



ANNE MORRISON

I am married to Darryn and have three beautiful daughters, one who is 20 and about to graduate as a registered nurse, one who is 17 and about to graduate from Cambridge High School and progress onto Waikato University, and our little 6 year old foster daughter who has been with us for two years now.

My husband and I became foster parents quite by accident to be fair. This little girl came to our house one day for a play in October 2021 and her mum just never came back. Oranga Tamariki got involved after conversations with her biological

grandmother and we were asked if we would consider keeping her with us. We really didn't spend too much time deciding - we were in a position to help, and it felt like the right thing to do.

Fostering is hard work, especially at the start of a child's journey of healing - there have been many ups and downs, but equally as many days of fun, laughter and enjoyment. We wouldn't change a thing. Our little girl is now at school and I have returned to work part time as a family violence prevention coordinator for Violence Free Waipa. This role is dear to my heart as it formed a big part of our little girl's life for her first four years.

I have over 25 years experience working in public health with high need communities, with about 15 of those in management roles and a further 7 1/2 years managing the business degree and graduate programmes at Wintec. I am also currently chair of the Cambridge Committee of Social Services.

I am passionate about making a difference, about standing up and speaking out, about being an advocate and giving a voice to those who sometimes feel they have none. Last year, at the Caring Families Aotearoa AGM there were no nominations for the vacant Foster Carer Member Representative on the Board. Following some conversations after that AGM, I was co-opted onto the Board and have been a co-opted member since December 2023. This year I am seeking formal election onto the Board from our Caring Families membership.

I want to ensure every child who is in our fostering system gains the best possible experience and every family who take on fostering are well supported, acknowledged and equally have the best possible experience. I want to "be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody".