



Residential Care Workers Register

Guidance note 3

Relevance to foster care agencies

About the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG)

The OCG is an independent, statutory authority committed to delivering better outcomes for children and young people living in out-of-home care (OOHC).

We accredit and monitor the performance of agencies that arrange statutory and supported OOHC and adoption services. We also register and monitor agencies that provide, arrange, or supervise voluntary OOHC. The OCG is a regulator, not a provider of care services.

The OCG is establishing a Residential Care Workers Register to prioritise the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people in residential care by facilitating information exchange to ensure that only suitable workers are engaged to provide residential care in NSW.

This guide should be read in conjunction with Guidance note 1 - Overview. The Guidance note has details about who is to be captured and the information to be entered onto the register.

Relevance to foster care agencies

The residential care workers register (the register) will apply to the statutory out-of-home care sector. While the majority of the work required will be for those agencies that provide residential care, there is potential work for all designated agencies, even those who only provide foster care.

There may be occasions where a child or young person who is usually placed with a foster carer or relative/kinship carer is accommodated overnight in a non-home-based care arrangement, including for respite. This may also include children and young people who are cared for in a motel or serviced apartment in an emergency situation until an alternative placement is secured.

Even though these placement arrangements are usually short term, the workers who supervise this type of care are considered residential care workers. There is ongoing work being conducted by the OCG to ensure agencies are able to meet the needs of children who need to be placed in non-home-based care in an emergency. This includes defining the requirements to be met by agencies and who is to be captured on the register.

Do all foster care agencies need to access the register?

All designated agencies, regardless of the service type they are accredited for, should complete the registration process to access the register. This will help agencies to be prepared for when they need to enter individuals onto the register.

What if an authorised carer was staying in a hotel with a child?

If a situation arose where a child and their authorised foster/relative/kin carer were required to be accommodated in a hotel or the like, this placement would continue to be considered home-based care. This is because the carer continues to be the person primarily responsible for the child.