



ELEANOR AND JOHN KRAMER NAMED AS FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARER CATEGORY WINNERS FOR TASMANIA

Eleanor and John Kramer have been selected as the state winners in the Foster and Kinship Carer category.

Eleanor and John have opened their home and their hearts and have played an important role in the lives of the young people they support through respite and short term care.

The service coordinator who nominated them for the awards believes they don't know the extent of how vital their role has been in the lives of vulnerable children and young people.

With three children of their own now in their 20s, the carers agreed there was more they could do to support the local community through part-time foster caring.

Eleanor said the focus is all about the children – “I realized there is a lot to be achieved from taking on respite care to support children on a short break away from their regular carers.

“There are lots of kids out there who need a home and people to care for them. A warm, friendly and supportive atmosphere is something we felt we can easily provide.

“Being a carer is all about being kind and tolerant, being compassionate, and maintaining a sense of humour,” Eleanor said.

She said it can be stressful, but there is a great network of support. She said they've learned to listen to each other and to work together to provide the best support and guidance.

“The support we have been able to provide includes respite placements to give the carers a break, or short term placements for children while they are transitioning to a permanent home.

Eleanor said while having responsibility for a child on a permanent basis would not work for them, they are deeply committed to ensuring they provide the best possible care and stability when the children are with them.

“Sometimes it’s just about giving the children choices and the opportunity to make decisions on things like food or activities, which in some cases they have not experienced before.

Eleanor said their main goal is in helping children requiring foster care to have access the best possible family or home situation that meets their own individual needs at each stage of their lives.