



SAM BUTCHER

Kia ora everyone,

My name is Sam Butcher. I'm married to the lovely Jasmine Butcher and we are foster parents through the Open Home Foundation (OHF) in Christchurch.

We have two wonderful biological children, Bethany (6) and Eli (4). We've been actively fostering for about two years, having had a lively teenage boy for 3 months followed by wonderful 5 and 7 year old siblings who have been with us for 14 months in a shared care arrangement between OHF and Oranga Tamariki.

It would be an honour to serve you all and Caring Families Aotearoa at a time of great need in our communities and society, and I hope together we can empower great foster carers to do what they do so well. We've experienced the strain, mess and joy of being a caring family and I am keen to use my skills to support the sector. I was greatly encouraged and impressed by the white paper released last year and would love to support the mahi behind it even if only in a small way through this role.

My day job is in Business Analysis – understanding an organisation's needs, defining a future state that works for all stakeholders, and then supporting the journey of change through improvements to systems and processes. Usually this involves technology solutions, but doesn't always. I'm a consultant in this field, and currently work for Hato Hone St John in their Strategic Projects team.

Before becoming a Business Analyst I was a co-founder and Deputy Chairperson for LUG4/2 - the charity which founded and runs the Christchurch Brick Show (a large family-friendly LEGO show). We also founded a Social Enterprise called Imagination Station of which I was Managing Director for 6 years. Imagination Station runs LEGO education courses for schools, after-school programmes and holiday programmes and runs a kids play area inside Tūranga Library. I was also the founder of the Christchurch Brick Shop (an e-commerce LEGO Store sold in 2022).