**Described Transcript – Damian and Brad’s long-form video**

**Audio description:** A full screen graphic shows Damian and Brad smiling to camera, on a dark purple geometric background. Their names and description appear underneath them: ‘Damian and Brad, 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. Their image transitions to show Brad & Damian standing on deck outside, surrounded by trees. They each have a mug in their hand. The shot cuts to Brad sitting in an interview-style set up at a dining room table.

**Brad:** We are Brad and Damian, and we are foster carers. We started off by going to an information session and starting to understand a bit more about what foster care was and what, what it would look like. Then we were connected to a support agency.

**Audio description:** Brad and Damian continue to share a coffee on the deck outside. They are talking and smiling to each other.The shot cuts to Damian sitting in an interview-style set up at a dining room table.

**Damian:** Then we kind of started to understand that there were so many different types of foster situations, long-term, short-term care, respite care, so it was just this like world of like, oh my gosh, there's so much more to what you think foster might be.

**Audio description:** Damian is making a child’s bed and adding plush toys on top of the neatly folded sheets. He adds a throw blanket over the end of the bed.

**Brad:** As long as you can provide love to the children, and you can provide a safe, stable, loving home. Nobody actually cares what the makeup of your family looks like.

**Audio description:** Brad is carrying a child on his shoulders and looking up towards the child smiling. We can’t see the identity of the child. The shot cuts to the child playing on the grass, pushing a toy truck.

**Damian:** Foster carers can be anyone from all walks of life. Being part of a queer household, you kind of have these preconceived ideas in your head that you know, oh, like, "Are they going to let us have a kid? Because we're a gay couple?" It's been the complete opposite. We've had the most amazing support network.

**Audio description:** Damian is walking through a grassy backyard, holding a child’s hand. The shot cuts to a toy truck in the foreground, with Damian and the child walking in the background, out of focus. We cannot see the identity of the child.

**Brad:** There's a lot of unknowns, but at the end of the day, if you've got love, you've got capacity, you can do it.

**Audio description:** Damian, Brad and the children play with playdough. Damian and Brad are smiling. Various shots follow: Brad’s hands and a child’s hands while they play with playdough together, Brad moulding blue playdough into a circle, a child rolling playdough on a table, and Damian playing with an aeroplane toy and flying it towards the child.

**Damian:** We started figuring out what type of placement we wanted, like what age group did we want to look after, so we really wanted to try and take on a sibling group, so that we could kind of reunify siblings, and make sure that they got to stay together. We started getting to know the biological parents. One of our goals as foster carers was that we wanted to build that relationship, so that the kids could be connected to their biological family and know who they are. My husband and I, we both work full-time as well. Being a household with no kids, to then growing to three kids, things for us have really, really changed.

**Audio description:** Three children’s bikes are lined up on the outside deck. The shot cuts to a child riding one of the bikes on the deck. We cannot see the identity of the child. The child rides the bike towards Damian who has his arms open wide, catching the child as they approach him, and embracing them in a hug.

**Brad:** You have to be somewhat organised. The kids really thrive on routine and structure, and the structure really helps to support the children and help support us as well.

**Audio description:** Brad and Damian in the kitchen together. Brad is peeling a carrot and Damian is washing a bowl in the sink. Brad places chopped up carrots into a tin container. Damian is talking to Brad while washing the dishes. The shot cuts to Damian picking up children’s lunchboxes and putting them into their backpacks.

**Damian:** The biggest surprise for us was how much support we actually got. We also get ongoing training opportunities from them as well to help us because sometimes when you're getting kids, they might have more complex needs. They might be facing certain challenges. As a parent, you kind of need to upskill some of your knowledge on that, so that you can better support the kids when they're faced with some of those challenges.

**Audio description:** Brad and Damian seated on a couch in the lounge room of their house. Brad is showing Damian something on an iPad.

**Brad:** You are provided financial support by the department, and that really covers everything that you need to care for the child. The advice I would give to anyone who's thinking about foster care is get along to an information session. Start understanding more about what's involved, all of the different types of care that you can provide. Once you have the answers to those questions, you can start to understand what it would mean for you. The kids have just enriched our lives in so many ways.

**Audio description:** A shot of some homely items on top of a sideboard. A white photo frame with a quote inside it reading; “We might not be flesh + blood but we are all heart + soul”, a ceramic unicorn and a wooden merry-go-round. The shot cuts to a toy wooden horse, a blue-ribbon award reading “I’m a star”. The shot cuts to a child kicking their feet in the pool. Damian is smiling at the child and they kick their feet in the water.

**Damian:** And one of the other biggest things that I love is seeing my partner and myself, the way we've grown. It's been the greatest and the hardest thing we've ever done, but definitely the most rewarding.

**Audio description:** Damian is reading a book to a child. The child turns over a page.

**Brad:** You can just really feel the impact that you're having on the children's lives every single day.

**Audio description:** Damian continues to read to the child. 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.