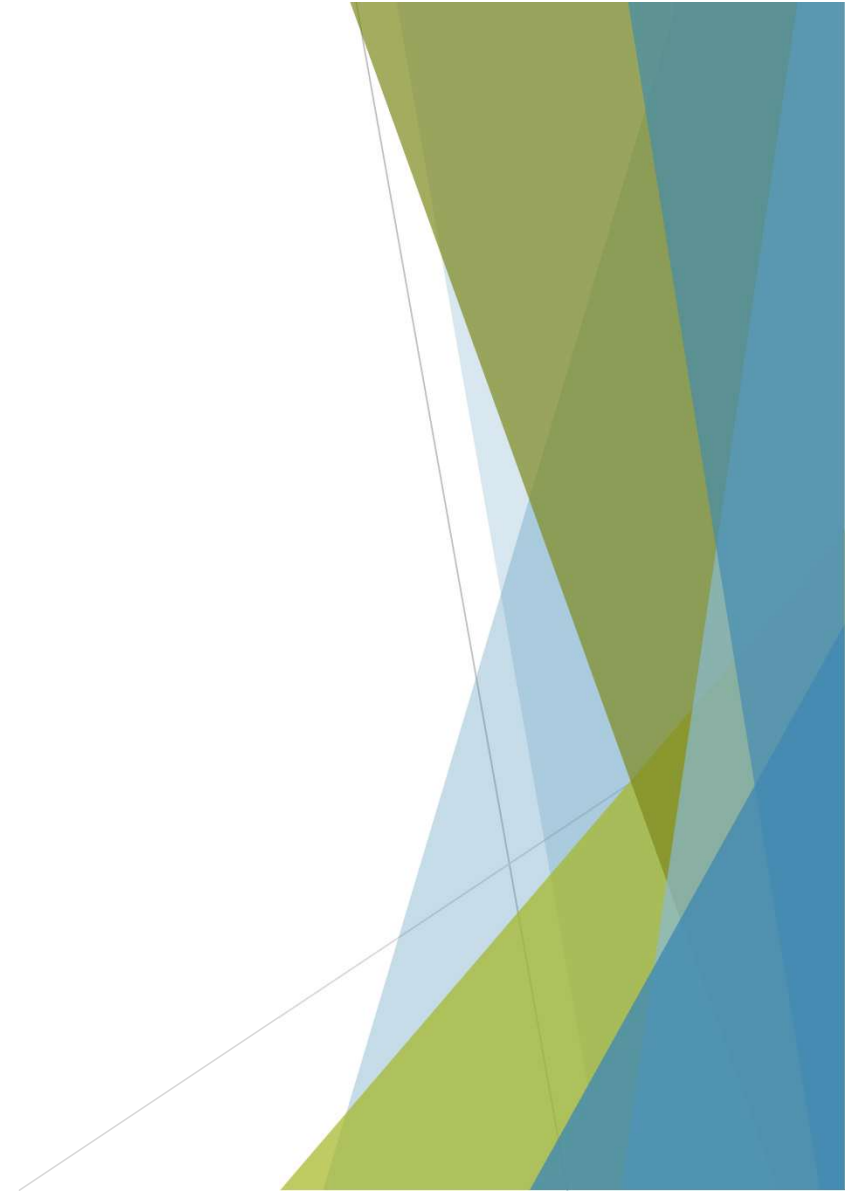
- ▶ The Child Protection Act 1999 re-defined the meaning of Kinship care on 21st May 2023
- ▶ The new definition recognises the importance of ensuring the definition of kin for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is consistent with how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families identify kin



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	Non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
Any of the child's relatives who are persons of significance to the child (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relatives and non-aboriginal and Torres Strait islander relatives)	Any of the child's relatives who are persons of significance to the child
If the child is an Aboriginal child, a person, who under Aboriginal tradition is regarded as kin of the child	
If the child is a Torres Strait islander child, a person who under island custom is regarded as kin of the child	
Another person who is recognised by the child, or the child's family group as a person of significance to the child and with whom the chld has a cultural connection	Another person, who is recognized by the child, or the child's family group, as a person of significance to the child

Why Unique?

Brainstorm in groups of 3
the reasons why you believe
Kinship Care Initial Approval
Assessments are unique



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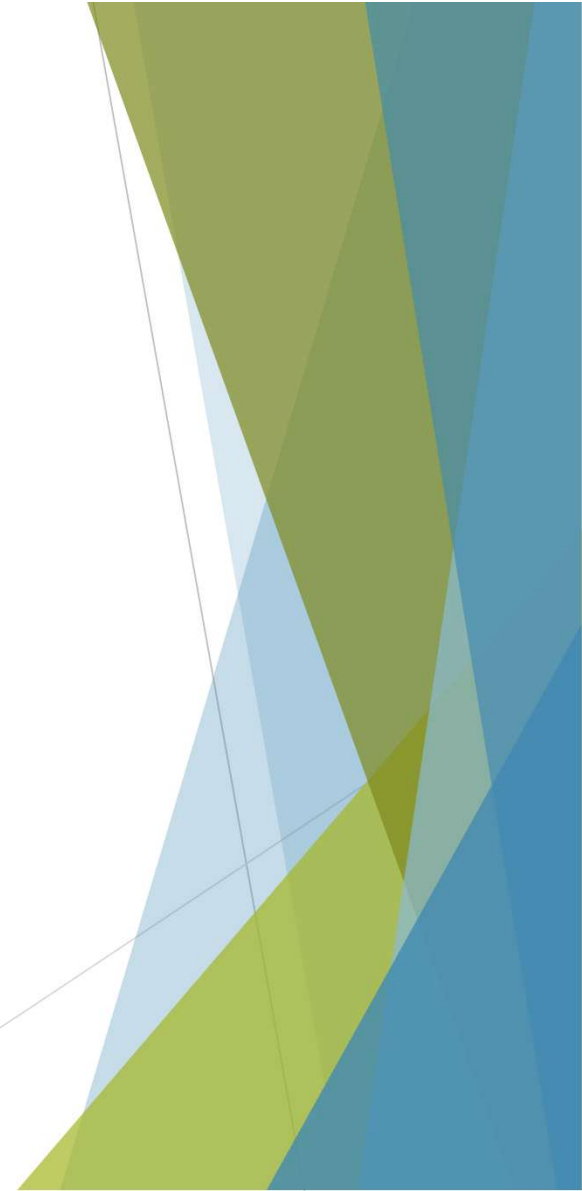
- ▶ Not in a position where they want to be
i.e. dealing with grief and loss associated with family member; or friend losing custody of child due to significant issues and now having to take part in a very intrusive process which will feel very much like they are being judged, particularly grandparents.



Continued...

- ▶ Child/ren whom assessment is in relation to is part of the applicant's family or community group, applicant is likely to know them very well and yet the assessor is determining if they are the best person to be taking on the caring role, most of the time without even having met the child/ren themselves.

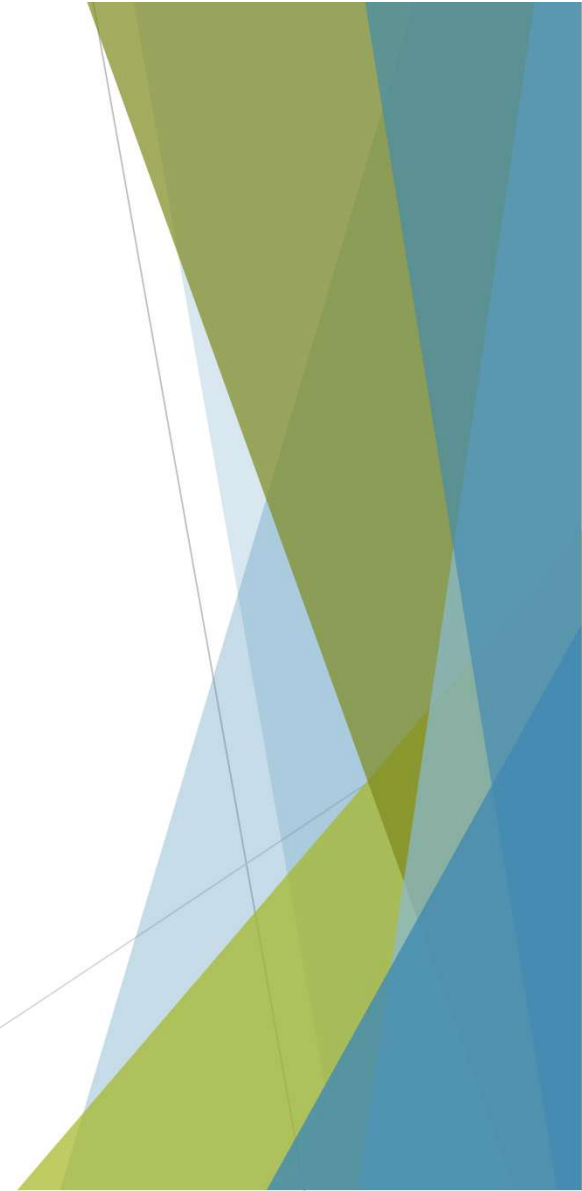
Put yourself in the applicant's shoes - how would you feel in this situation?



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- ▶ Tackling the complicated issues within kinship care assessments of intergenerational abuse, family dynamics and loyalties adds a very complex dimension to all kinship assessments.

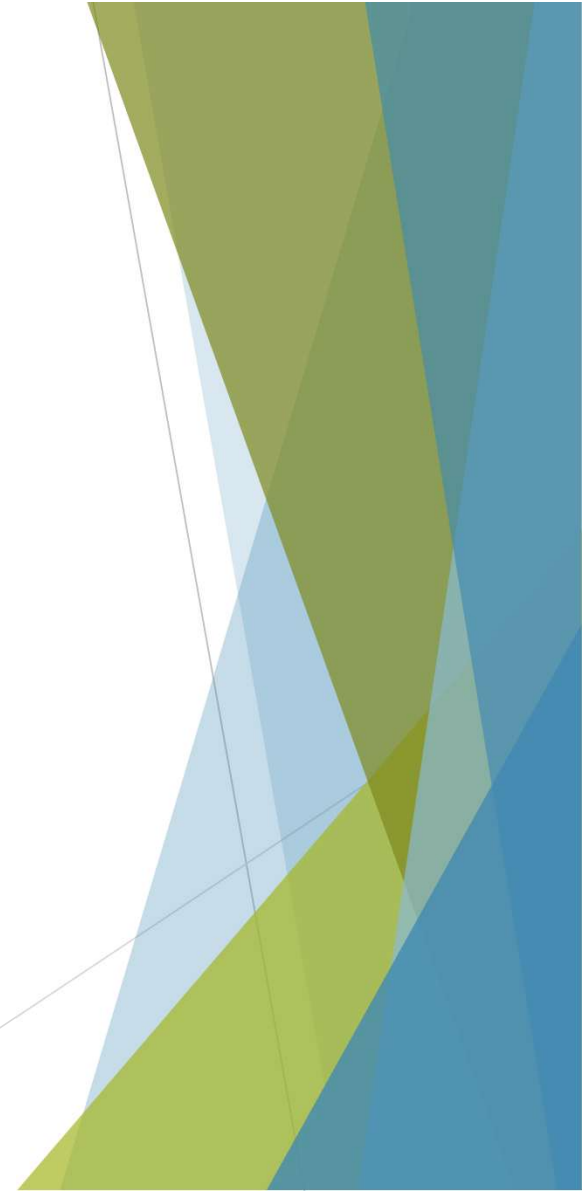
How would you feel if told you could not allow your sister into your home from now on if you wanted to care for your nieces and nephews?



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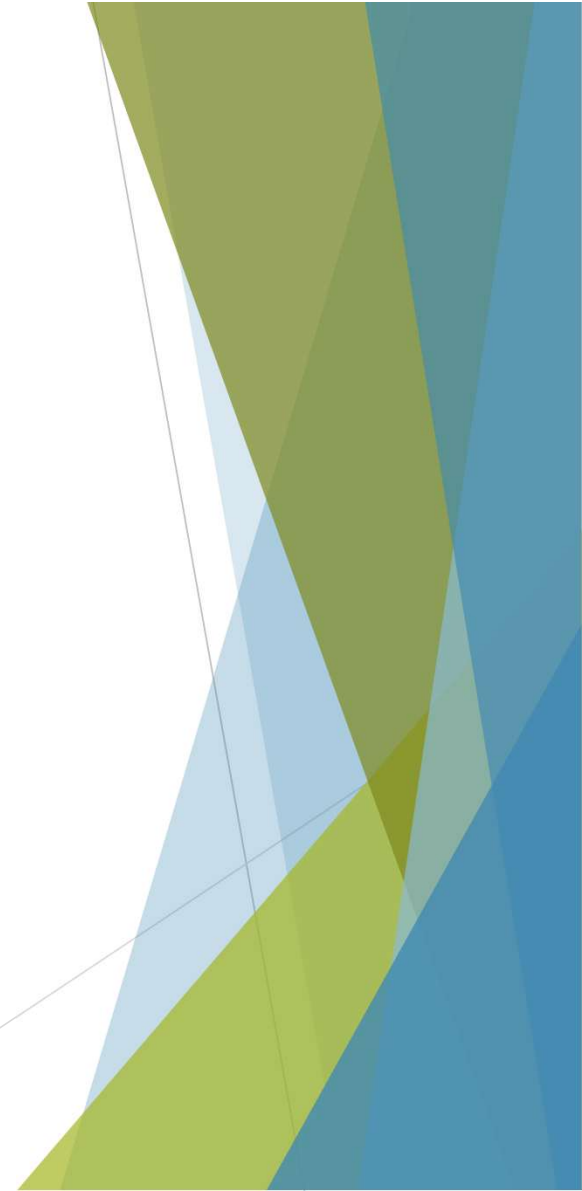
- ▶ For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families there is even a stronger pressure to provide care for children within their family due to the real possibility that if they can not, then it is likely that they will be placed in a non-indigenous placement due to the lack of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers.

Therefore there is a real fear they could lose their identity.



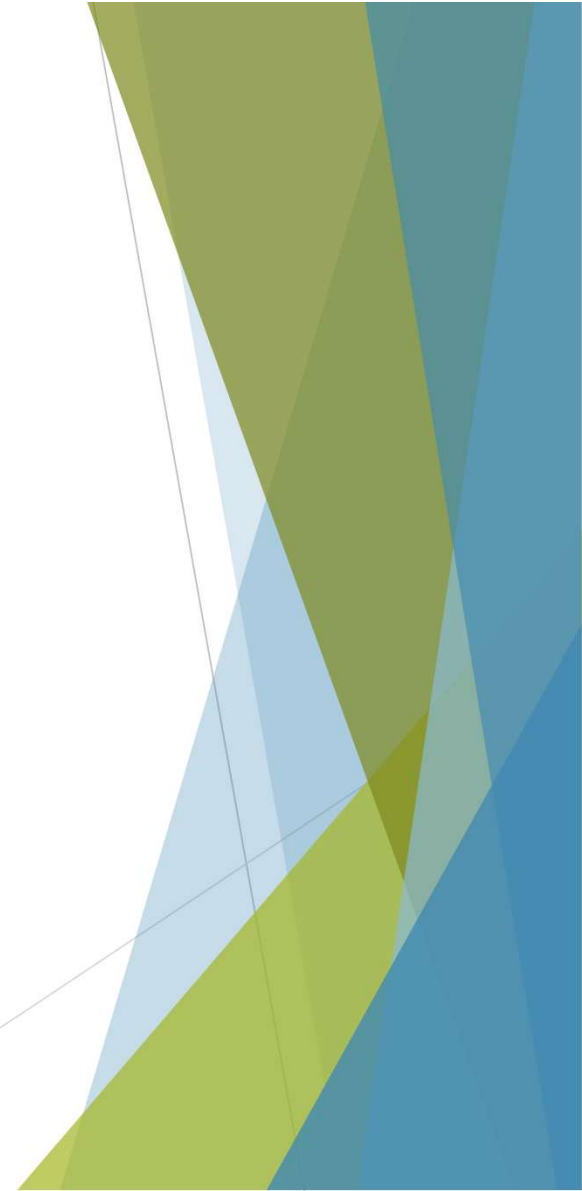
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- ▶ Kinship assessments are very complex and it is even more vital that we get them right.
- ▶ Placement breakdowns for children within kinship placements can be more harmful for children as they experience further isolation and abandonment issues from family.
- ▶ These relationships are extremely difficult to mend and sometimes simply cannot be mended.



What criteria is set

Kinship carers must meet the same criteria as foster carers under the Child Protection Act 1999 in order to be approved as a kinship carer with the exception of undertaking mandatory Getting Ready to Start training.



Suitability requirements

- ▶ is a suitable person to be approved as a carer, and does not pose a risk to the child's safety
- ▶ has been issued with a current blue card or exemption card
- ▶ is able and willing to protect a child from harm
- ▶ is able to meet the standards of care in the statement of standards (*Child Protection Act 1999*, [section 122](#))
- ▶ can help in appropriate ways towards achieving plans for the protection of a child placed in their care
- ▶ understands and is committed to relevant principles of the *Child Protection Act 1999*
- ▶ identifies adult household members, to enable an assessment of their suitability to associate with a child in care and have been issued with a current blue card or exemption card
- ▶ for a kinship carer applicant, are kin to the child, as defined in the *Child Protection Act 1999*, [schedule 3](#)

What does this mean...

Lets take a look at the principals of the Act

In pairs pick out two Principals and discuss with your partner how you would explain to a kinship carer applicant what this meant in terms of day to day care.



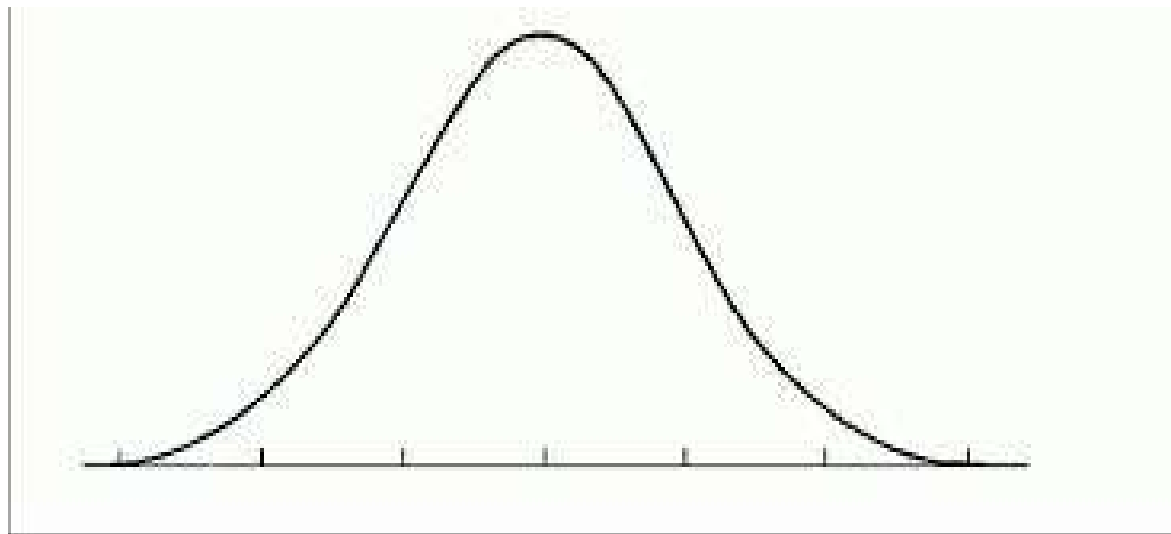
Comply with Standards of Care

Kinship Carers have not attended training, this may be the first time they have even heard of the phrase 'Standard of Care'.

In pairs pick out two of the standards of care and discuss how you would explain these to a kinship applicant in terms of their day to day care.



Difference in care expected



Most parents parent in the middle – carers are expected to parent at a higher standard and to accept when children are placed back to not even average parenting but in a lot of cases safe enough parenting.

Interview resource Statement of Standards

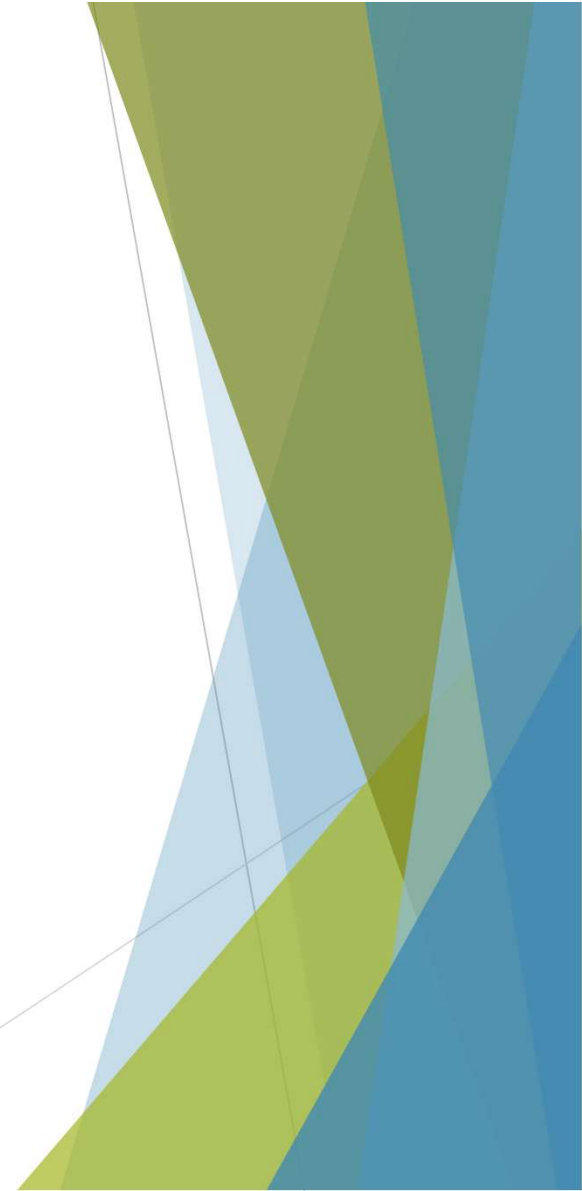
- ▶ The Kinship Assessment guidelines suggests that assessors provide applicant with the interview resource Statement of Standards and work through this with applicant
- ▶ The Guidelines provide examples of how Child Safety interprets the Statement of Standards - go through these with the applicant to help them understand them in the context of day to day life



Suitability continued...

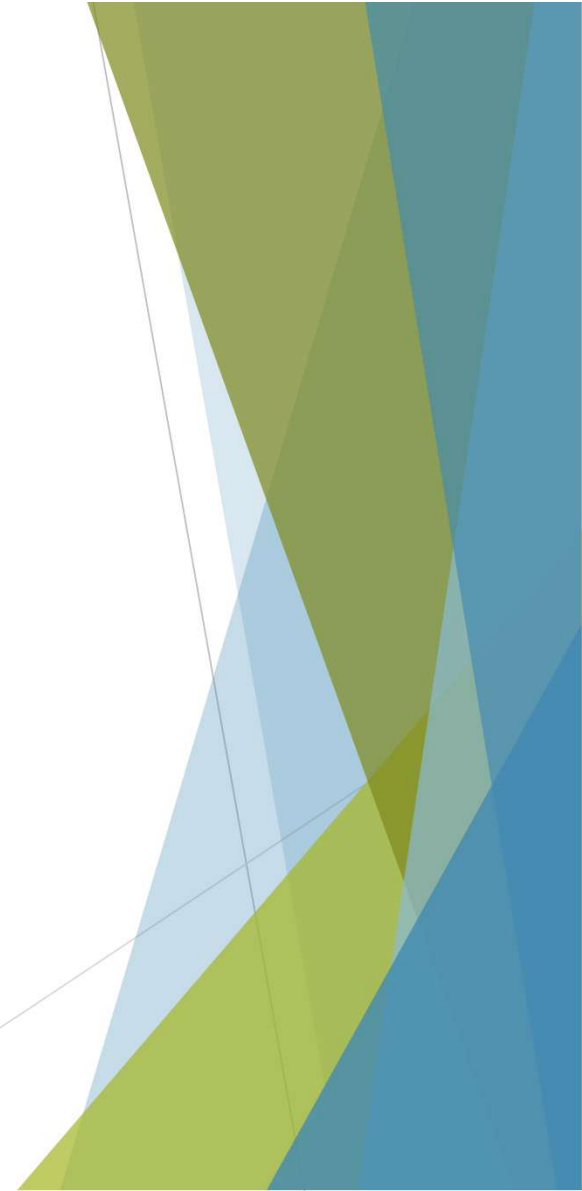
When assessing and taking into account suitability, an assessor will be bringing their mind to the applicants:

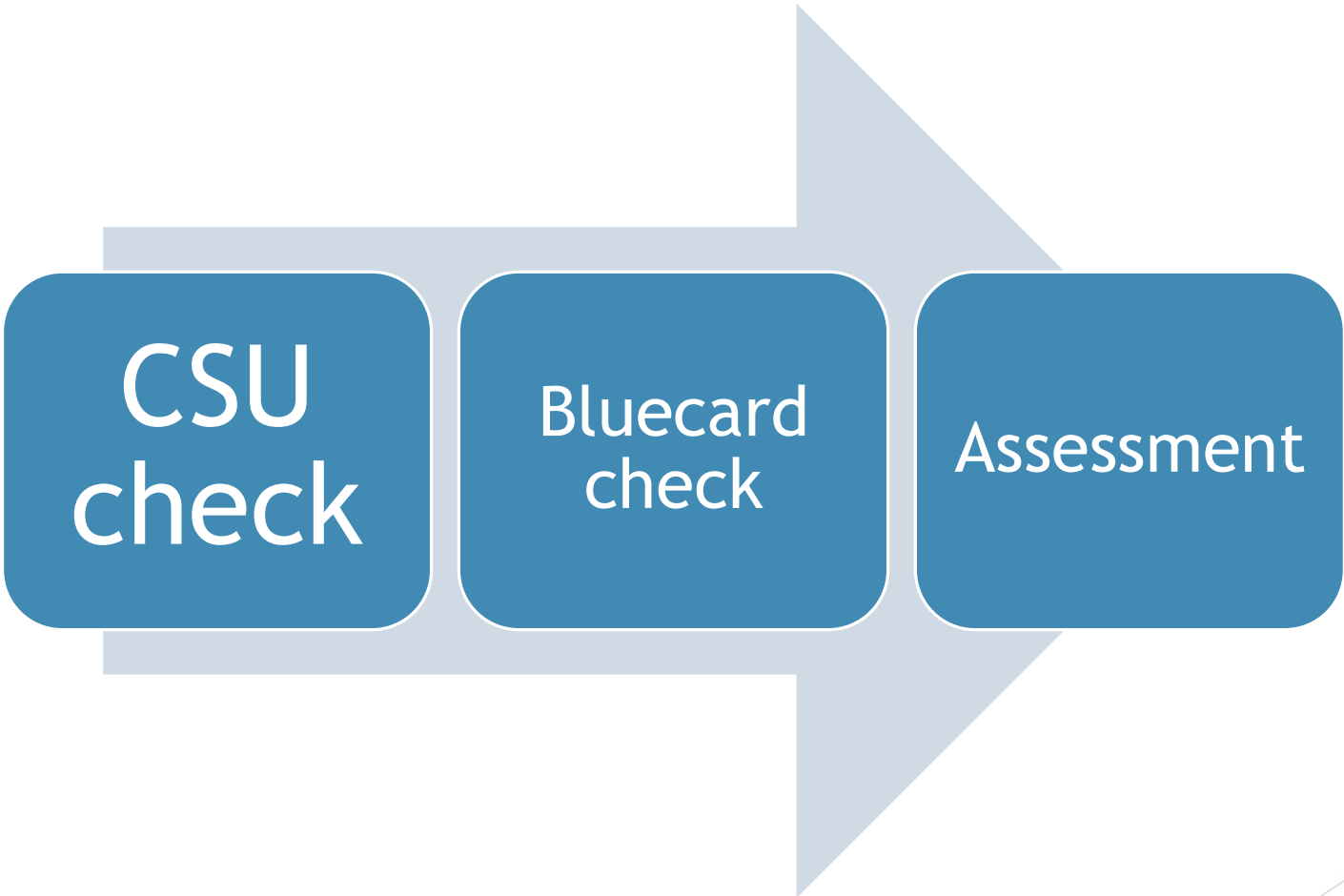
- Ability to meet Statement of Standards
- Ability to meet the specific child's needs
- The outcomes of the personal history checks and other adult members if applicable
- The outcomes of the blue card checks
- Any Child Protection history that involves applicant



Continued...

- Outcome of household safety study
- Outcome of Carer applicant health and wellbeing questionnaire
- Referee reports, outcomes of medical checks and information from other jurisdictions if required





CSU
check

Bluecard
check

Assessment



Central Screening Unit (CSU)

- ▶ Child Protection history checks within Queensland.
- ▶ Child protection history checks interstate and in New Zealand if applicant or household member has lived there for more than 6 months.
- ▶ Domestic violence orders and domestic violence applications in Qld where the person was either the aggrieved or the respondent.
- ▶ Traffic history from Queensland, as specified in the Child Protection Act 1999.
- ▶ Child Protection history checks for any children residing in the applicant household (including any children who meet the definition of 'household member' under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, Schedule 3).

Criminal History checks

- ▶ CSU will only conduct a **National Criminal history check** where there is an application for Provisional approval
- ▶ For carer applicants and adult household members who have previously resided overseas for 6 months or more, the CSSC Manager has the discretion to request international child protection and criminal history check.



Interstate and International Checks

Personal History Checks - Interstate and International checks for all applicants or adult household members who have previously resided interstate or overseas for **six months or more**:



- **Child Protection Checks** - Interstate and New Zealand checks must be undertaken by the CSU.
- **Other** international Child Protection history checks will be undertaken at the discretion of the CSSC Manager.
- **Criminal history checks** - All international jurisdictions (including New Zealand) will be undertaken at the discretion of the CSSC Manager.



Blue Cards

The Working with Children Check (also known as the Blue Card check) is a check that assesses:

- **Any national charge or conviction** (including spent convictions and pending and non-conviction charges) for an offence (even if no conviction was recorded).
- **Child protection prohibition orders** (whether a person is a respondent or subject to an application) - in place for people who have been convicted of sexual or serious offences against children and are viewed as a current risk - can include bans around attending certain places like schools, parks etc.
- **Disqualification orders** - Bluecard will identify if the person applying for a Bluecard is eligible to apply or is a disqualified person under the Working with Children Act
- If a person is subject to **reporting obligations** under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 or Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003.
- **Disciplinary information** held by certain professional organisations including teachers, child care licensees and foster carers, and
- **Child Protection Information** - any substantiated harm where the person applying for the Bluecard is recorded as the responsible for harm
- **Domestic Violence information**
- **Information that the Police Commissioner may provide in relation to police investigations** into allegations of serious child-related sexual offences, even if no charges were laid.



Carer Assessment

The Practice Manual outlines requirements of an assessment and who is responsible for completing these. Assessors are listed as responsible for

- Determining applicants ability to meet the Statement of Standards
- Determining applicants ability to help achieve plans for the child's protection and is committed to the Principles of the Child Protection Act
- Determining physical safety of the applicants residence and premises through the Household Safety Check

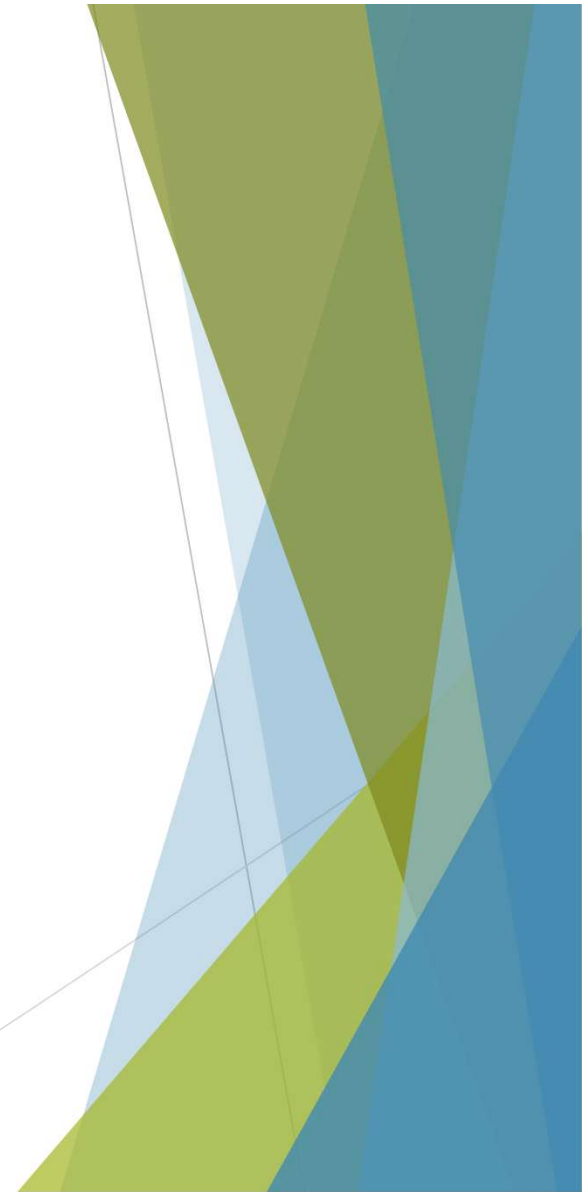
The assessment should combine all relevant information to determine suitability against the legislative requirements.

As assessors you need to ensure that you have access to all the relevant information so that your assessment is reflective of a holistic assessment.

Sharing of information

The PSU will provide the kinship care service provider or assessor with a copy of the following documents if the process has been driven by PSU

- ▶ the applicant's [Application for initial approval—Form 3A](#) (APA initial) and if applicable, the Addendum for additional household members—Form 3C
- ▶ the completed Carer applicant health and wellbeing questionnaire
- ▶ the Provisional approval assessment report and Household safety study with part 1 completed (if the assessment relates to a carer who is currently provisionally approved for the child)
- ▶ other relevant carer assessment reports (for a returning carer) including assessment information relating to standard of care reviews or harm reports
- ▶ the reviewed CSU outcome report, when obtained, and ensuring that information that may identify a notifier, or information relating to a person's youth justice history (unless exempt) is removed or concealed—refer to [The application is eligible to progress](#)
- ▶ other child protection history about the carer or household members from ICMS, if this information isn't already included in the CSU outcome report and
- ▶ the appropriate carer assessment templates, accessible from the Child Safety internet (refer to [Resources and publications](#).)



Sharing of information continued...

For kinship carer assessments, the CSSC will provide the assessor information about:

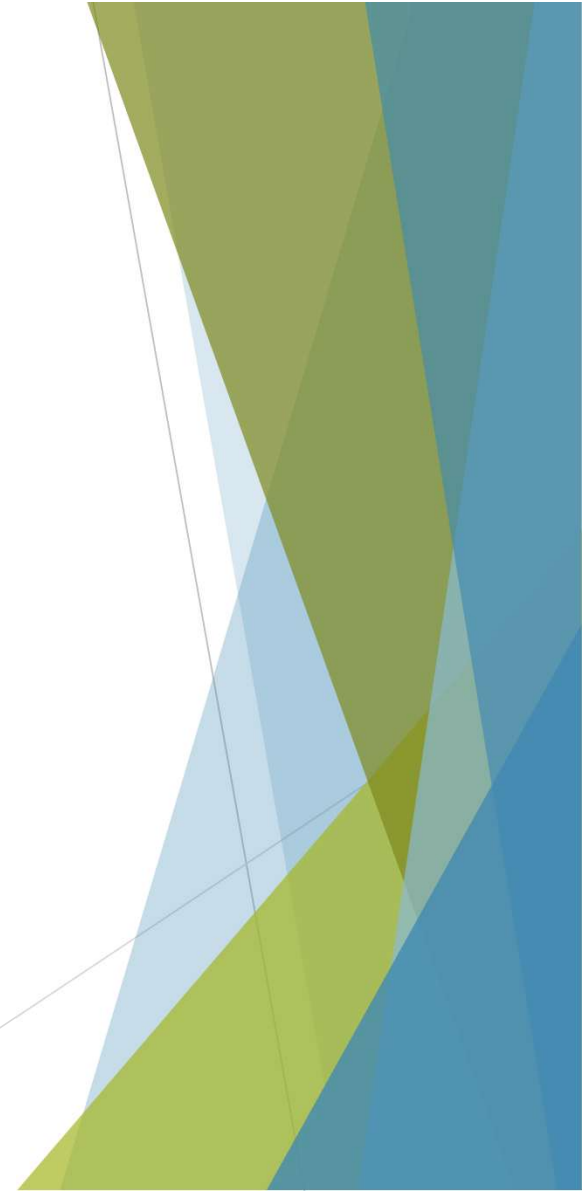
- ▶ the child who is proposed to be placed with the carer (if approved)
- ▶ the child's views and the parent's views on the proposed care arrangement.



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As an assessor, you should first ask the applicant to disclose information about their personal history and advise that:

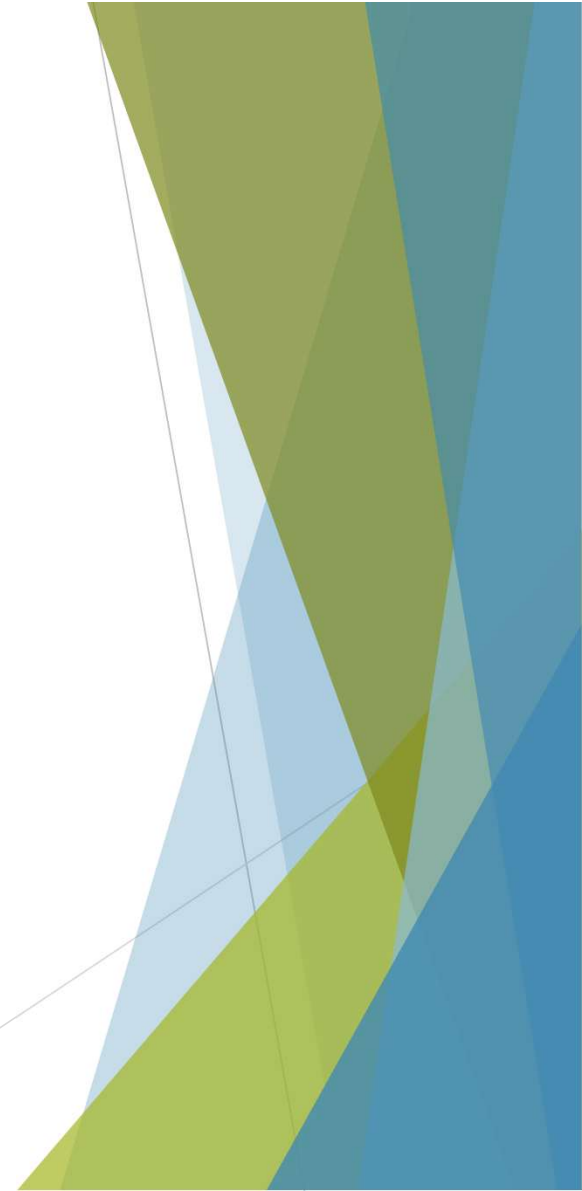
- Their personal history will be considered as part of the assessment process
- The application will be decided on all known information, including personal history
- Failure to disclose will be taken into consideration as part of the assessment.



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The PSU or CSSC can then disclose information directly to an assessor if they determine that doing so is necessary in order for the assessor to complete an holistic assessment of the carer applicant.

In doing so the PSU or CSSC must consider the confidentiality provisions of the Act for example, is the information being released in the best interests of children in care.



Continued...

In order for the PSU or CSSC to release information to an assessor, they must first ensure:

- The applicant has understood and signed consent to share information on the 'Applicant for Approval - form 3 APA'
- The external assessor understands their confidentiality and privacy obligations and has signed the 'Information Privacy deed for all external assessors'



Addressing suitability concerns

The practice manual provides clear guidance in respect to the right for kin to pursue an application and assessment process even if concerns are identified early on in assessment process

‘if the prospective kinship carer decide to proceed with a carer application, they cannot be prevented from doing so as this would prevent them the right to procedural fairness’

The role of the assessor is to

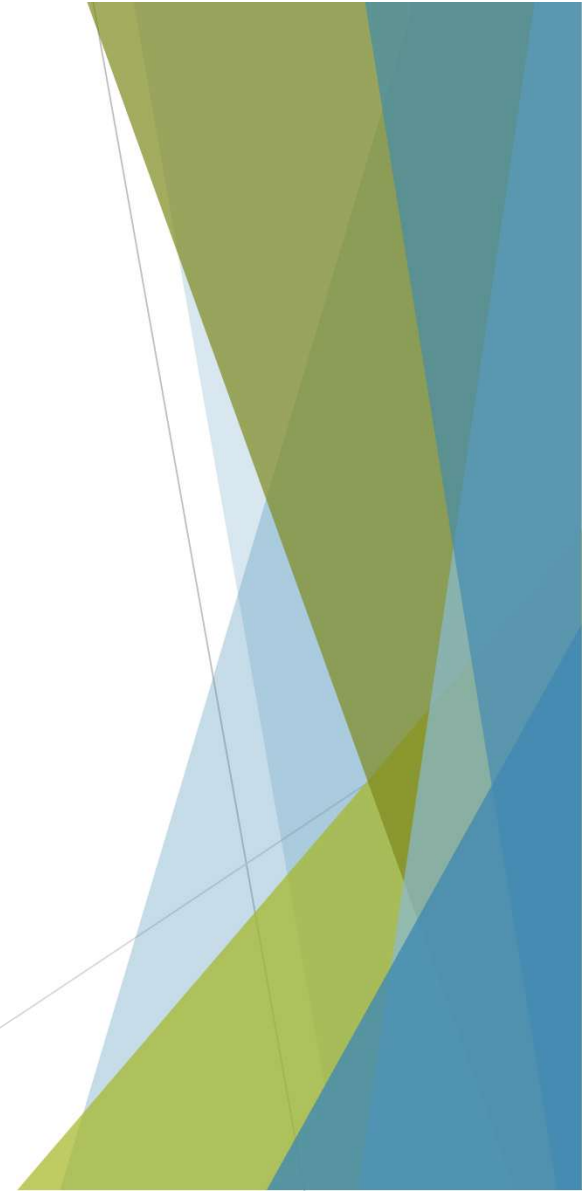
1. Discuss the concerns with the person as they arise
2. Assist them to make an informed choice about whether to proceed with a carer application.



Strength Based Assessments

It is interesting to note that when speaking to kinship carers who have been through the assessment process, they felt that their assessment was approached from the angle of ‘why can these people not provide care’ rather than ‘why can these people provide care’.

A strength based assessment would ensure that assessors approached assessments from the latter.



Why Strength Based

- ▶ We know that children have better life outcomes if raised with kin whom they have an existing relationship with.
- ▶ All families face challenges, however often their identified strengths can be used as a strategy to address the challenge i.e. An applicant who has suffered intergenerational abuse who has worked through the issues appropriately is likely to have a deeper understanding of the experience and impact of harm for the child.



A systematic review of 62 studies involving outcomes for children in care, found that children placed with kinship carers had fewer behaviour problems and stronger adaptive behaviours compared with children placed in foster care (Harnett et al., 2012). More recently, a systematic review of 102 international studies examining the “kinship care effects on safety, permanency and well being” (Winokur, Holton & Batchelder, 2018 p.19) presents compelling evidence that children benefit from placement in kinship care. This review found that, when compared to children placed in foster care, children in kinship care demonstrate a lower rate of behavioural and emotional difficulties, are more stable in their placements and experience lower levels of depression and higher levels of overall well being (Winokur, Holton & Batchelder, 2018 p.19). In summary, existing research indicates that children in kinship care fare better than those in foster care: they stay in placement longer, have greater educational continuity, better health and mental health outcomes (Winokur, Holden & Batchelder, 2018).

[needs-of-kinship-carers-in-australia-research-brief.pdf \(cetc.org.au\)](#)



Challenges:

Think about what immediate challenges you might face as an assessor when assessing suitability of a kinship carer.

It might be helpful to put yourself in the shoes of a kinship carer to get a true sense of the challenges faced.





inspired!

Continued...

- ▶ Kinship carer unlikely to have attended training therefore will have a real lack of understanding and knowledge of the Child Protection System
- ▶ Kinship carer is likely to be experiencing grief and loss and could be at any one of the stages of the grief and loss cycle.



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- ▶ Kinship carer applicant likely to feel in a position of being judged.
- ▶ A fear from kinship carer applicant around saying the right things and the impact should they not.
- ▶ Divided loyalty which may appear as though applicant does not have an understanding of the harm suffered by child.
- ▶ Motivation - feeling of having to vs capacity and wanting to.



Continued...

- ▶ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families being assessed by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fostering and Kinship Care Service worker can create conflict straight away as the kin applicant feels that 'they should be on our side' or furthermore they are not wanting to provide private information as they could feel a sense of shame or could feel worried about their information being known within their community.





Human beings have a
remarkable ability to accept the
abnormal and make it normal.

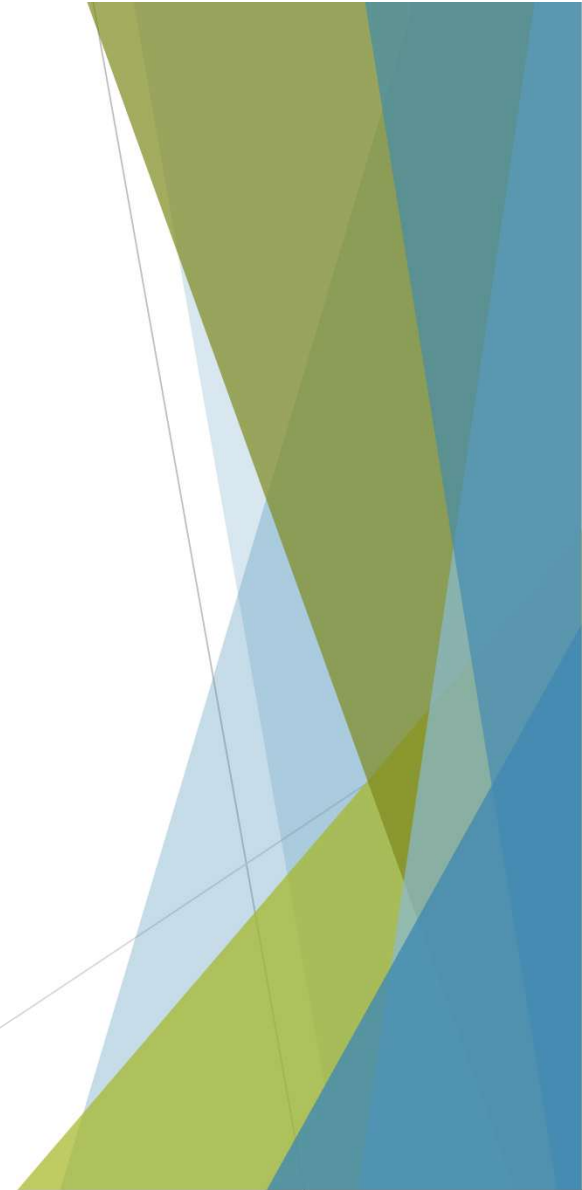
Andy Weir

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Grief and Loss - lets take a closer look

An assessor must have an understanding of the cycle of grief and loss in order to be able to effectively assess a kinship carer applicant.

The majority of kinship carer applicants will be somewhere in the cycle, where this is depends on factors such as; length of time child has been in care, their own knowledge of the harm and how close their relationship is with the parents to the children.



Grief and Loss - The Cycle

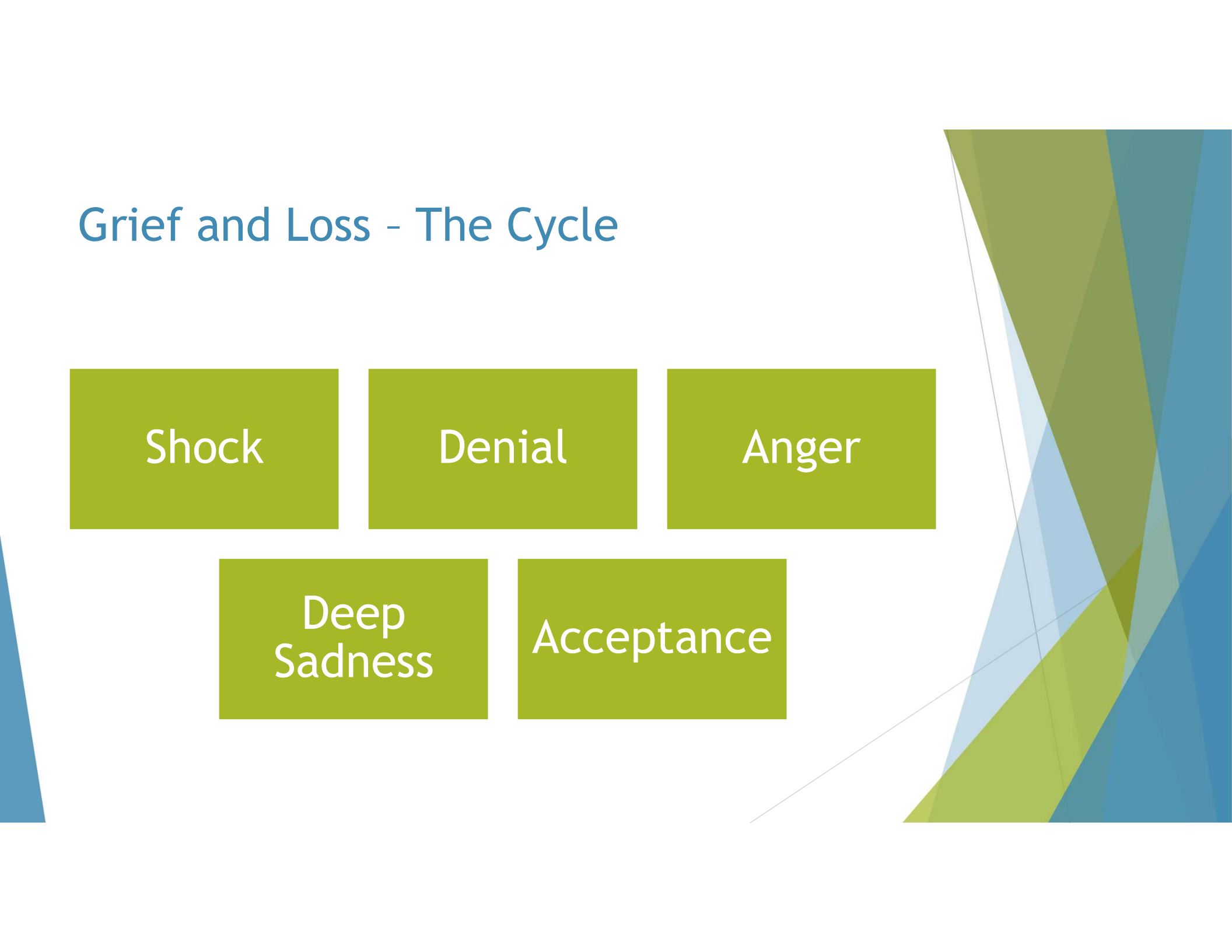
Shock

Denial

Anger

Deep
Sadness

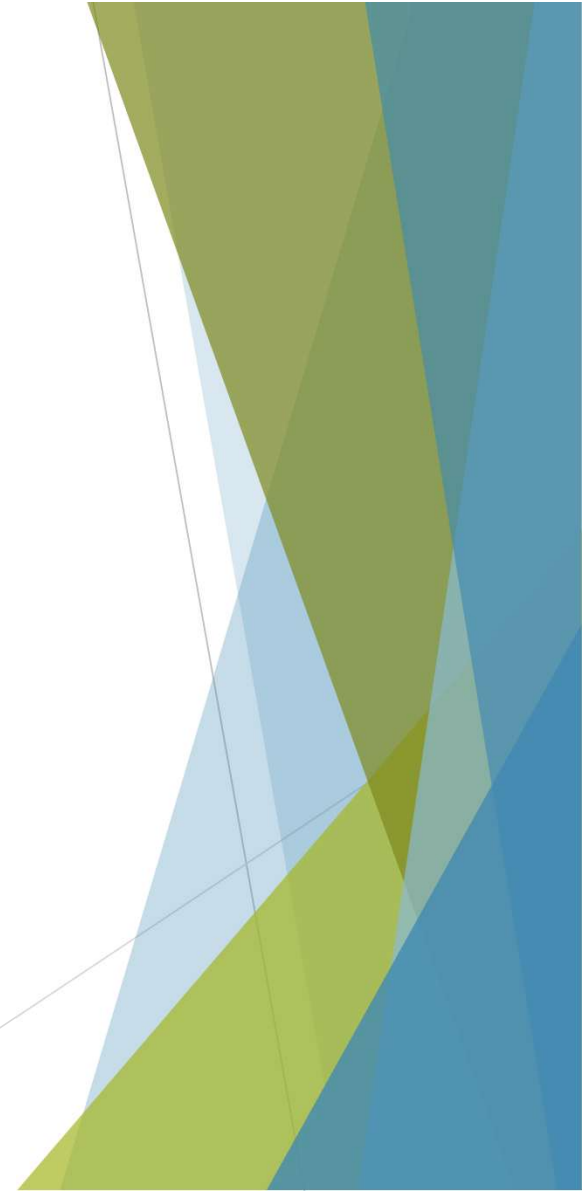
Acceptance



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Important factors when considering the cycle:

- A person may not necessarily go through the cycle in sequence
- A person could be experiencing more than one of the stages at the one time
- A person can find themselves in a revolving door with the stages; it may appear they have come to acceptance and next day they could be very angry again - this is normal
- A person's culture will directly affect how they manage grief and loss



What to look for

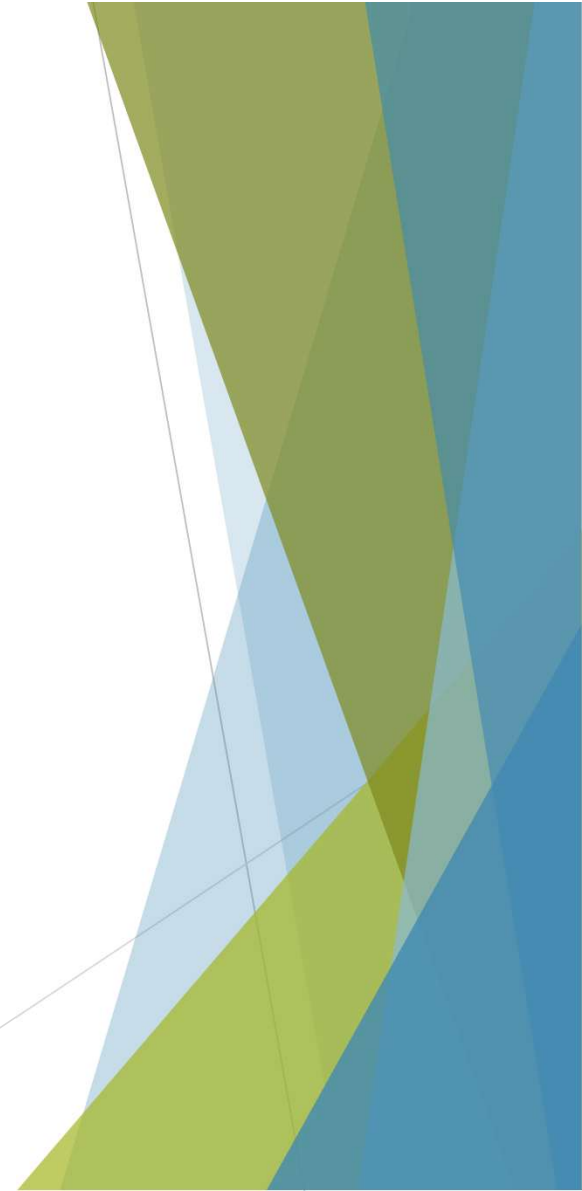
It is important to be aware of behaviours, body language and other forms of communication in the context of the cycle so that you can assess with an understanding of where the applicant is at emotionally and physically.

In groups of 3 go through each of the stages and name three things a kinship carer may be exhibiting if in a particular stage



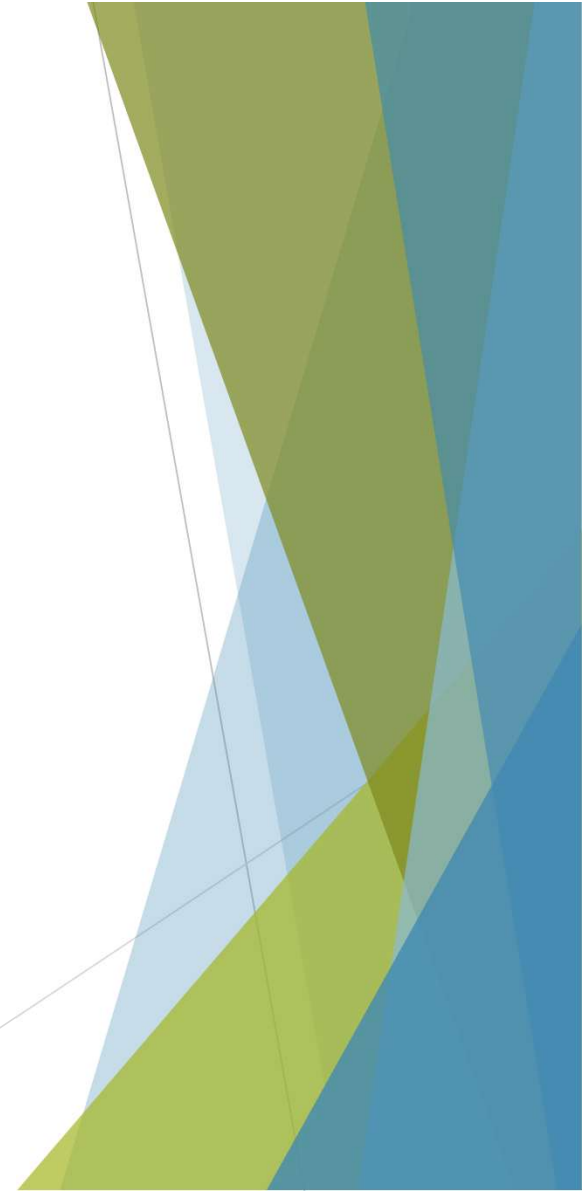
Shock:

- ▶ Applicant in a trance like state
- ▶ Withdrawn in interviews
- ▶ Irrational in their thought patterns and communication
- ▶ This situation will feel surreal for them
- ▶ They may have physical signs such as shaking and anxiety
- ▶ Overall they probably will not be engaging well in interview.



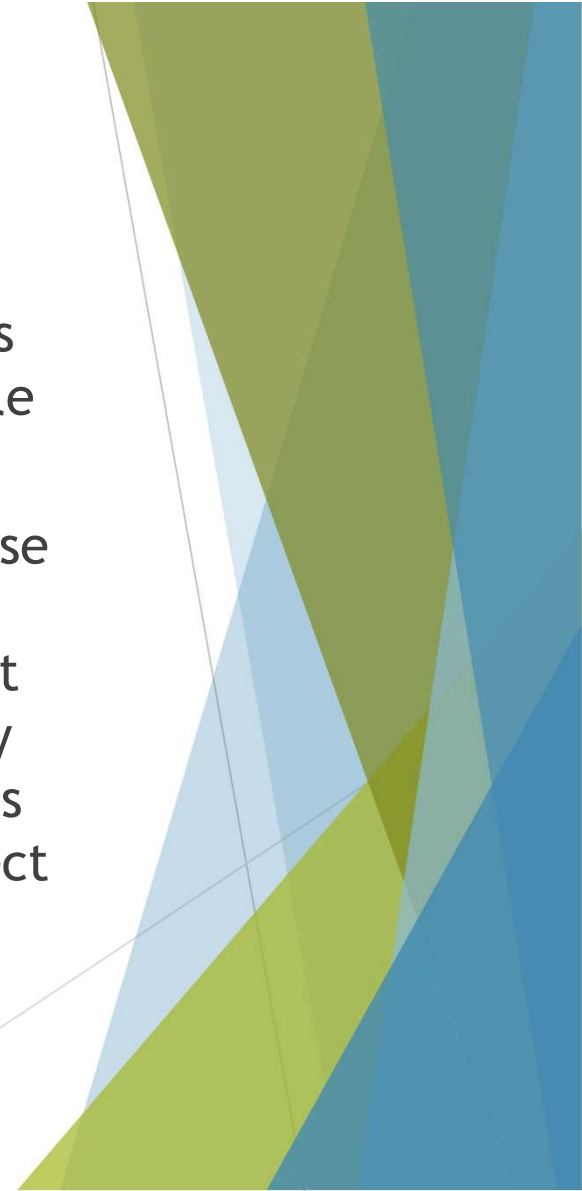
Denial:

- ▶ Applicant does not believe what is happening, i.e. does not believe that their child, sister or relative has done what resulted in the removal of their own children
- ▶ Applicant may be carrying on their daily routine as if nothing has happened, i.e. If parent of child visited them before in the home, they will see no issue with this occurring even if their child is there



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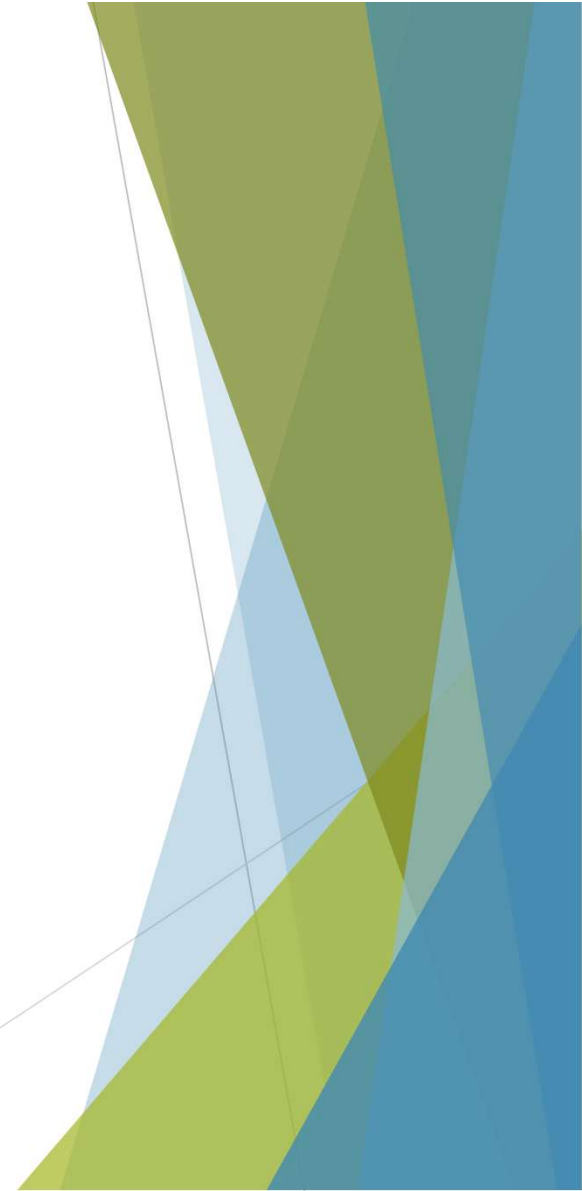
- ▶ Applicant may not initially acknowledge that harm has occurred to child (this does not mean they are not able to protect)
- ▶ Applicant may distract self through over working. These may be the applicants that you find difficult to find a time to meet with, that cancel at last minute and that if you do actually get there for an interview, they may distract themselves by doing dishes, taking phone calls etc during course of interviews and/or changing subject constantly.



Anger

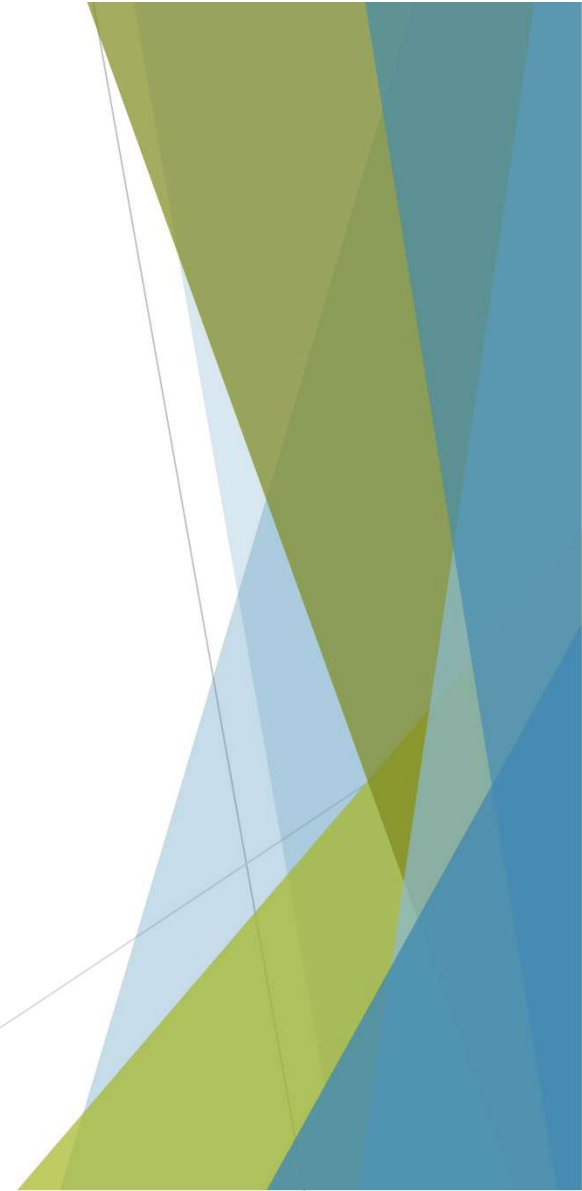
It is important to note that this anger could be directed at their relative or the Child Protection System. Behaviours exhibited could include:

- ▶ Aggressively challenging what has occurred
- ▶ Raising voices
- ▶ Physically acting out
- ▶ Blaming others - if anger is directed at Child Safety, they are likely to blame Child Safety, the other side of the family or even the community for what has occurred
- ▶ Self-blaming - this is certainly the case for many grandparents; they question what they did wrong in their own parenting to have caused this



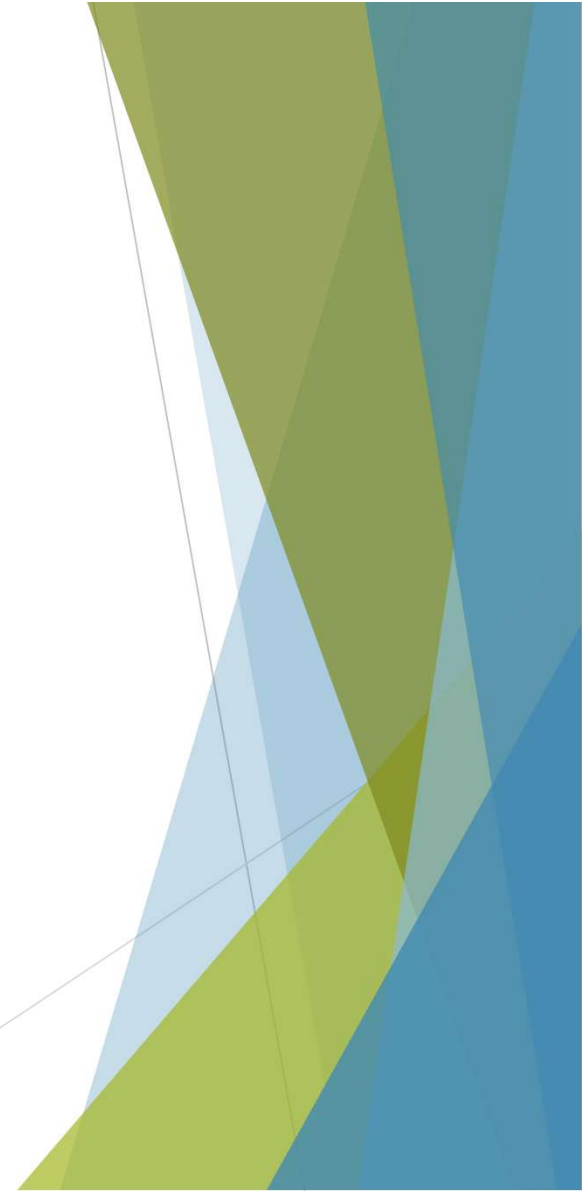
Deep Sadness:

- ▶ Kinship carer applicant may cry during interviews
- ▶ Kinship carer applicant could show signs of withdrawal from process, this is associated with depression and is a normal reaction
- ▶ Kinship carer applicant may appear very tired, they may not be sleeping or they could be oversleeping



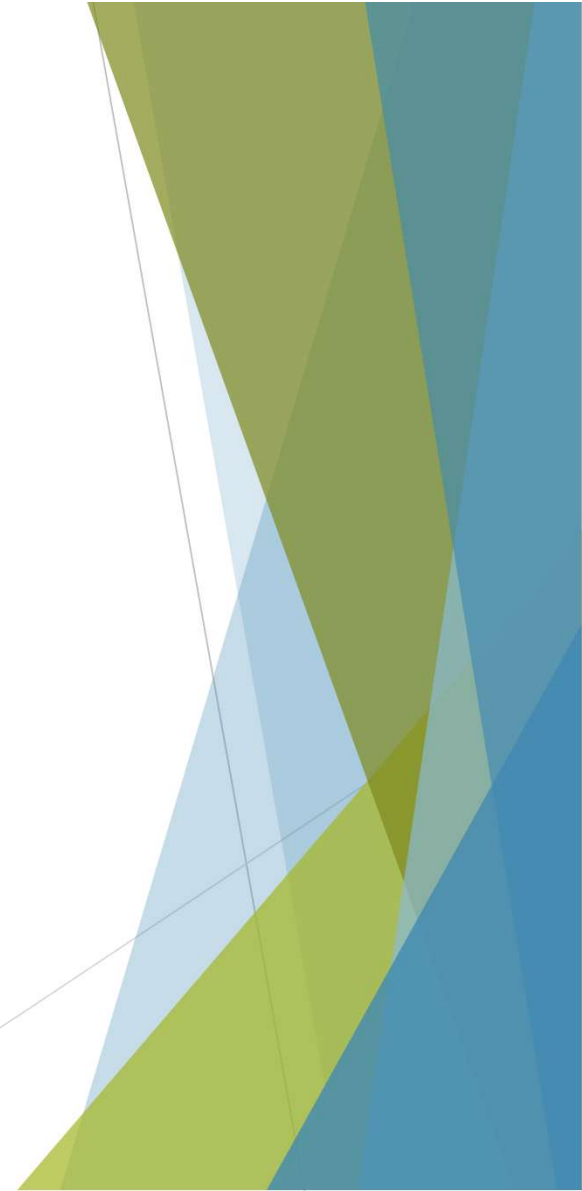
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- ▶ Kinship Carer applicant may appear unmotivated, i.e. when you call to make appointments, may put you off or in the process of the interview, you may question their motivation to care
- ▶ Kinship carer applicant may be suffering from depression - diagnosed or undiagnosed.



Acceptance:

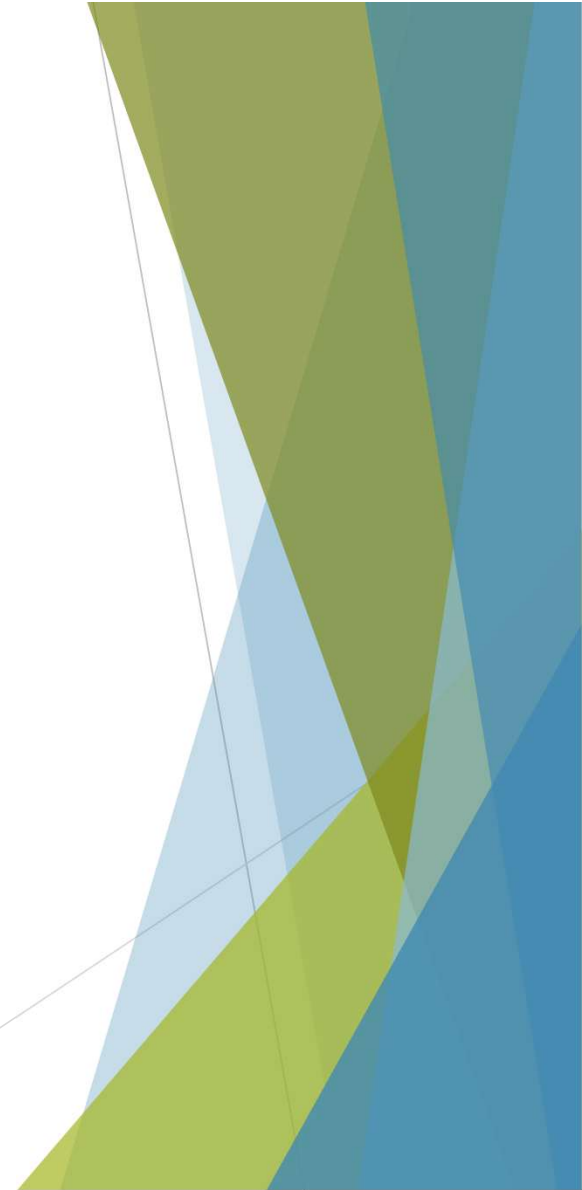
- ▶ Kinship carer applicant is able to recall happy memories of before the event without this leading to deep sadness
- ▶ Kinship carer applicant acknowledges that pain is still there, but they have learnt to live effectively with it i.e. Make decisions in the best interests of the child
- ▶ Kinship applicant has made the decision to move on for self preservation.



Summary - Grief and Loss

Your role when assessing a carer is not to assist them through their grief and loss, rather to have an understanding of the cycle and where the applicant may be in this cycle.

This will assist you to complete an assessment that is reflective of the complex nature of kinship care. By understanding the stages you should be able to adjust your assessment style to assess and respond appropriately to the kinship carer applicant. Finally remember, grief and loss is a natural and healthy experience and should be treated as such.



Continued....

It is important that you consider that you are assessing a kinship carer in the context of trauma and you must make efforts to ensure your assessment captures the kinship carer applicant outside the context of the Child Protection system i.e. if the kinship carer presents as a very angry person to you, this does not mean this is the essence of who this person is, it could be a reflection of the circumstance they are in. This would be a good time to request references to get to know the applicant outside of the Child Protection system, what does their best friend, sister, friend say about them.



Grief/Loss and Culture

When bringing your mind to grief and loss and the cycles, you must also bring your mind to the kin applicants culture as this will determine how they may process grief and loss.

For example, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families are likely to feel a sense of shame right throughout each of the cycles. It would be a good idea to research cultures around their ways of dealing with grief and loss as this will then assist you to undertake a respectful process.



Exploring intergenerational Issues

There will be many difficult and challenging conversations that you will need to have with the kinship carer applicant, one of these will be the need to explore potential intergenerational issues.

The way to do this is to ask questions right throughout the assessment in line with headings, this will allow you to form some assessment as to whether the issues are intergenerational; i.e.



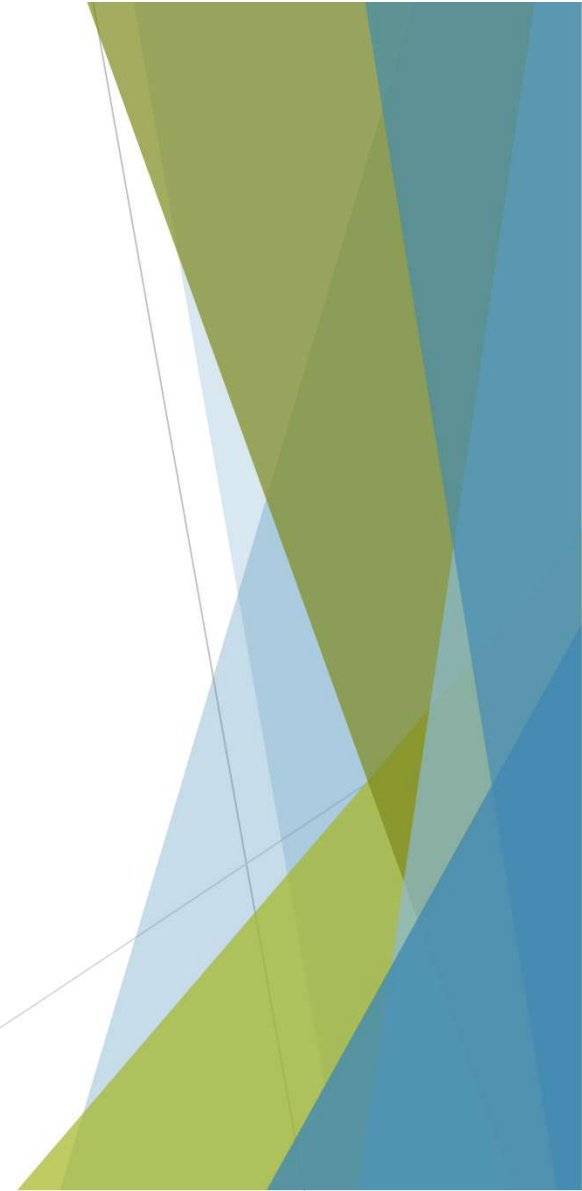
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- ▶ Family and social support - birth parents will often provide details of support people to Child Safety who support or at least do not challenge a lifestyle that has contributed to children experiencing harm. It is important to explore the applicant's family support and how this may differ from the birth parents
- ▶ Relationships - important to explore spousal relationships, particularly if concerns for birth parents centre on family and domestic violence



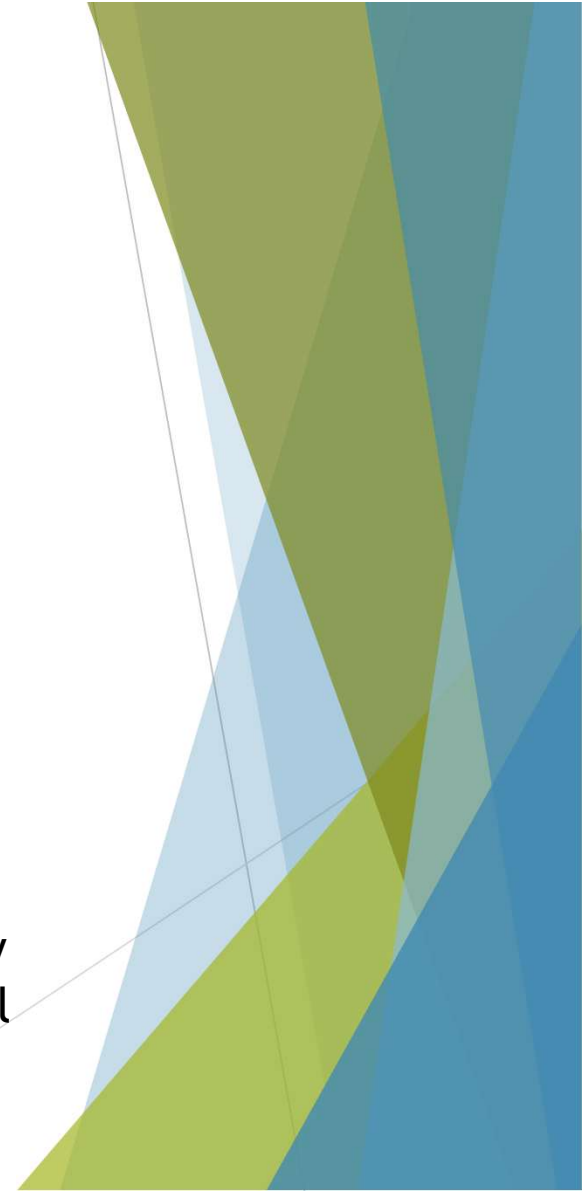
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- ▶ It is also important to explore the kinship applicant's relationship with the birth parent; has their relationship changed over time? highs and lows need to be explored and current relationship needs to be explored
- ▶ If the applicant is a grandparent or aunt or uncle to the child in care how does their relationship differ to that of other children or siblings they may have



Continued...

- ▶ What are the applicants childhood experiences and how similar were these to the birth parent.
 - If a grandparent, did they parent how they were parented, if not why not.
 - If a sibling, did they have a similar experience in their childhood to the birth parent - what then led to different pathways
 - Do they have an understanding of what harm is - when abuse in family is intergenerational they may believe that what is occurring in the home is actually normal, they may have no concept of this being harm i.e. every parent resolves conflict through physical and emotional violence and all children witness this, it is normal.



Continued...

In summary, when bringing your mind to addressing the issue of intergenerational abuse, be mindful that if you jump directly into a conversation around this issue - the applicant is likely to become defensive or shut down.

By addressing the issue through your questions/discussions right throughout the assessment you will get more information and it will be done in a respectful manner.

If it becomes apparent through your assessment that there are issues around possible intergenerational abuse, then it is important to then have direct conversations about your concerns.



Intergenerational trauma

Intergenerational trauma refers to trauma that is passed from a trauma survivor to their descendants

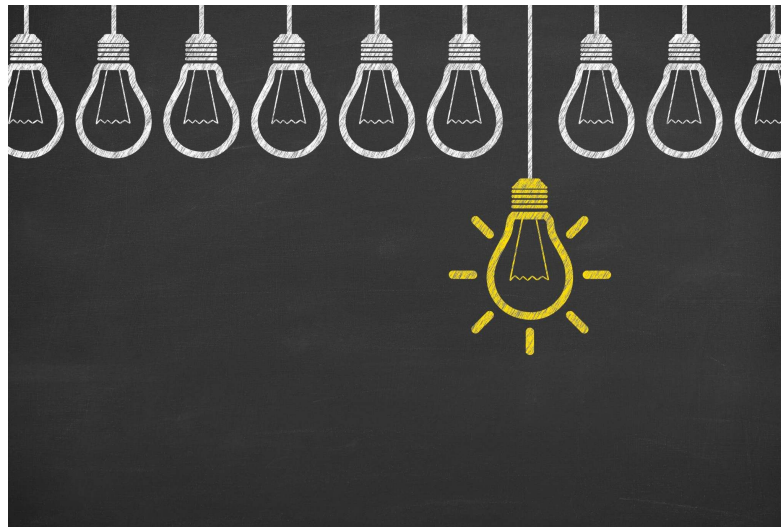
Examples of intergenerational trauma include:

- A parent who experienced abuse as a child or Adverse Childhood experiences (ACEs) and the cycle of trauma and abuse impacts their parenting
- The result of oppression. In Australia Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders experience intergenerational trauma as a result of the Stolen generation, the trauma this created has been passed down through generations and can be directly attributed to the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander children in the Child Protection system



Brain storm activity

What could be some of
the impacts on a kinship
applicant who has
experienced
intergenerational trauma



Impacts

- ▶ May not trust anything or anyone that represents government institutions - this will impact what a kinship carer will or will not share with assessors
- ▶ May express emotions such as anger or fear towards the process again this could impact engagement
- ▶ Heightened response to stress - recognizing the process of being assessed to care for their loved ones is likely to impact stress levels



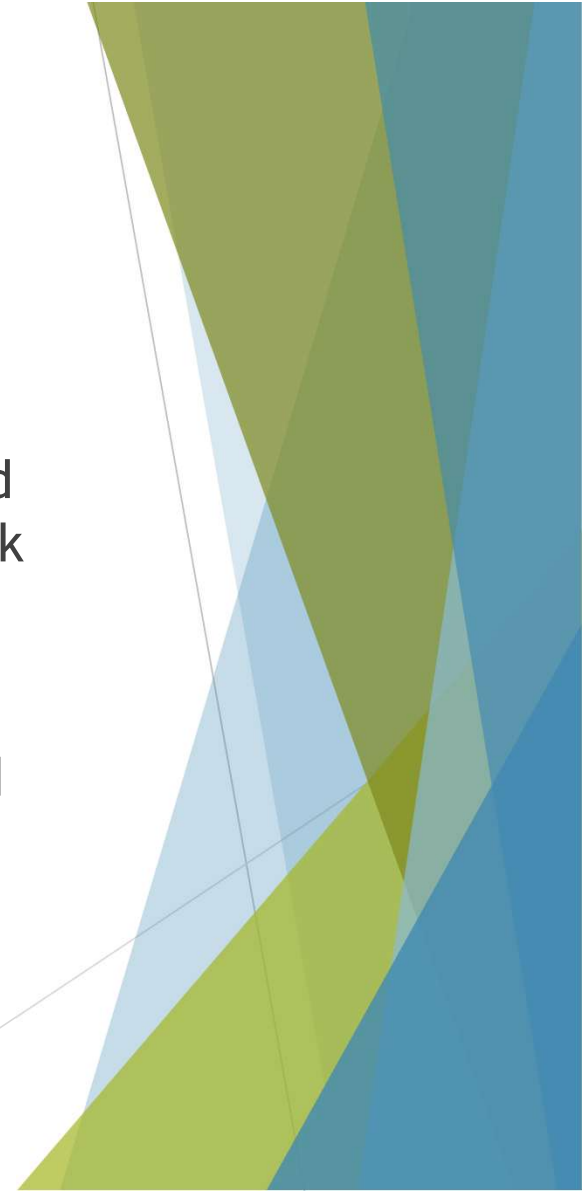
Ability to work in a team

- ▶ As with Foster Care Assessments, Kinship Care Assessments must demonstrate an applicant's ability to work collaboratively in the Child Protection System
- ▶ Refer applicant to the Statement of Commitment - it is here to assist them to identify each of the key players roles and responsibilities



Continued...

- ▶ It is vital that applicants have an understanding of their role and where they sit in this complicated system. This can assist in the prevention of Standard of Care matters or harm reports and placement breakdowns.
- ▶ Remember being connected in some way to the child will bring about feelings of being entitled to make certain decisions that they may not be able to, addressing this at this point is important.



Tip

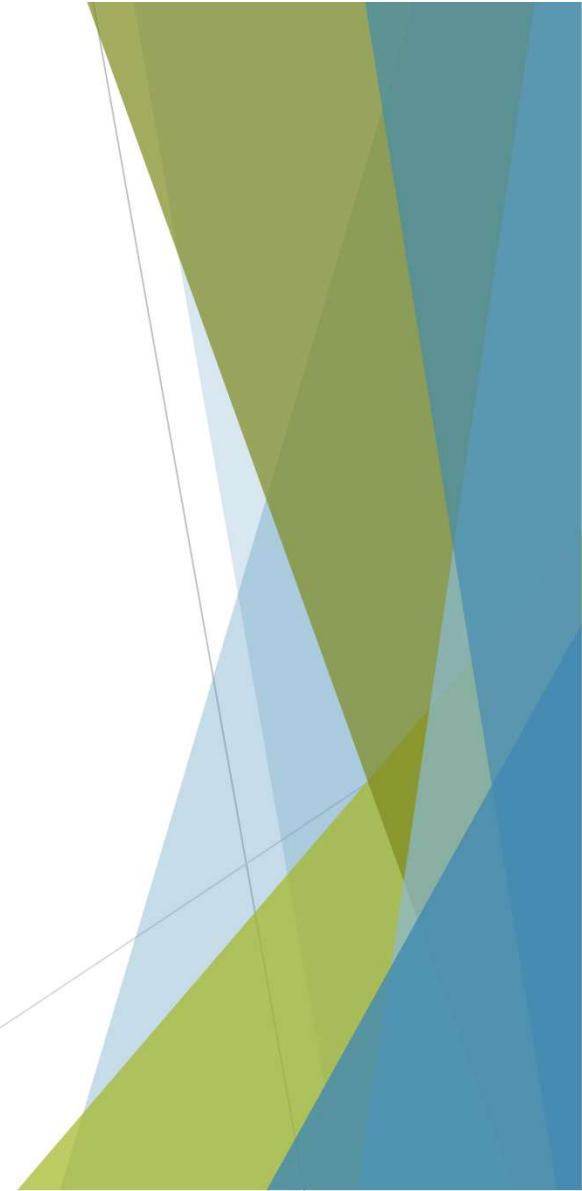
- ▶ Take with you a copy of the table contained in Practice Manual around who makes what decisions. This can assist family members greatly as it covers everything from travel to health, education and more.



Importance of Genograms

The completion of accurate genograms are required in all assessments. The use of them in Kinship Care Assessments are crucial.

In pairs discuss why you believe genograms are an important part of a Kinship Care Assessment.



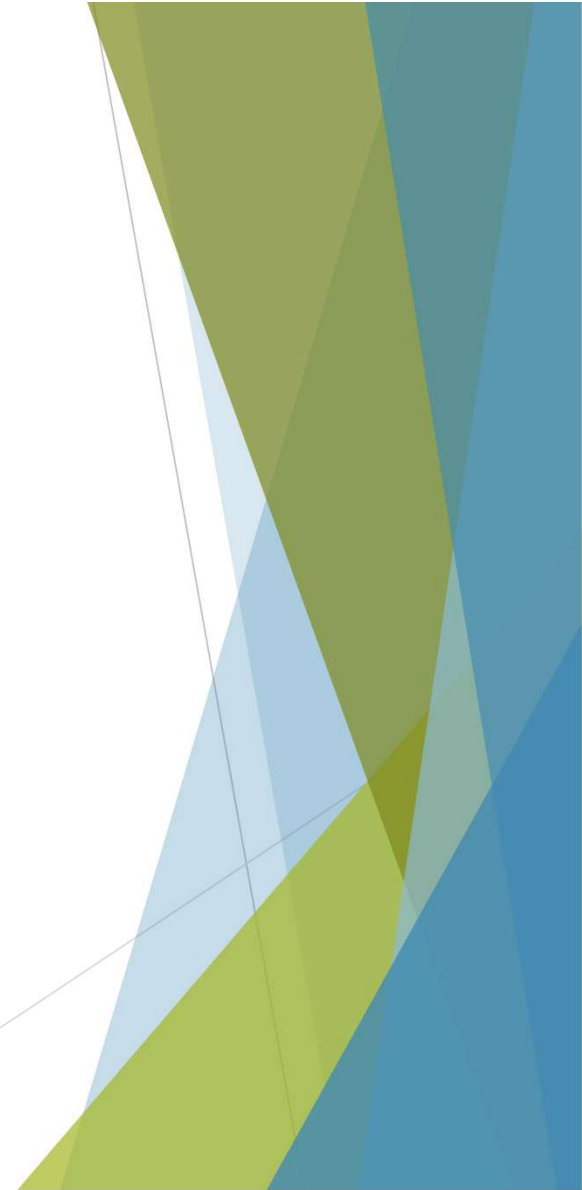
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- ▶ It can assist in building a relationship with the kinship carer applicant. Allow them to talk about each of the family members, their relationships and where everyone fits in.
- ▶ It can be a vital piece of information that you can refer back to when completing different parts of your assessment i.e. childhood, relationships, family and social support.



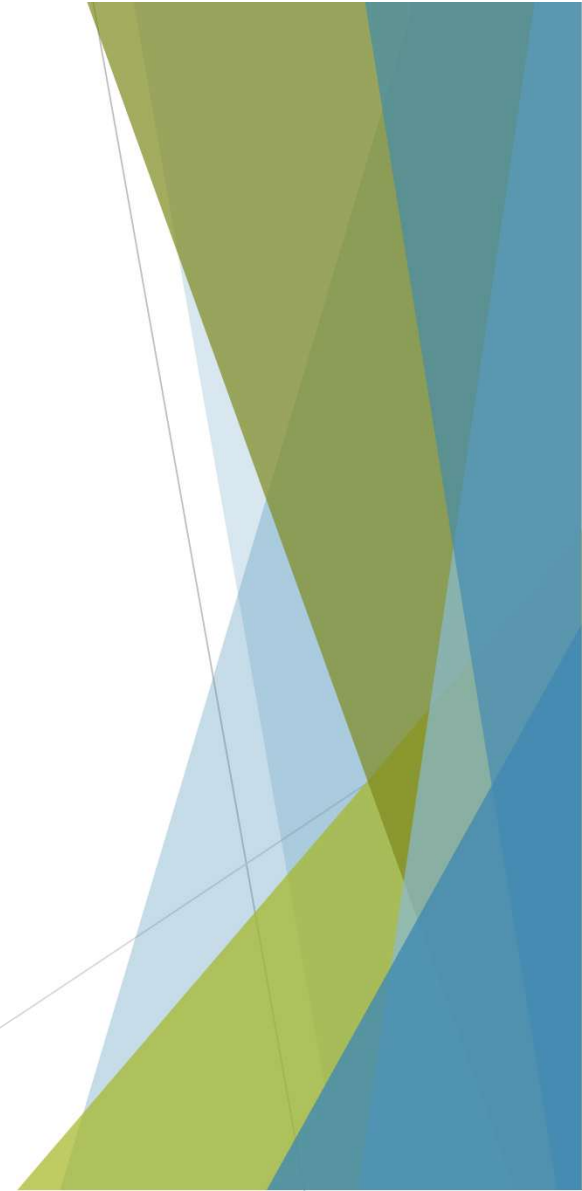
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- ▶ Families come in many shapes and sizes. Trying to understand them through verbal communication only can be extremely difficult for assessor and person reading the assessment.
- ▶ It is important for all those involved in the assessment to have a clear picture of the family and where everyone fits in.



Continued...

- ▶ Genograms completed accurately in a Kinship Care Assessment can be the very first time Child Safety has the information before them. This could lead Child Safety to explore different important relationships in a child's life and encourage contact if appropriate.
- ▶ www.genopro.com provides a good template for assessors.

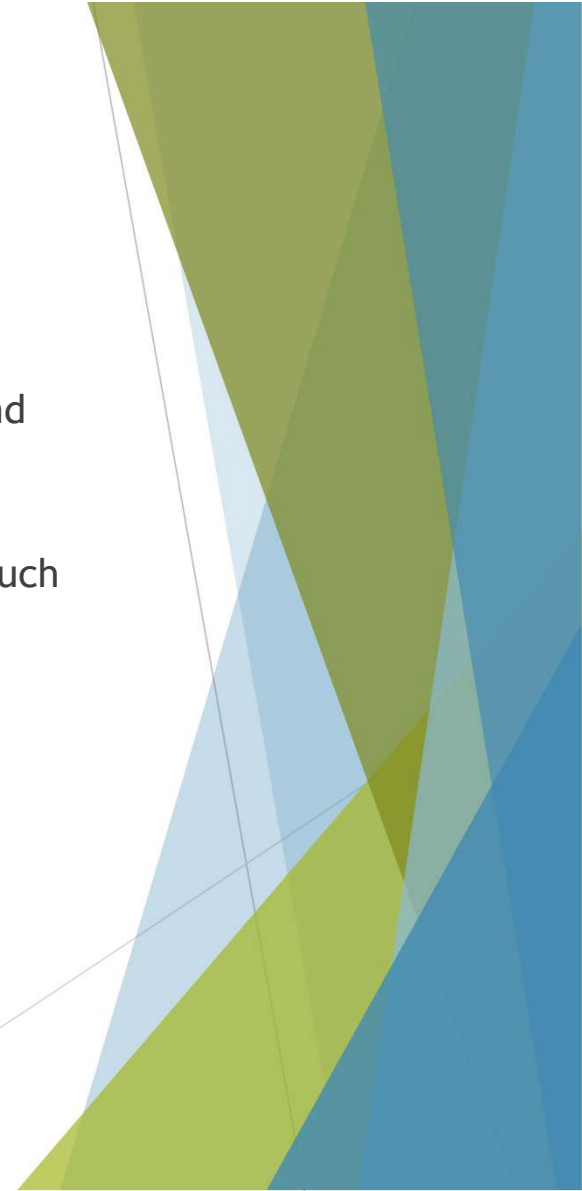


Other requirements

- ▶ Kinship carers are required to meet the same household safety requirements as foster carers.
- ▶ G.P and referee checks are not mandatory, however should be sought when appropriate, the practice manual outlines examples of when it might be appropriate to seek GP and Referee checks. Requests for discretionary information must be approved by the CSSC Manager

Tip

- ▶ Adult children not living in the home should not be considered a referee and therefore permission is not required from the CSSC Manager to seek information from them.
- ▶ Interviews with Adult children will inform crucial areas of the assessment such as parenting, relationships. Stress management etc.



Your role as an educator

As already established, kinship carer applicants are likely to have very little knowledge about the Child Protection System at point of assessment.

You have a key role in educating the applicant to understand at the very least their role, rights and how they fit into this very confusing system.

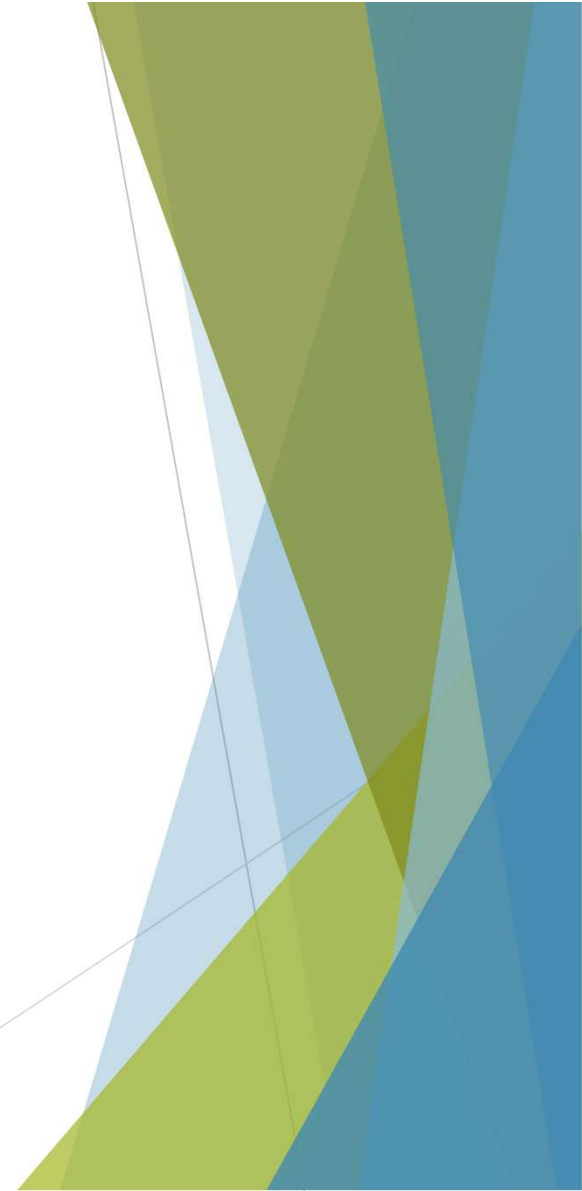
By proper education at this point, there is less likelihood of concerns being raised in the future, placement breakdowns and worst of all further trauma to a child in care.



What information?

At the very least, you should arrive at the assessment armed with the following:

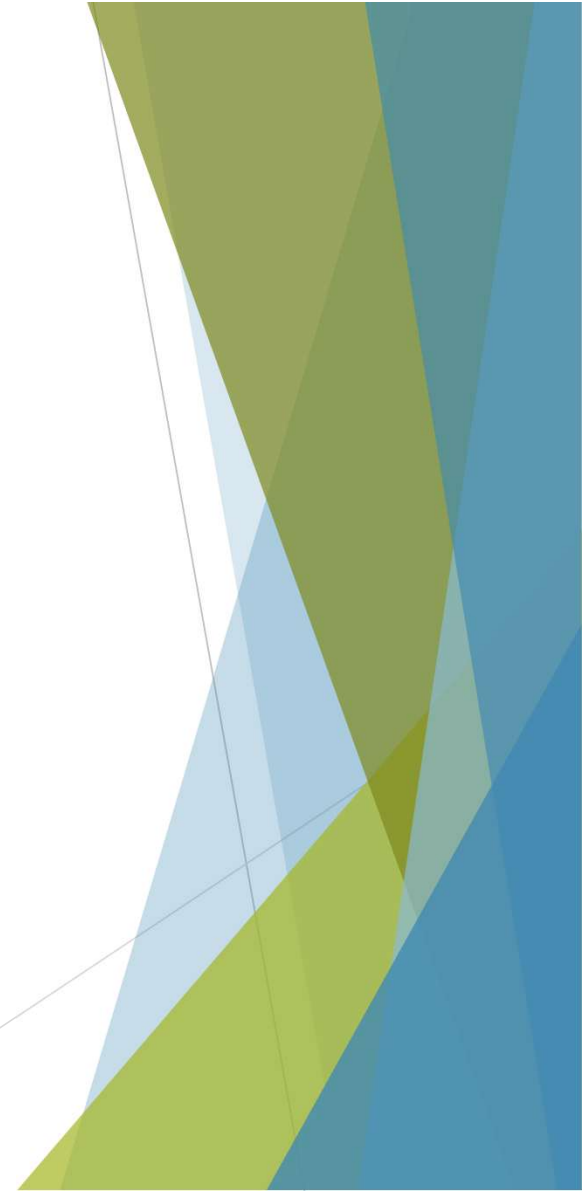
- Statement of Standards
- Statement of Commitment
- Principals of Child Protection Act 1999
- Child Placement Principles
- Charter of Rights
- Human Rights Act 2019
- Information about Child Safety Qld carer website



The form...

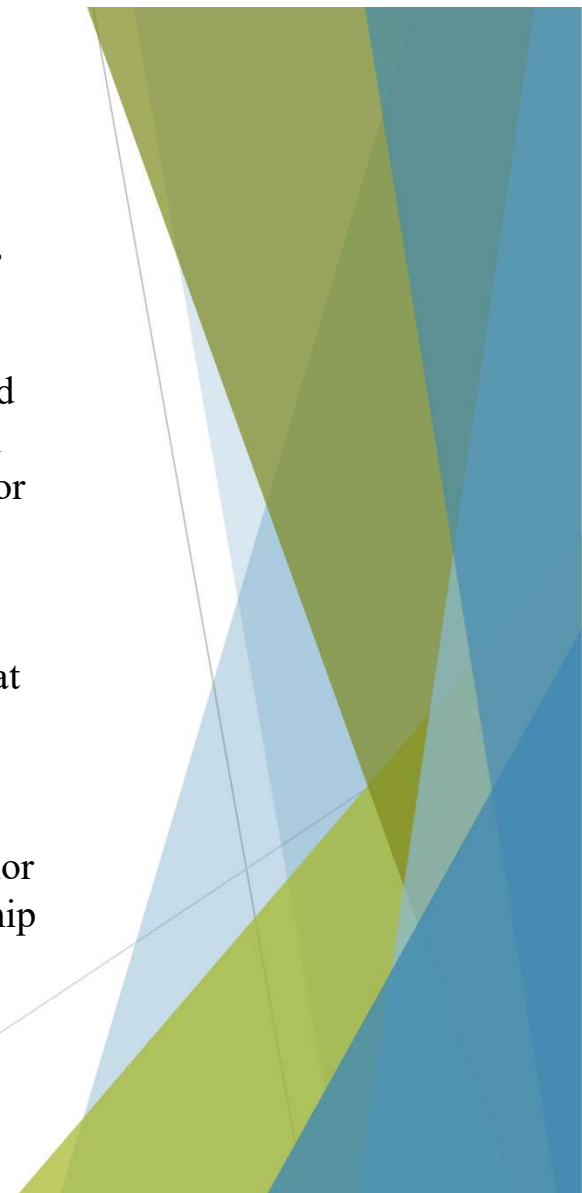
The Kinship Carer Initial Assessment has four main parts

1. Preliminary Information
2. Assessment Information
3. Recommendation and Rational
4. Applicants signature and comments



Duty of Disclosure – Ensure you explain to Kinship Carers

PRIVACY NOTICE The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (Child Safety) is collecting the personal information on this form for the purpose of assessing the carer applicant/s for consideration to become approved kinship carers. The collection of this information is authorised by the Child Protection Act 1999 and the Child Protection Regulation 2011. Your personal information will be treated in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009. Under the Children's Court Rules 2016 and the Director of Child Protection Litigation Act 2016, the department is required to provide relevant information to the Director of Child Protection Litigation (DCPL) in relation to child protection proceedings, and the DCPL has a duty to disclose documents relevant to the proceeding to each other party. Therefore, any information provided to the department that may be relevant to current or future court proceedings may be provided to the parties, including the parents. This may include applications for future child protection orders for children already in your care as an approved foster or kinship carer, such as long-term Child Protection Orders. A copy of this report will be provided to the carer applicant/s prior to finalising the approval process and information will be provided to the foster and kinship care service.



Part 1

Part 1 of the report is the responsibility of Child Safety and includes:

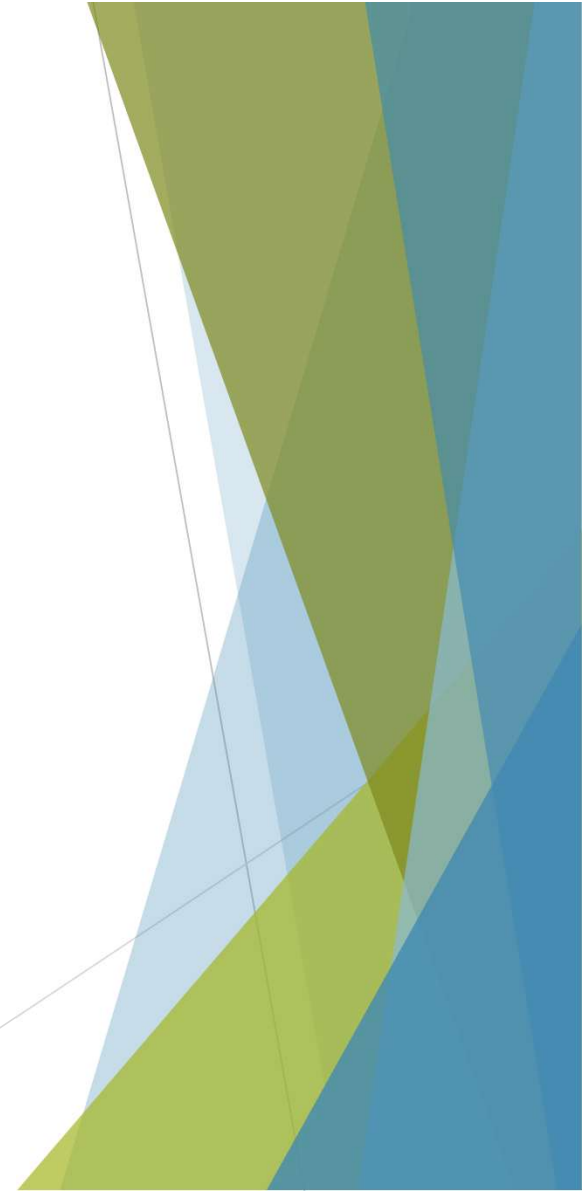
- Subject child's details and views of the placement
- Parents views and any other significant persons views
- Genogram/Ecomap and/or Aboriginal family circle
- Case plan details for the child/ren



Part 2

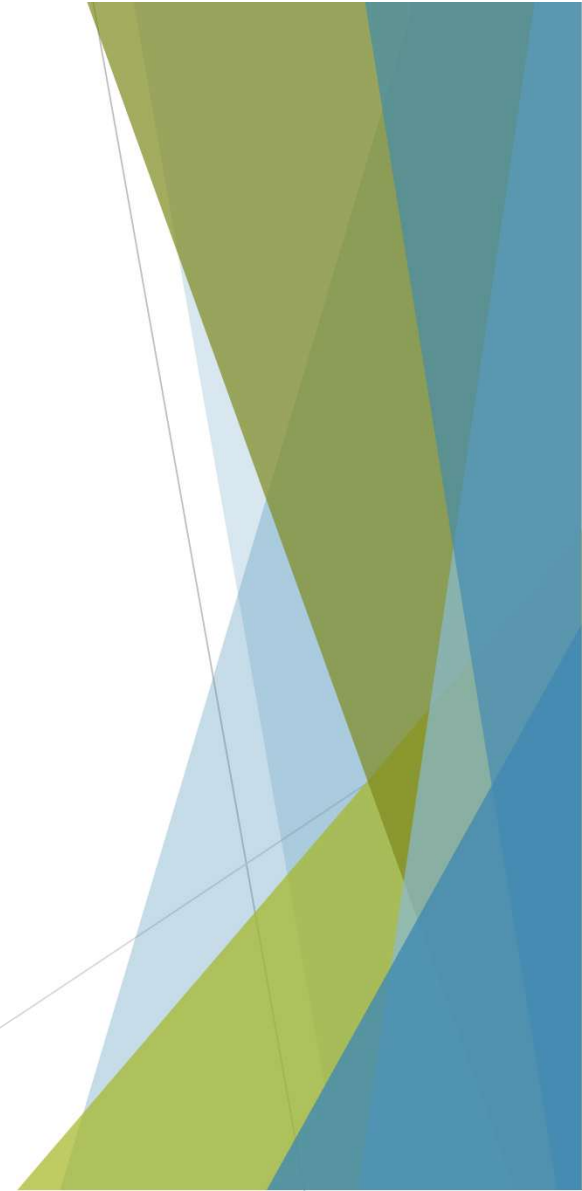
Part 2 is the responsibility of the assessor and includes:

- Assessment interviews and consultations with all people interviewed or contacted for the purposes of the assessment.
- Household members at the time of the assessment - remember to reflect on legal definition of household member, does not have to be someone living in the home, could be a frequent visitor.



Continued...

- Interviews with subject child if applicable and appropriate i.e. provisionally approved already
- Additional information obtained by the subject child's CSO
- Interviews with other children in the home



Important Tip

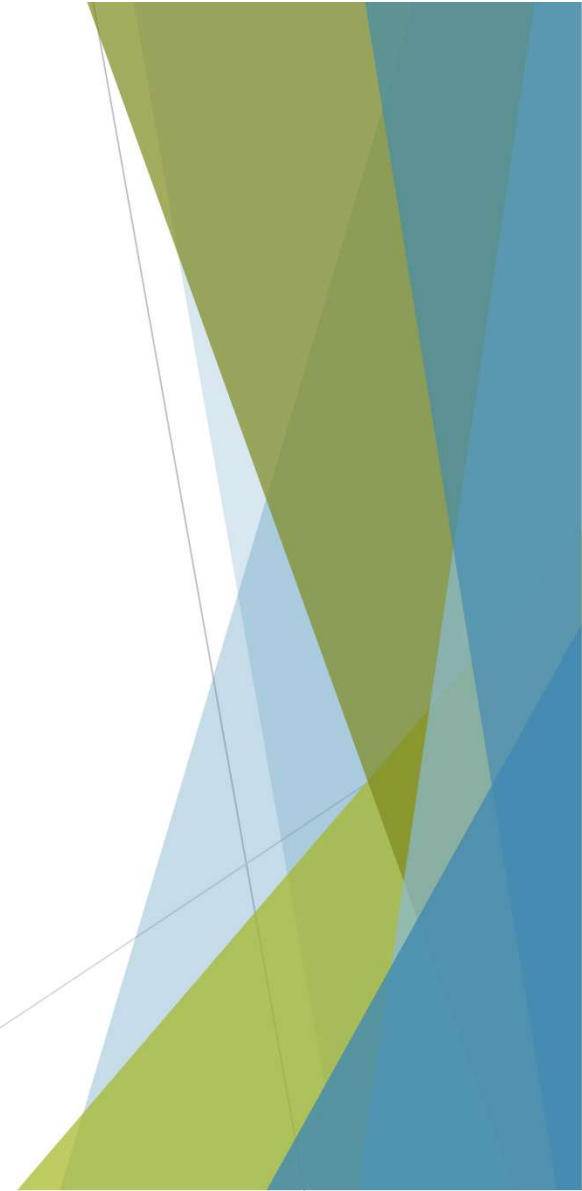
- ▶ Child Safety is required to seek the views and wishes of children under Section 5E of the Child Protection Act, exploring the child's views about the proposed care arrangement is essential
- ▶ The kin assessment should include information about the quality of the relationship between the child and proposed carer and the child's perspective of the significance of the relationship
- ▶ Child Safety is responsible for providing children with the opportunity to participate in decision making. The CSO should have already explored this, if the CSO has not, the assessor may in consultation with the CSO and the Child's safety and support network, arrange to talk with the child to seek their views
- ▶ If the child identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, Child Safety should help advise the child and the child's family of their right to have an independent person to help them have their say and participate in the decision
- ▶ Where it is not appropriate to interview child because of their age or development, observations of the child's behaviour and interactions with the applicant should be considered where appropriate.



Continued...

The assessor is then responsible for completing all assessment domains

- Motivation to care for child/ren
- Relationship with the child/ren
- Relationship with the child/ren's family. Family dynamics and family contact
- Family history
- Parenting Style



Continued...

- Applicant's spousal relationship
- Understanding of and attitude towards the child protection issues and the need for an out of home care placement
- Personal capacity to be a kinship carer and ability to meet the specific needs of the children
- Working with the department
- Carer support and managing change and stress



Activity

- ▶ You will all receive a copy of the Kinship Care Assessment Guidelines
- ▶ In groups of three, you will be provided with a Domain and will read the purpose, focus and suggested prompts for the Domain.
- ▶ You will then add any further suggested prompts that you feel are missed in the Guidelines
- ▶ Each group will feedback to the wider group their Domain



Part 2 - final checks

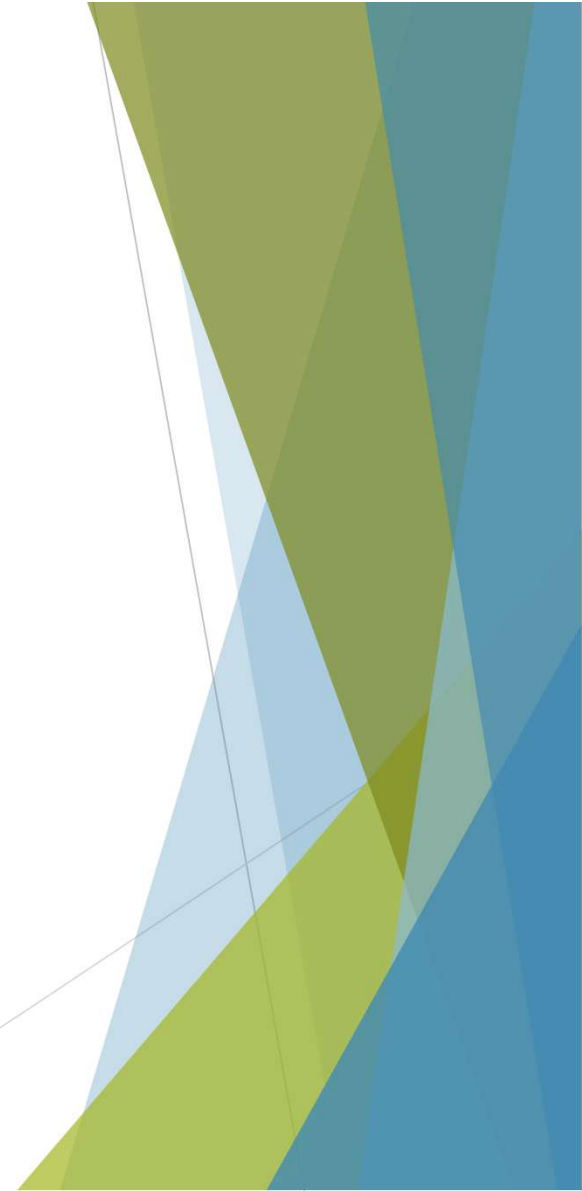
- ▶ The assessor is required to advise whether a medical check was sought and approved by CSSC Manager. If CSSC Manager approves check, details to be provided about why check was sought and outcome of check.
- ▶ Finally assessor is to check off the sources of information obtained.



Part 3

Part 3 is the responsibility of the assessor and details the recommendation and rationale for this; remember to reflect on the Statement of Standards and legal requirements to be approved as a kinship carer.

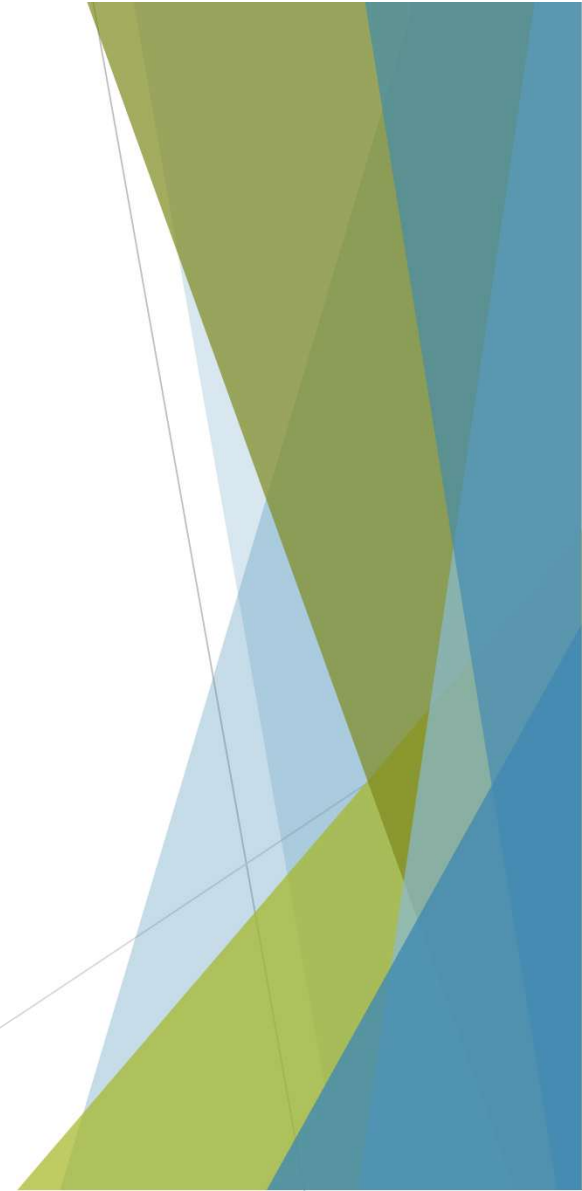
The assessor is also to provide an analysis of the strengths and support needs for the child/ren.



Your Recommendation

If recommending approval you need to be satisfied that -

1. Suitability of applicant and household members has been met
2. The applicant is kin to the child as the Act prescribes
3. The applicant is able to meet the Statement of Standards
4. The applicant is able to help in appropriate ways towards achieving plans for the child's protection



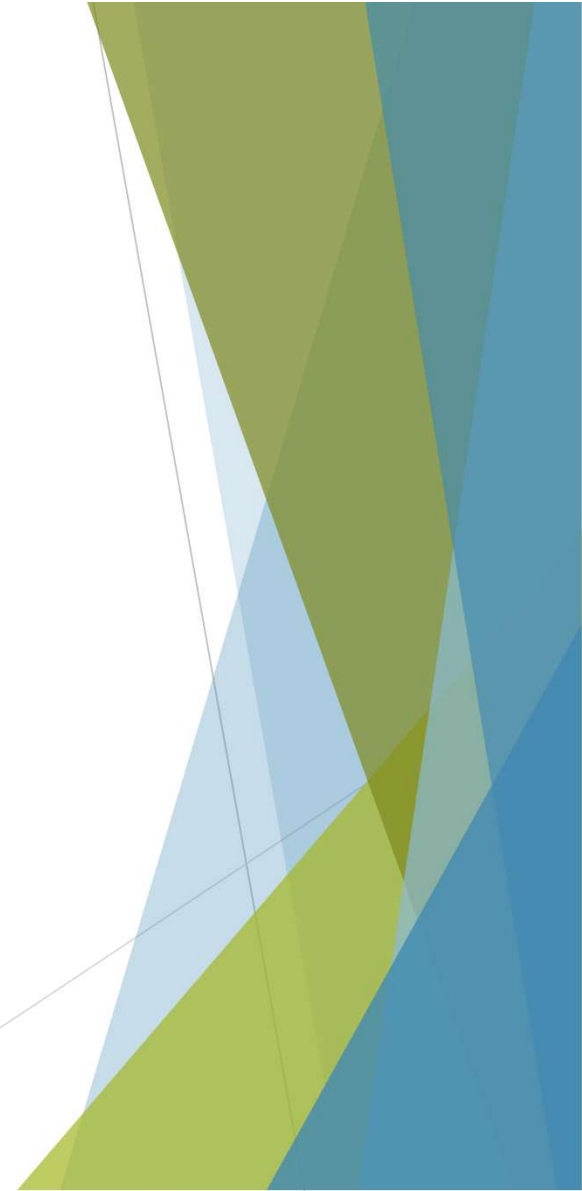
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5. The applicant and all adult household members hold a positive blue card notice
6. The applicants and all adult household members do not pose a risk to the child
7. The applicant is able and willing to protect the child from harm
8. The applicant is able and willing to care for the child in line with the principals of the Child Protection Act
9. The applicant has been encouraged to complete any training reasonably required of them

Suitability Criteria

As with Foster Care Assessments, assessors must demonstrate that kinship carer applicant has:

1. Ability to identify personal experiences, background, current family dynamics and lifestyle and reflect on how these are relevant to caring for children
2. Ability to provide a safe and stable living environment that is free from harm or risk of harm



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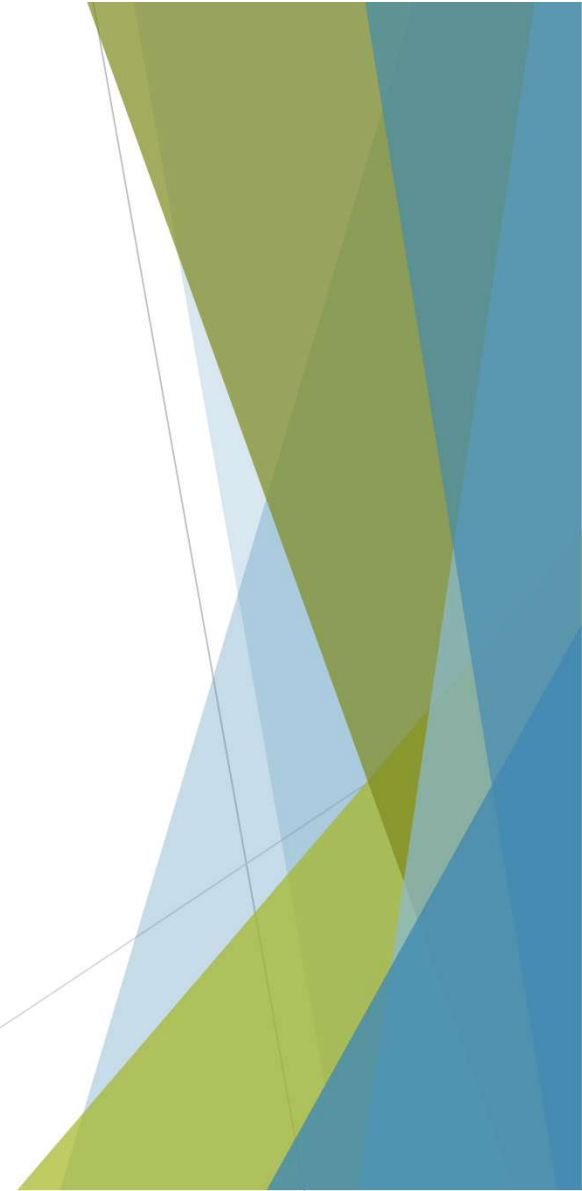
3. Ability to provide a nurturing environment that contributes to a child's positive self regard
4. Ability to work as part of a team that includes the child, their family, the department and other relevant service providers



Part 4

Part 4 is the responsibility of the kinship applicant.

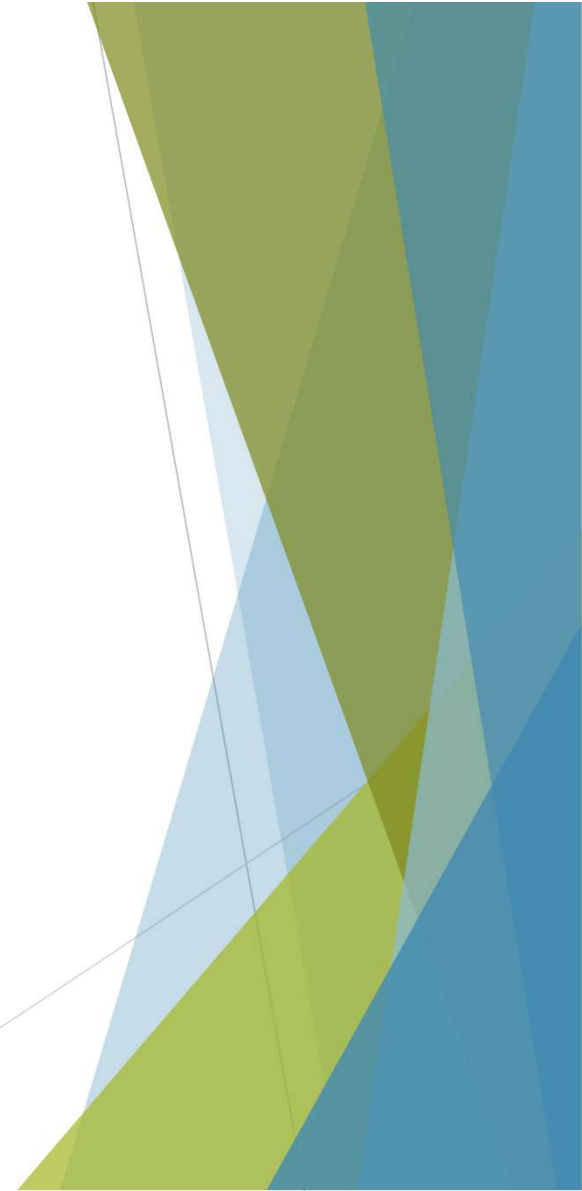
It is important to note that the kinship care applicant is provided with a copy of the report and an opportunity to provide any comment and addendum prior to the report being submitted to the CSSC Manager for an approval decision.



Continued...

There should be no surprises to the kinship applicant when they receive the report to read as any issues/concerns should be discussed with the kinship applicant throughout the process.

By having these conversations during the process, it enables the applicant to respond and for strategies to be discussed and explored about how these may be managed.



Additional kin approvals - form 3D

The streamlined carer assessment for approved kinship carers will focus on:

- ▶ the kinship relationship between the carer and the child
- ▶ the carer's ability to achieve case plan goals for keeping the child safe.
- ▶ This requires updated information to inform the decision to approve or refuse the application, including information about:
 - ▶ changes to the carer's personal circumstances since the previous carer assessment report, including adult household members and their current blue card number (refer to [Respond to a new adult household member](#))
 - ▶ the views of the child about the proposed care arrangement, refer to [Obtain the views of the child and parents](#)
 - ▶ the views of the CSO and the foster and kinship care service provider who have been in contact with the carer since the previous assessment (and information about the frequency and nature of their contact)
 - ▶ the additional supports the carer may require to meet the needs of the child.
- ▶ No CSU checks are required for subsequent Kin approvals
- ▶ No Carer Health and Wellbeing is required



Represent • Advocate • Inform • Support • Excel

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NB: This training is a Queensland Foster and Kinship Care tool.

Policies and Procedures do change over time.

All efforts are made to provide accurate information at time of training.