**Described Transcript – Tahnee and Shailen’s long-form video**

**Audio Description:** A full screen graphic shows Tahnee and Shailen smiling to camera, on a light orange geometric background. Their names and description appear underneath them: ‘Tahnee and Shailen, foster carers’. There is a Queensland Foster and Kinship Care logo in the bottom left of screen, and a Queensland Government logo on the bottom right of screen. Mellow piano music plays. The image transitions to show Tahnee smiling at a child sitting in a toy car. Various shots of Shailen pushing the child in the toy car along the grass in their backyard. The shot cuts to a young child playing with geometric toy shapes on the carpet. We cannot see the identity of the children. The shot cuts to Shailen sitting in an interview-style set up at a dining room table.

**Shailen:** We are Tahnee and Shailen, and we have been foster carers for seven years. Our family's currently made up of two biological children and three foster children who are primary placements with us. Going into caring before actually having our own children was quite interesting. We were quite young at the time when we first started caring.

**Audio Description:** Shailen is playing with the young child on the carpet. He holds up one of the geometric shapes to his face, looking at the child through the transparent coloured centre. Tahnee sits with them, laughing. She helps the child stack the shapes on the floor, playing with them. The shot cuts to Tahnee sitting in an interview-style set up next to a kitchen bench.

**Tahnee:** We started as kinship and then we did some respite. Reunification is always the key, obviously, with foster care, and being able to be a part of that and a lot of people be like, "How do you give them back?" Well, actually, it's easy. When you get to work so closely with a family and see the progress that not only the child's making, but the parents are making to be able to be the parent that they need to be for the child is probably one of the most amazing things that you get to watch. I don't have any special talents or anything like that.

**Audio Description:** A series of homely shots. A wooden toy box full of toys. A soft toy sitting on top of a shelf. A plush doll being tucked into one of the children’s beds. A photo frame with various pictures, surrounding the word “Family” in a cursive font. Shailen pulls clean washing out of a dryer, and places them into a washing basket. He sits down on the couch, and starts folding the clothes.

**Shailen:** We have a really good support network around us. We've got my wife's family, my family. We've also got a lot of, you know, friends who are really supportive and able to help out where we need. As you're starting out, sort of go for a certain age range of children that you feel comfortable with or that you feel that you can adequately care for. It's really good in terms of the support that we get from the Department of Child Safety, our agency, NDIS, in terms of making sure that the kids have what they need, any sort of support for the health or wellbeing.

**Audio Description:** Tahnee and Shailen sitting next to each other at a dining table. A support worker is sitting in front of them, writing down notes on a clipboard. They are having a friendly discussion, and they all nod and smile together. There is a close up shot as Tahnee leads the discussion.

**Tahnee:** Because kids in care, they come with a lot of extra needs and they need a lot of different supports. And there is financial support that you do get with foster care, and there is different allowances that you can get depending on your child. And we get basic allowances for them, but we do get an additional allowance for one of our other children, because she does have a disability. I definitely don't think I could have done it without all the support. Shailen works full-time, I work part-time two days a week, but we make it work. The kids go to kindy, we have a lot of help from friends when we need it, and my workplace is super supportive.

**Audio Description:** Tahnee is walking along a pathway in a park, holding a child in one arm and pushing a child in a wheelchair with the other. We cannot see the identity of the children. We reach a playground, and the child in the wheelchair starts to push their own chair. Tahnee holds a child in one arm, whilst pushing another child on a swing set. The shot cuts to Shailen who is opening the fridge whilst holding a child. The shot cuts to him scooping avocado into a bowl with a spoon.

**Shailen:** There is a significant amount of training that is provided, and it goes through all sorts of things like teaching you different parenting tactics, making you aware of how you need to care for children who may be suffering from trauma. When you do have challenging children and you do sort of help them overcome a certain challenging aspect of their life, it is really rewarding to be a part of that.

**Audio Description:** Shailen stands at the kitchen counter, feeding the avocado to a young child who sits opposite him at the kitchen bench. The shot cuts to Tahnee making a child’s bed.

**Tahnee:** Whether you can only care for one child or you can care for 10 children, you're going to make one child's life different. And if you can change a life of one child, it's worth it.

**Audio Description:** Various shots of Tahnee, Shailen and the children playing with playdough; Tahnee laughing, children’s hands squishing out playdough, Tahnee and Shailen making shapes, a child mixing multiple playdough colours together.

**Shailen:** Foster caring has definitely changed my life. It is rewarding, being able to have an impact positively in even the smallest way on a child's life.

**Audio Description:** A child is running towards a rainbow water sprinkler toy that has been set up in the backyard. They splash in the water. Another child plays with a toy boat, sitting in front of the sprinkle. We cannot see the identities of the children.

**Tahnee:** I definitely enjoy what we do as foster carers, and for now, we're having an amazing experience and we adore all of the children that we've had the pleasure of being placed with us. And whether they've gone home or whether they are staying with us long term, it's been amazing for us. I would do it over and over again.

**Audio Description:** A child stands in the middle of the sprinkler, holding a bucket. Shailen is pouring water into the bucket. A toy car is placed in the foreground, while two children play with a bucket in the background. 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.