# New resource explaining permanency

For children (4–8 years)

[front cover]

Your long-term care

**Information for children**

## [inside cover]

All kids need a safe home to live in and people who care for them.

If it is not safe for you to live at home, it is our job to find someone who can look after you.

We will talk to you, your parents, your carer, and other people who are important to you, about who will care for you.

The person who will look after you is called your guardian.

Your guardian will be someone you know and trust, like someone from your family or community, or your carer. You will live with them until you turn 18.

Your parents will always be your parents. Your guardian will make sure you are safe and cared for every day.

## **Do I get a say in who looks after me?**

Yes. You will have a say about who will look after you.

Your Child Safety Officer will talk with you and listen to what you say. They might have to tell other people about what you say and how you are feeling.

If you are worried about the person who may be your guardian, you should tell your Child Safety Officer about how you feel.

When we have made a plan about where you will live and who will look after you, we will ask the Childrens Court to make the final decision.

**How will my guardian care for me?**

## Your guardian will make decisions about the important things in your life. You can have your say on all these things too.

Your guardian will do many of the things that your Child Safety Officer does now, like:

* making sure you are cared for in the right way
* keeping you connected to your culture
* making sure you are healthy
* deciding where you go to school.

**Can I still see my family?**

Yes. Your guardian will:

* tell your parents where you live, if it is safe to do so
* talk to your parents about how you are going
* let you see your family and other important people in your life.

**Who can I talk to if my guardian is not looking after me?**

If you feel your guardian is not looking after you, there are people you can ask for help.

Here are some of the people you can talk to:

* + - * Child Safety Officer — You can talk to a Child Safety Officer who lives near you.

Phone: 1800 811 810

* Office of the Public Guardian — You can talk to a person called a Community Visitor or a Child Advocate

Phone: 1800 661 533

Text: 0418 740 186 E

Email: publicguardian@publicguardian.qld.gov.au

* You can also make a complaint to our Complaints Unit

Phone: 1800 080 464

Email: feedback@cyjma.qld.gov.au