

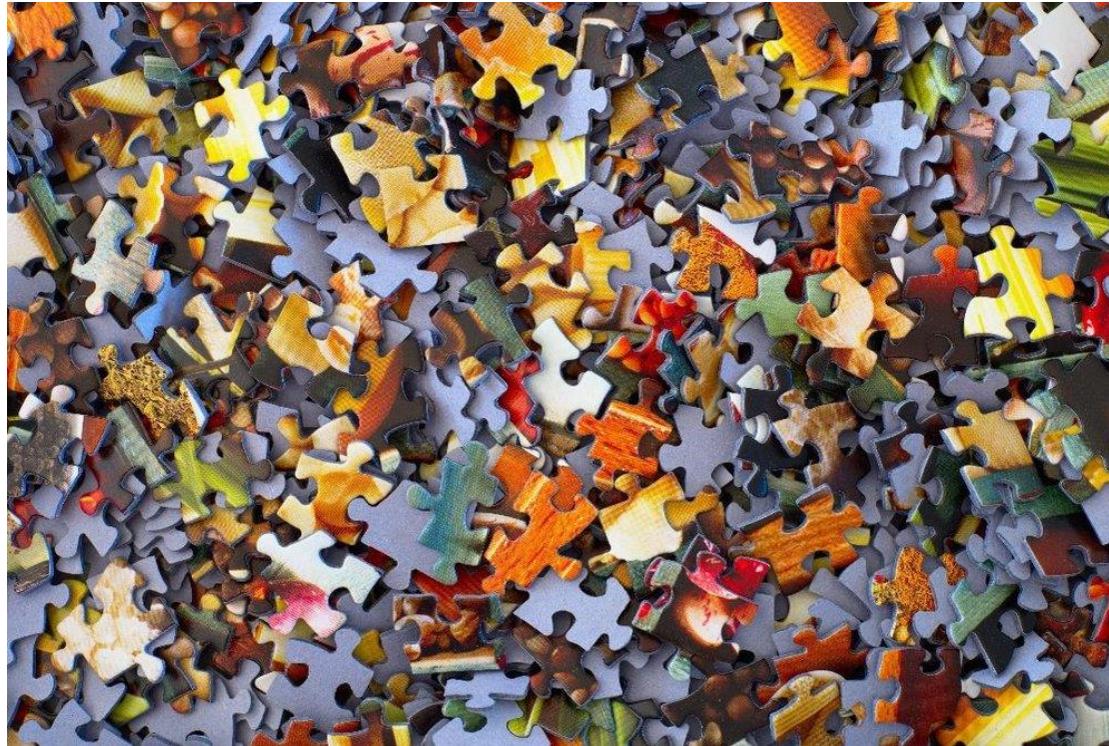
# HOPE

IN THIS HOUSE...  
WE DO **REAL**  
WE DO MISTAKES  
WE DO I'M SORRY  
WE DO **FUN**  
**WE DO HUGS**  
WE DO SECOND CHANCES  
WE DO **HAPPY**  
WE DO FORGIVENESS  
WE DO **FAMILY**  
WE DO **LOVE**

“I think that you should always hold hope, and everyone that comes into my care needs to know that we hold hope too.”



“The suitcase represents the journey that is taken because everyone has their own journey in life.”



“I believe we are all puzzle pieces to a big picture. However, the system is messy and at times we feel disconnected. There are many people doing the right thing for the child, however what is the right thing?”



“We lived in Mildura for 10 years. We had to leave that place abruptly to be with our mum in Adelaide. We revisited the place last year and met with friends and family members who still live there. It was a very emotional moment for us. Amongst all nostalgia, I wondered what it would be like for foster children to revisit their parents’ home?”



“We breed puppies. This was the picture of them before they left our home. It takes time and effort to raise them and during the process we build an attachment with them. Sometimes it is so painful to let them go. Similar to the foster children. They bring lot of joy in our life, but eventually they leave us. We must prepare ourselves to let them go.”



“Before entering foster care, these words summed up what we thought the job was all about.”



“When I started foster caring, I imagined it would be like going to the beach. I was so excited and so unaware of the complexities.”



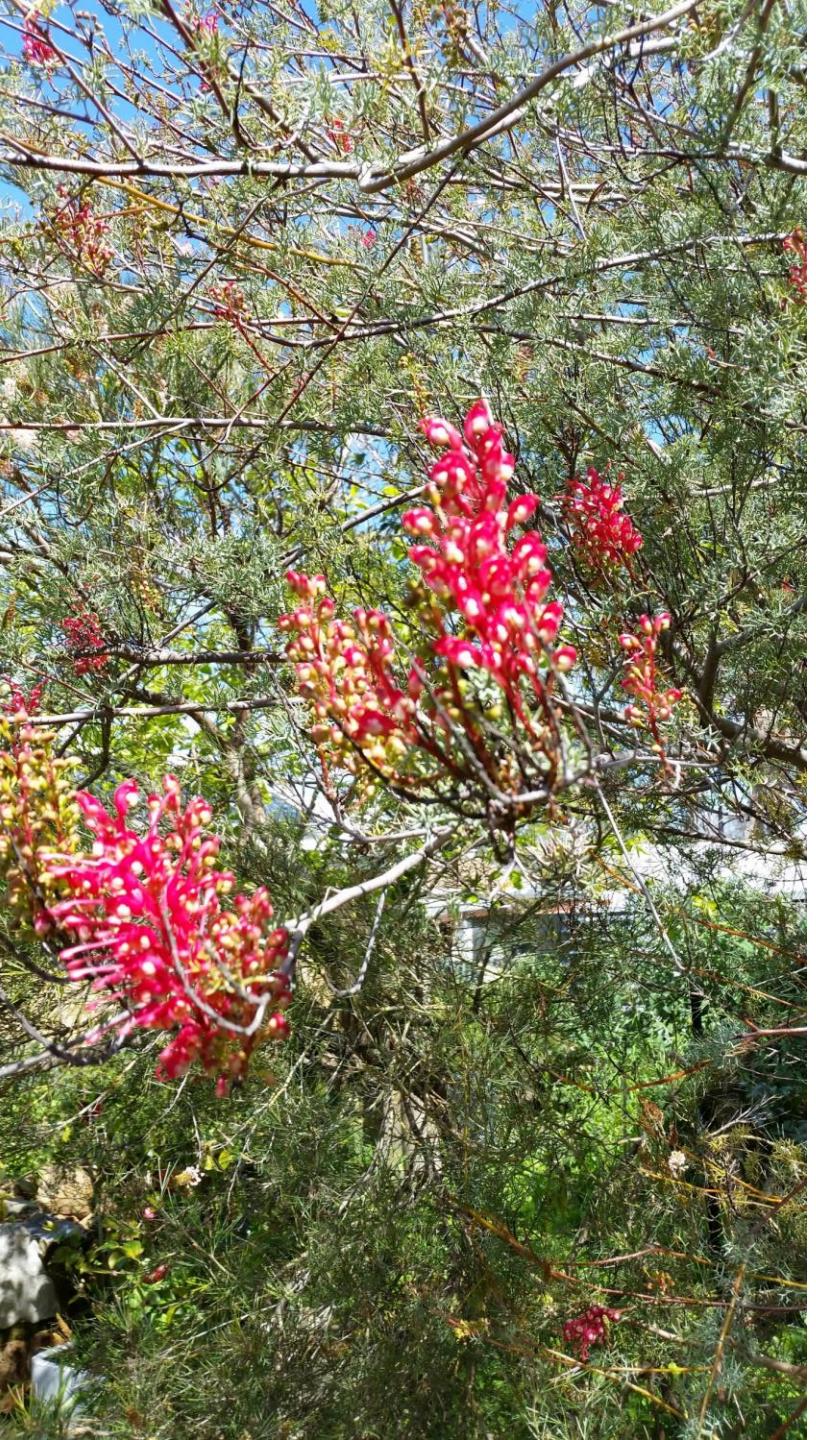
“As a foster carer, sometimes I feel like a kid on a bicycle. Super excited, but nervous and fearful at the same time. Foster caring is a journey full of: ups and downs, roundabouts and wrong ways, bumps and falls, but exciting and rewarding.”



“I think foster carers are ladders. So that children can get on top of their problems and become self-assured and a confident person in the future.”



“You never plant lettuce in cement. Yet, this lettuce is thriving, despite being in foreign conditions. If foster children provided proper opportunity, they can all blossom.”



“This is a desert grevillea from our garden, which finally has its moment of glory. Its gene pool has learnt to be persistent and beautiful in any environment. I relate this to my foster caring experience. We have our personal struggles, but with persistency and resilience we get to experience our moments of glory.”