

Quarter Times

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Issue 18 Thursday 27th November

Important Dates and Reminders:

Friday 28 th November	Assembly – 2:30pm
Wednesday 3 rd December	QPS Market Day
Wednesday 3 rd December	Enquiry Open Afternoon
Friday 5 th December	Student Free Day – NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL
Tuesday 9 th December	Statewide Transition Day
Wednesday 10 th December	Zooper Dooper Day - \$1.00
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Concert 9:00am – 10:30am
Monday 15 th December	Grade 6 Graduation Day
Tuesday 16 th December	Grade 6 Big Day Out
Thursday 18 th December	Gold Assembly 9:00am
Friday 19 th December	Last Day of School – Students Dismissed at 1:00pm



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Principals Message

Dear Families,

What You Need to Know About the New Under-16 Social Media Rules

What's Changing

- From **10 December 2025**, many social media platforms will be required to prevent Australians under 16 from having accounts.
- The law doesn't penalise children or parents — the responsibility and penalties (up to AU\$49.5 million) fall on the social media companies if they don't comply.
- Platforms must take "*reasonable steps*" to deactivate existing under-16 accounts and block new ones
- There's **no requirement** to verify every user's age by default; platforms only need to use reasonable methods.

Which Platforms Are Affected

According to the eSafety Commissioner, the following are listed as **age-restricted** under the new rules:

- Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Reddit, Kick, Threads, Twitch.
- Some platforms are **excluded**: for example, services primarily for messaging or gaming are **not** age-restricted under this law — these include WhatsApp, Discord, Roblox, Messenger, Google Classroom, YouTube Kids, and more.

What This Means for Under-16s / Your Kids

- If your child is under 16 and already has an account on a restricted platform, their account may be **deactivated**.
- They will likely **get a chance to download their data** before any deactivation.
- When they turn 16, they *can* reactivate their account (subject to age verification).
- Even without an account, under-16s will still be able to **view public content** on many platforms (i.e., content that doesn't require login).
- They can continue using **messaging apps and gaming platforms** that are exempt, so they're not being cut off entirely.

Why This Was Introduced

- The new rules are part of a broader push to protect young people from some of the harms of social media — especially design features that **encourage excessive screen time** or expose them to harmful content.
- The government and eSafety believe it's a "safer starting age" for social media use.

Concerns & Challenges

- Platforms don't need to verify *every* user's age, which means some under-16 accounts could slip through
- Age-verification methods are still being worked out. Options could include selfie-based age estimation, ID upload, or other "reasonable alternatives."



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How Parents Can Help

1. **Talk with your child now.** Use this as an opportunity to have open conversations about why these changes are happening, and what safe, healthy social media use looks like.
2. **Encourage backup of important data.** If they have accounts on affected platforms, help them download photos, messages or other content they might want to keep.
3. **Explore alternatives.** Since many messaging and gaming platforms are *not* restricted, these might be good options for social connection.
4. **Stay informed.** Keep up to date via the eSafety website — they have guidance, FAQs, and resources specifically for parents.
5. **Support well-being.** Use this as a chance to encourage offline activities and mental-health supports.

Key Dates & Action Steps for Parents

- **10 December 2025:** The law comes into force.
- **Before then:** Talk to your children, help them back up data, and decide together how to manage their online presence.
- **Ongoing:** Monitor how platforms respond, and check-in with eSafety for updates or resources.

This is a significant shift in how social media will be regulated in Australia — and it creates both opportunities and challenges. For parents, it's more than just managing risk: it's a chance to guide children into healthy digital habits, fostering resilience and understanding around the online world.



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Grade structure for 2026

We are expecting an enrolment over 530 students for 2026. This means we are growing by 5 extra grades next year. We are still busy recruiting and hope by the end of the year to finishing our staffing profile. Until then this is what it looks like but please remember this is a draft as circumstances can change quickly and we may need to make changes. We welcome many new teachers and say goodbye to other.

Grade	Classes	Teachers assigned (as of 26/22/25)
Prep	6 classes	Amy Davis Kennice Dionisio Aleisha Maas Deb McCarthy Bridie King (4 days) /Danielle Flanigan (1 day) TBC
1/2 Team	8 classes	John McHaffie Kellie Fillis Sue Warner Niomi Jamous Rachel Leahy Cee-Ann Moses Jenny Nguyen Amber Cross Prep – 2 sub school leader - Aisha Davis
3/4 Team	7 classes	Adam Choudhury Emma Cope David Truong Steph Quarrier Linda Norindr Cassie Williams Anita Tehrani
5/6 Team	5 classes	Seonaid Hobbs (4 days) / Danielle Flanigan (1 day) Mel Den Elzen Kerry Hutchinson TBC TBC 3-6 sub school leader – Danni Hofinger
Specialists	5 specialists	Digi Tech – De Gilliland PE – Dale Carroll Music – Tyler Naylor Arts – Sarah Sullivan Food Tech/Science - TBC

We are adding a new specialists to our team with music and Food Tech/Science.



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We say farewell to these teachers and thank them for their work at QPS. We wish them all the best at their new schools or careers.

Joe Rasasane – Carwatha College

Deshani Fernando – 12 months leave

Sara Berardo – 12 months leave

Danielle Tibenszky – Strathaird PS

Sarah Wilson – Kuyim PS

On December 9th, QPS will have its bump up day when students will meet their new teacher and classroom. Grades are almost complete and as they are very complex to manage and organise, we are unable to take on requests for teachers or grades. Thank you for your understanding.

If your child is not returning on Wednesday 28th January 2026 but will still be returning to QPS at a later date, please come into the office and fill in a form so we have evidence of the absence as required by our processes.

Exciting News!

In 2026 QPS welcomes TK Tuckshop as a lunch provider on Mondays and Fridays each week. It will start operation in week 2 of term 1 and parents will be able to use an app to order lunches.

Further instructions will be provided in the first week of the 2026 school year when the app goes live. Many thanks to our Business Manager Michelle Siwes for researching and organising and to the school council for approving.

Welcome TK Tuckshop!

Have a great end to week 8!

Liz Davey

Principal



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Teaching and Learning News

MASTERCLASS



Meet our Masterclass Students, who have been working really hard on researching and implementing change at Quarters Primary School around Global Sustainability Development Goal number 3 – Good health and Wellbeing.

The masterclass students have collected data, analysed data and then created an action plan regarding SDG number 3.

Throughout the year students have been to several Masterclass sessions with other schools in the Casey area and have learnt valuable lessons in presentation and marketing. They have received, given and acted on feedback that other schools have given them along the way and on Friday 28th November will present their findings and implementation plan at the final presentation.

We wish them luck and look forward to seeing their valuable research and work continue at Quarters Primary school where they hope to receive a community grant to purchase equipment for students to borrow at lunch and recess times to encourage movement and an active lifestyle.

Stay tuned next newsletter for a recap from the Masterclass of their experience in the sessions and the final presentation.



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Wellbeing and Inclusion News

Bump Up Day

On Tuesday 9th December we look forward to our Bump Up Day. We will welcome our 2026 Prep students for their fourth and final transition session for the year, our current Prep to Grade 5 students will meet their 2026 class teachers and classmates and our Grade 6 students will attend their Statewide Transition Day.

Tips to Supporting Your Child's Transition to a New Class and Teacher As we approach the end of the school year and begin preparing for a new school year, children will be transitioning into a new class or new school with different teachers. While this can be an exciting time, it can also bring about feelings of uncertainty and anxiety. As parents, you play a crucial role in helping your child navigate this change with confidence and ease. Here are some ways you can support your child during this time of transition:

Talk About the Transition

Encourage open conversations about the upcoming change. Ask your child how they feel about moving to a new class, a new school and meeting new teachers. Reassure them that it's normal to feel nervous and that they are not alone in their feelings. Help them focus on the positive aspects, such as new opportunities to learn and make new friends.

Foster a Growth Mindset

Reframe challenges as opportunities for growth. Encourage your child to see this transition as an exciting opportunity to learn new things. Remind them that every new situation is a chance to become stronger and more adaptable.

Meeting New Teacher

Ensure your child attends school on Tuesday 9th December so they can be a part of Bump Up Day. They will meet their new teacher and spend time with their classmates. This will support your child to feel more comfortable and familiar with their transition.

On Tuesday 9th December, our Grade 6 students will attend their Statewide Transition Day and go directly to their 2026 secondary school for the day. Parents and carers should have received information from secondary schools outlining information about this day.

Establish a Routine

Stability is key to easing anxiety. Help your child get back into their school routine before the term starts. This includes going to bed on time, preparing school supplies, and practicing the morning routine. A consistent and predictable schedule can help children feel more secure and ready for the day ahead.

Encourage Independence

While it's important to offer reassurance, it's equally important to foster independence. Encourage your child to take responsibility for their morning routine – preparing their uniform, packing their bag with their lunch, drink bottle, hat and take-home reader bag, and managing their time to arrive to school on time. This will help build their confidence and promote independence that will transfer into their school day.

Stay Positive and Be Patient

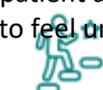
Transitions take time, and each child adjusts at their own pace. Celebrate small wins, such as making a new friend or participating in class activities. Be patient and understanding as your child settles into the new routine and remember that it's okay for them to feel unsettled at first.



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Student Support Group Meetings (SSGs)

For families of students that have regular Students Support Group meetings (SSGs), these are being scheduled in Weeks 9 and 10. These meetings are a great opportunity for families to meet with class teachers, Education Support staff and the Wellbeing and Inclusion Team to discuss student progress against goals in Term 4. Please double check the Sentral Parent Portal for your SSG date and time and we look forward to meeting over the next fortnight.

SEL STAR Award Recipients

Congratulations to our SEL STAR award recipients from weeks 5 and 6. These students are being acknowledged for demonstrating our ACHIEVE values and making positive contributions to our school community.



Grade	SEL Star Award Recipients Weeks 5 and 6
Prep A	Luna
Prep B	Sayed
Prep C	Ruby
Prep D	Zavian
1/2A	Devaki
1/2B	Anvitha
1/2C	Zade
1/2D	Faisal
1/2E	Rehmat
1/2F	Asher
1/2G	Ava
3/4A	Zara
3/4B	Livleen
3/4C	Keyaan
3/4D	Sudis
3/4E	Sam
5/6A	Sehajpreet
5/6B	Jack
5/6C	Adelaide
5/6D	Steven
5/6E	Marniya

Specialist Awards – Weeks 5 and 6	
PE	Prep C
Visual Arts	Prep A
Auslan	5/6C
DigiTech	1/2D

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Attendance and Uniform

“Wear the right uniform, stand out like a STAR!”

At QPS we strive to be our very best! This includes all learners wearing the correct uniform every day. Learners at QPS wear a school uniform so our local community can identify us from the surrounding schools. Our school uniform represents respect, pride and unity.

This week too we continue to do a blitz on school uniform. It has been pleasing to see so many of our students wearing full school uniform and with their hats every day!

Wearing school uniform is compulsory at Quarters Primary School. Wearing a uniform develops a sense of belonging and promotes equality in our learning community. All learners proudly wearing the uniform helps set a positive tone for our school culture.

We ask learners and families to assist in improving the current uniform by ensuring you are prepared for your school day the night before. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in our ‘uniform blitz’.

Jewellery and cosmetics

Students are not permitted to wear decorative jewellery to school. Stud earrings and sleepers worn in the ears, and watches, are the only acceptable jewellery.



Our uniform policy is available to view on the Quarters Primary School Website. If you are experiencing any difficulty in purchasing uniform, please come and chat at the reception with our friendly office staff.

POSTIVIE CHRONICLES ON SENTRAL PORTAL

Our learners do amazing things every day, and we wanted to make it easier for you to hear about it.

Every time we see something amazing focusing our # ACHIEVE Values from our learners, we record it as a **Positive Chronicle** on Sentral Portal.

Now, when your child receives a Positive Chronicle, you'll receive an email to let you know. Full details about your child's actions will be available on Sentral.

We are very proud of all our learners every day, and we are happy that it is now easier for us to share this with you too.



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Attendance and Punctuality

Become a **HERO** in 2025!
**Here, Everyday, Ready to Learn
and On time**



Regular attendance and punctuality at school are crucial for student success, as they help learners stay on track academically, socially, and developmentally. School not only enables your child to acquire new knowledge but also teaches important social skills and how to interact with others.

At Quarters Primary School we aim is to promote the importance of attendance across the school community. It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers.

If you are not at school you miss on lots of learning, fun activities and playing with your friends. Sometimes it can be hard to go to school and there may be many reasons you feel this way. Whatever the situation is, staying away from school isn't the answer. Everyone cares for our learners at QPS, there are lots of people who want to help, try talking to:

- Class teacher
- QPS well-being Team

Congratulations!! A BIG congratulations to all the learners who had 96% or better attendance for the first 8 weeks of the term. We love celebrating consistent attendance! Congratulations to the below 3 grades for having great attendance for Weeks 7 and 8 for Term 4.

1. Prep B	2. 12B	3. 34B
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Well done to all are QPS class attendance heroes!



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School Celebrations



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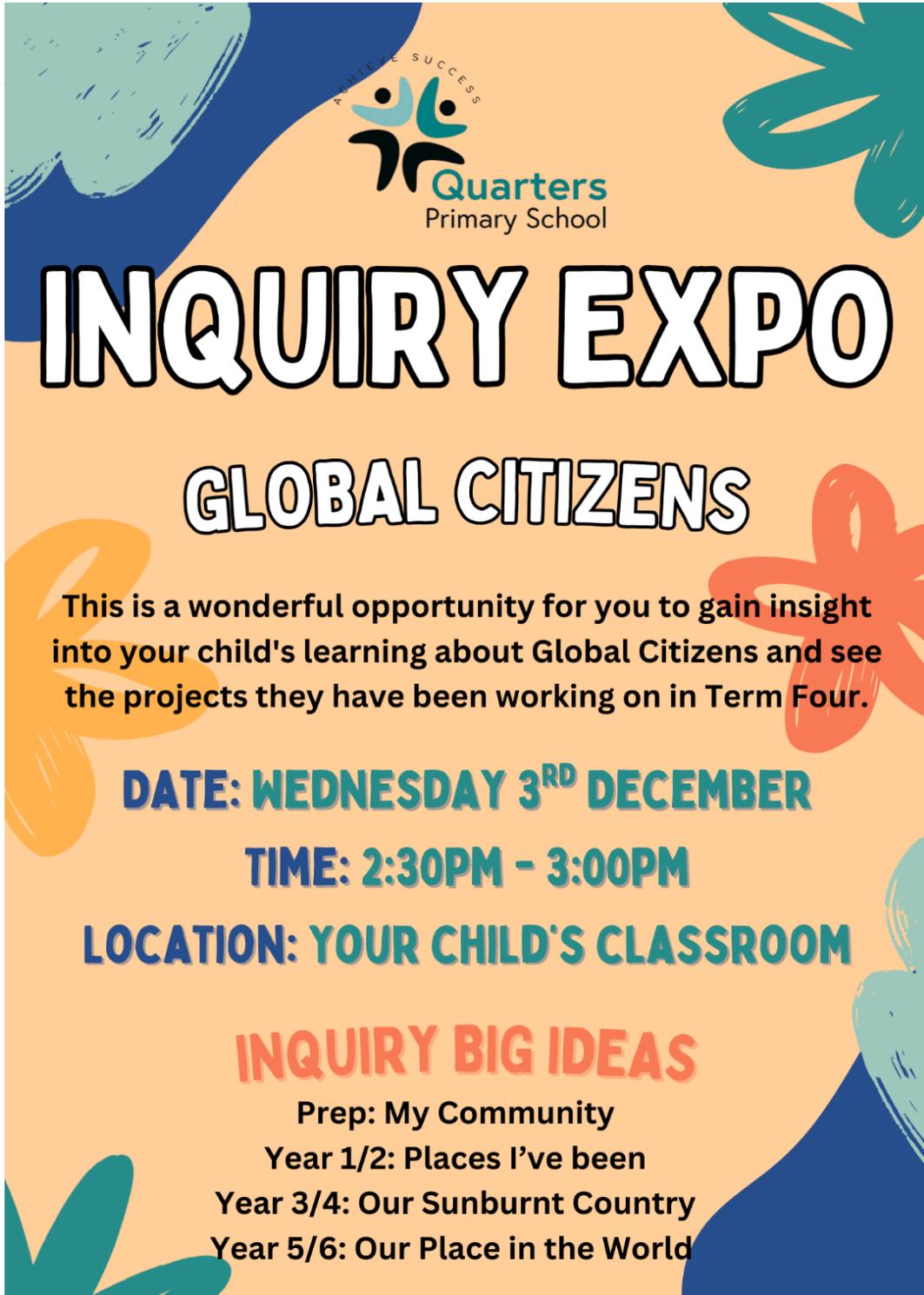
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Parents and carers are welcome to join us for our Inquiry Open Afternoon on Wednesday, 3rd December. Please come to your child's classroom between 2:30 – 3:00pm for a wonderful opportunity for you to gain insight into your child's learning about Global Citizens and see the projects they have been working on in Term Four. During this time, you will have the chance to visit each of your child's classrooms while the students stay in their respective learning environment. Please note that year 5/6 learners will be in the gym showcasing their market stalls.



The poster features a vibrant background with abstract shapes in teal, orange, and blue. At the top center is the school logo, which includes a stylized figure and the text 'ACHIEVE SUCCESS' in a semi-circle above 'Quarters Primary School'. The main title 'INQUIRY EXPO' is written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below it, 'GLOBAL CITIZENS' is also in bold white letters with a black outline. A paragraph of text describes the event as a chance to gain insight into a child's learning about Global Citizens. The date, time, and location are listed in bold teal letters. At the bottom, 'INQUIRY BIG IDEAS' is written in bold orange letters, followed by a list of topics for different year levels.

ACHIEVE SUCCESS
Quarters
Primary School

INQUIRY EXPO

GLOBAL CITIZENS

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to gain insight into your child's learning about Global Citizens and see the projects they have been working on in Term Four.

DATE: WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER
TIME: 2:30PM - 3:00PM
LOCATION: YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM

INQUIRY BIG IDEAS

Prep: My Community
Year 1/2: Places I've been
Year 3/4: Our Sunburnt Country
Year 5/6: Our Place in the World



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Grade News – Prep

FIRE RESCUE VICTORIA
INCURSION

On the 17th of November and the 24th of November our prep students had a visit from two firefighters from Fire Rescue Victoria, as part of our Inquiry unit on 'Community Helpers'. They learnt a lot about fire safety and were able to talk about the difference between good fires and bad fires. Learners practised how to 'Get Down Low and GO GO GO', how to 'Drop, Cover and Roll' and had a turn at using the fire hose! All the preps had an amazing time and enjoyed taking home some fun activities from the firefighters.



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Specialist News – Digi Tech



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Social Media Age Restrictions for Families

24/11/2025

What is happening, when and why?

From **10 December 2025**, social media platforms must take reasonable steps to deactivate social media accounts held by children under 16 and prevent new accounts. A "social media platform" is one that enables social connection and user interaction.

The Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 introduced these restrictions to delay exposure to social media risks and to allow time for digital literacy and maturity.

Which platforms are affected?

As of November 2025, the following platforms are included:

- Facebook • Instagram • Snapchat • TikTok • X (formerly Twitter)
- YouTube • Threads • Reddit • Kick • Twitch

This list is subject to review. Platforms may be added or removed over time. Children under 16 can still use **YouTube Kids** and view regular **YouTube** without logging in (with limited functionality).

Will children under 16 break the law if they continue using social media?

No. Children, parents, carers, and teachers will not face penalties. Platforms are responsible for enforcement and may face fines if they fail to comply.

What about existing content?

Platforms may deactivate accounts for users under 16 instead of deleting them, but this is not guaranteed. Encourage your child to download any data they want to keep (such as posts, chats, photos, and videos) before December 10.

Can under-16s bypass the limit?

No system is perfect, and some children under 16 may try to bypass age restrictions, similar to other age restricted activities. Platforms must take steps to prevent this, including blocking fake IDs, AI tools, deepfakes, and VPNs that disguise location.



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Social Media Age Restrictions for Families

24/11/2025

How will age be checked?

Each platform will choose its own methods for age checks, guided by eSafety's regulatory advice and international best practices.

Platforms must follow the Online Safety Act and Privacy Act when handling personal information, and they cannot force Australians to use government-issued IDs – reasonable alternatives must be offered.

They should also have processes to fix mistakes, allow reporting of underage accounts, and provide reviews if someone is wrongly restricted.

How can I support my child?

- Explain what is happening and reassure children they are not breaking the law.
- Help them reflect on what they enjoy online and find alternatives.
- Be aware some may turn to gaming, messaging apps, or AI chatbots – check ratings, privacy settings, and risks.
- Report any cyber bullying to the platform or [eSafety](#). For further support, consult a healthcare provider, [Kids Helpline](#), [Dolly's Dream Support Line](#), or a [parent helpline](#).

For more information visit: www.esafety.gov.au



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Community News

It's almost that time of year again! We wish all our treasured school communities – staff, parents & carers, children & young people – a safe and happy Christmas.

MacKillop Family Services foster carers ensure that some of the 9,210 children in Victoria living away from their families for safety reasons, are also able to share in the joy of Christmas.

Our need for foster carers who can provide a temporary nurturing and supportive home for vulnerable children in their local community has never been greater.

Foster carers come from all walks of life. They can be working full or part-time, retired, married or single, in same-sex relationships, and can own or rent their home. MacKillop supports our carers with comprehensive training, ongoing advice, respite care and an around the clock helpline.

If you would like to know more, call MacKillop Family Services on 1300 791 677 or visit mackillop.org.au/fostercare.



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