**Described Transcript – Melissa and Scott’s long-form video**

**Audio Description:** A full screen graphic shows Melissa and Scott smiling to camera, on a light yellow geometric background. Their names and description appear underneath them: ‘Melissa and Scott, foster carers’. There is a Queensland Foster and Kinship Care logo and a Queensland Government logo on the bottom right of screen. Mellow guitar music plays. The image transitions to a black and white wedding photo of Melissa and Scott. A graphic animates onto the bottom of the screen, which reads “The teenage boys featured in this video are not in foster care.”

**Melissa:** We're Melissa and Scott and we're foster carers.

We pan across a wooden sign reading “Welcome”. It sits on a table with various Indigenous artefacts, including a desktop stand with the Torres Straight Island, Australian and Aboriginal flags. The shot cuts to an interview-style set up of Melissa.

**Melissa:** I identify as Indigenous. My side of the family is from Palm Island.

**Audio Description:** The shot cuts to Scott, in a similar interview-style set up to Melissa.

**Scott:** My mob is Kalkadoon. I'm from the Mount Isa region out through the West of Queensland.

**Audio Description:** A close up of a hand turning a dial on an oven. Melissa cracks open an egg into a glass measuring jug. She and a teenage boy are standing in the kitchen. Melissa is watching the teenager stirring a chocolate muffin mixture in a glass bowl.

**Melissa:** A foster carer is someone who can provide love, a home, a caring environment, a family environment.

**Scott:** There's all different types of foster care. Sometimes they might stay for a night or a weekend, a week, a month, and sometimes they might stay for 18 years.

**Audio Description:** Melissa lifts a muffin tray filled with the raw chocolate mixture. She places the muffin tray into the oven.

**Melissa:** We've been in foster care for over 16 years now. We first started kinship care. The minute I could have another child come in that we could help and provide a home to, then the doors opened.

**Audio Description:** Scott and another teenage boy walk towards a car sitting in the driveway. They are talking as the walk. Scott lifts the bonnet of the car.

**Scott:** We had five kids, three girls and two boys. So yeah, another one in the mix wasn't too hard to take. I wasn't sure whether we were cut out for it, whether we would be successful or we could help somebody else. The kids were a little bit scared at first, as we were. But yeah, we all got along pretty well. And yeah, it's just second nature now to the whole family.

**Audio Description:** Scott and the teenager continue to work on the car. They work on the engine, tightening bolts, and passing each other tools. They talk together as they work. Scott supervises as the teenager leans further into the bonnet.

**Melissa:** Scott and I are a team, we support each other. You know, times can be crazy and you're running one way and he's running the other, but everything comes together.

**Audio Description:** Melissa is walking in the backyard, tidying up toys that are spread across the lawn. She tidies some larger toys away underneath a large, wooden cubby house with a slide.

**Scott:** Our kids are very nurturing towards the other children, they're very accepting. I think the kids that come into our care are already quite accepting and thankful that somebody's reached out to them. And I think it'll make our children better adults.

**Audio Description:** Scott is tidying toys in a child’s bedroom. He picks up dolls off the floor and puts them into an open toy box. He places another pair of dolls onto the bed, next to a collection of other various soft toys.

**Melissa:** I love when a child first walks through your door and you give them that hug. They might be a little bit standoffish, like not sure, like who are you kind of thing, but then as time goes like that relationship and that trust that grows with you and that child, it makes you feel so... like your heart can't give any more love.

**Audio Description:** A wooden sign hangs on a screen door. It reads “Some call it chaos, we call it Family”.

**Melissa:** There is a huge need for more Indigenous carers, and every opportunity we get, we put out there how rewarding it is and how their choice to become a foster care can make a difference to an Indigenous child out there.

**Audio Description:** A series of shots. A close up of soft toy animals, with a traditional Indigenous dot design. A piece of Aboriginal artwork hangs on a wall. Close ups on a didgeridoo, and clap sticks, both decorated in traditional style.

**Scott:** It's important for the Indigenous children to have the connection with culture, so they can live it and carry it forward into the future. If the connection's broken, who's going to pick it up later?

**Audio Description:** Melissa is walking on an open bush track next to a creek, holding hands with a young child. Another two young children walk behind them, followed by Scott. We cannot see the identities of these children.

**Scott:** If you're thinking about becoming a foster carer and you're Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, please, please have a go. It's a very, very rewarding thing to do. We feel very blessed to have the children in our care, to have that opportunity.

**Audio Description:** Scott, Melissa and the three young children stand next to the creek, tossing pebbles into the water. They smile and laugh together, pointing out the ripples in the water to the children as they throw in the stones into the water.

**Melissa:** If you've got the love to give, a roof over your head that you can take someone in and give them that same experience, then go for it.

**Audio Description:** Melissa and Scott hold hands, walking through the park. They walk past a large snake sculpture, which they stop to admire.

**Scott:** I'm very proud to know that I come from an Aboriginal background and that I'm a Kalkadoon man and I'm a foster carer. The kids have taught me much more than I thought I could ever learn, and I feel blessed to have them. So this journey over 16 years has been absolutely fantastic. I hope it goes on for a lot longer.

**Audio Description:** Melissa and Scott walk with the young children along a footpath. They are all holding hands. 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.