**Described Transcript – Debbie and Steve’s long-form video**

**Audio Description:** A full screen graphic shows Debbie and Steve smiling to camera, on a light purple geometric background. Their names and description appear underneath them: ‘Debbie and Steve, 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 Debbie and Steve, walking through their garden. It is filled with greenery and potted plants. Each of them carries a mug of tea. A graphic animates onto the bottom of the screen, which reads “The child identified in this video is not in care”.

**Debbie:** We are Debbie and Steve and we've been foster carers for 21 years. We have five biological children. There's three living at home. I have two foster children and we also do respite, so over the weekends.

**Audio Description:** Steve and Debbie stand together in the garden. Steve has his arm around Debbie, and he is smiling at her. We cut to an interview-style set up with Debbie, sitting in the living room.

**Debbie:** Out of all the years, majority of the concern that keeps coming up is, "I'm scared of getting attached and then having to pass them on." I had exactly the same, I'm a mother, it's just a natural reaction that you would have. Don't let that stop you from thinking about becoming a foster carer because you got to remember, you know, what impact you can put into that child's life. As long as you've got that love, that care, that compassion, and patience and time, you can become a carer.

**Audio Description:** Debbie is making a child’s bed. She smooths out the sheets, and then lays out another blanket. She places some colourful, emoji-shaped pillows at the head of the bed.

**Steve:** My wife and I, we both do various shift working. We have that flexibility. We get an allowance from the department and that's classed as a reimbursement. We're there to look after the child and provide for them a nice environment. Spend time with them, do things with them, take them out, give them a nice, warm bed, and plenty of food.

**Audio Description:** Steve is in the kitchen preparing dinner. He stands at the bench wearing an apron, cutting up meat on a chopping board. Once he is finished, he washes his hands in the sink. The shots cuts to Steve in an interview-style set up, sitting an outdoor chair.

**Steve:** The whole aim of the child is to be able to eventually reunite back home with either the parents or with kinship carers. It can be sad sometimes, to see children leave, but you got to understand what's best for them. It's not about us.

**Audio Description**: Various homely shots. A plaque reading “Home: The most wonderful place to be”. A gemstone sign reading “Love”. A circular wooden carving embossed with a tree, and reading “Home Sweet Home”.

**Steve:** We're not there to take them away from mum or dad or nan or pop, it's just because of the situation they're in at this time and that's what we're there to provide, a sheltered environment just for everything to get sorted out in the meantime. For people thinking about becoming carers, the foster care training prepares you for it. We're very much needed in society. Without us, where would the kids go?

**Audio Description**: Steve sits on a couch, talking to Debbie. Debbie nurses a child in her lap. We cannot see the identity of this child. A non-descript children’s cartoon plays in the background on the TV. Debbie’s daughter sits next to her, and she strokes the child’s hand softly.

**Debbie:** There'll be sad cases and there will be happy cases, so it'll be happy tears and there'll be sad tears. So when we do get that phone call and you hear about a case and you know it's going to fit in with your family, it's like, "Let's give it a go." For the last few years, we've been discussing regarding taking another child on that had more high medical needs.

**Audio Description:** Steve & Debbie’s daughter is sitting next to a high needs child in a wheelchair. They are watching the fish together in a large fish tank. The daughter points out fish to the child, and gently strokes his forehead.

**Debbie:** For a few years, it was, you know, the children weren't ready and it was only the last, oh, probably within this year, my children actually came to me and said, "Mum, this is what you really want to do, let's do it. I think we're ready." And it's like, "Okay. Let's do it."

**Audio Description:** Debbie stands at the child’s bedside. The child is laying in bed. She gently stretches and massages their child’s legs.

**Steve:** We'll keep doing it for as long as we can. It's been a big life change for me. It's been one for the better. Seeing our own children grow up in this environment, it's been an amazing experience for them along the way too.

**Audio Description:** The shot cuts back to Steve standing in the kitchen, looking down and smiling as he cooks. A series of shots. A chalk board with the message “You may not be perfect but you’re the best limited edition I’ve ever had”. A plaque reading “Mummy you are The Greatest”.

**Debbie:** All I can say is, out of the whole 21 years, we wouldn't change anything. There's always been ups and downs, but overall we've just loved every experience that we've had and every child that we've had in our care.

**Audio Description:** Debbie gently placies a child’s arm into a supportive brace. She smiles and talks to the child as she does so. We cut to a shot of Debbie gently nursing the child in a soft embrace. 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.