



## **ANGELA HALIGAN NAMED AS A FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARER CATEGORY WINNER FOR WA**

**Angela Haligan of Busselton has been selected as a joint state winner in the WA Foster and Kinship carer category (along with Marcia and Trevor Brownley of Kalgoorlie)**

Foster carer Angela Haligan consistently commits her time and energy to supporting the children and young people in her care and says she had always wanted to be a carer.

Growing up with a single mum, she saw the difficult side of life for some children and wanted to be able to do something to help them.

After having six children of her own and then studying at university, she eventually gave up working in a job she loved and now dedicates her life to foster caring.

For the past six years Angela and her husband Glen have been foster carers, now supporting four children permanently in addition to their own family. Angela says she receives her ongoing motivation from the kids and also their birth families who really appreciate what they do in supporting the children.

“We have taken on a group of siblings to live with us and we know it’s in their best interests to be together. Our main goal is to see them feeling secure and settled in their lives,” she said. “There are complex issues with foster children, but we believe firmly in keeping the connection with their birth families as much as possible. “

Angela said a highlight or defining moment for her as a carer was making this connection for an Aboriginal girl in their care. She took her back to country, where she met an Aboriginal elder and learnt about her culture and heritage. They also gave Angela her own Aboriginal name.

She says her focus is on being a role model to the kids, teaching them manners and strong values. “We teach them to eat breakfast every day, wear clean clothes, how to find help and how to know what’s safe behaviour and to protect themselves.

“If they leave us, we will be here waiting for them if they want to come back. They have the same boundaries and rules as everybody else in the household and we are always available to support them with whatever they need,” she said.

Angela is a positive and inspiring role model for foster carers and has been involved in getting the message out into the community about the importance of foster care. To facilitate open discussions about fostering, she sometimes sets up a stall at fetes or events so she can chat to people. She is always offering support to other carers, organising groups to get together for morning teas where they can have a heart to heart with others like themselves.

Angela says she believes her life is extremely rich when she looks around the table and sees all the children and family together, including her six grandchildren, and knowing they all have a sense of belonging and they’re happy and safe.