

QAF case study – The importance of culture



THE YOUNG PERSON

Rafael is an Aboriginal 11 year old boy who has been in and out of care from the age of three months.

Initially Rafael was placed with his maternal grandmother, however due to her ongoing health issues Rafael was placed with a non-Aboriginal carer when he was five years old.

CASEWORK AND THE QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Rafael completed the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) Aboriginal Cultural Connections Questions in the Child and Young Person Questionnaire. This showed that Rafael was aware of his Aboriginality, he knew his mother was Aboriginal as well as knew what land he was from. In the questionnaire Rafael identified that he would like to learn more about his mob, communities of belonging, language and totems.

The caseworker was able to ascertain a level of cultural connection, how Rafael feels about his culture and who he currently learns about culture from. It also provided his caseworker and carer specific areas Rafael is interested in learning more about.

THE OUTCOME

The responses from the QAF Aboriginal Cultural Connections Questionnaire identified that Rafael wants to learn more about his culture. With this information his caseworker was able to update Rafael's Cultural Support Plan adding targeted activities.

Some of these activities were:

- Discussion with Rafael's school around cultural camps and activities which was updated in his Education Plan.
- Liaising with Rafael's birth family (who have Parental Responsibility for culture) on what cultural learning they need to plan for in future family time visit.
- Identifying people who could support Rafael and provide cultural information.
- Discussing the questionnaire outcomes with Rafael's carer who will support his cultural connections.
- Rafael's carer agreed with his case manager that she would like to focus on this as a project in their carer coaching and support sessions.

The carer and caseworker also agreed to use Rafael's responses from the next QAF Aboriginal Cultural Connections Questionnaire as a way to measure change.

Rafael's knowledge of his mob, language and sense of belonging is increasing as is his pride in being connected to one of the oldest nation's peoples in the world.

*Name/s changed to protect the privacy of individuals