

Mercy Toowoomba Intensive Intervention Support Program

Adam's story

Adam* had only just turned nine when his mother died. His dad was unable to care for him and he had no contact with his mum's relatives. His childhood had been horrific. Frequent trauma had left Adam with poor social skills and a limited ability to regulate his emotions. He had moved through several foster families after each placement broke down and, now aged 15, Adam found himself in residential care with three other young people. He was unable to cope with a full day of school, and was put on managed attendance from 9am to 11am. Any longer, and his behaviour would escalate. Adam saw his dad for an hour and a half, once a fortnight, under government supervision.

For Adam, the joy of being with family was an experience for other people. His mum was gone, and he couldn't live with his dad.

When Adam was introduced to the Mercy Community Kinnected Program, a glimmer of hope appeared. With a little work, we were able to locate Adam's mother's side of the family, and his mum's older sister, Auntie Yvonne*, agreed to care for Adam. Adam began having regular contact with his maternal aunts, older cousins and his maternal grandmother, getting to know the family he thought he'd lost.

One day, Adam returned to residential placement after a weekend sleepover with his kin. With a big grin on his face, he was bursting to share his happy news: "They said I'm just like my mum!".

Adam moved in with Auntie Yvonne in June 2020, and began high school, gradually at first. It didn't take long for Adam to be attending school five days a week. His Aunt recently remarked ***"So far, I feel that things here with Adam are progressing nicely ... He is a cheeky, funny, smart young man and with guidance he is starting to come out of his shell and not live in his own world as much"***.

Adam and Auntie Yvonne continue to be supported by the Mercy Toowoomba Intensive Intervention Support Program Team.

Where appropriate, names have been changed and stock photography used in our stories.

