



Office of the  
Children's Guardian



# NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care

Office of the Children's Guardian  
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# Reasons for new standards

- To support and enable the Government's Safe Home for Life child protection reforms.
- Combining statutory out-of-home care standards and adoption standards.
- New standards identify principles of permanency planning: hierarchy of permanency.
- Streamline accreditation system for agencies who want to provide both out-of-home care and adoption services.

# What's improved

- Greater focus on permanency: all placement decisions will need to be made in accordance with the permanent placement principles.
- Increased focus on supporting placements: (e.g.) provision of respite, and review of placements where respite or other support is deemed necessary but refused by the carer.
- Focus on child safe organisations: agencies will need to demonstrate that they operate as a child safe organisation in accordance with child safe principles.

# Planning permanency - what does the Act say?

The *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* spells out the hierarchy of permanency planning:

- Restoration
- Guardianship
- Adoption, and then
- PR to the Minister under long term orders.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, PR to the Minister under long term orders comes before Adoption in the hierarchy.

# New requirements – supporting children and young people

- Case plans to include a permanent placement plan for each child and young person.
- Staff in the care environment are to be allocated in a manner that supports continuity of care and relationships.
- Placements of children under 12 years of age in residential care require a documented rationale and exit plan.
- There is to be a clear protocol for the involvement of police in response to children and young people's behaviour.

# New requirements – staff and carers

- Staff and carers to receive training on child protection and child safety
- Agencies to set clear expectations regarding behaviour and conduct of staff and carers.
- Placement reviews to be conducted where a carer refuses respite or other supports where the agency has deemed it necessary.
- Staff and carers to have an understanding of the effects of trauma on children and young people's behaviour.
- Agencies to have a process for dual authorisation of carers for foster care and adoption where relevant.

# New requirements – Agencies

- Governing authority to have access to OOHC and adoption expertise
- Governing authority to undertake an assessment of capacity before expanding service provision.
- Agencies to have appropriate spaces for confidential discussions
- Safety assessments of care environments to include swimming pools and outdoor areas.
- Agencies to have clear processes for responding to WWCC bars.

# Building a Child Safe Organisation

Continuous improvement





# Case work in the context of SOOHC and Adoption

- Case work in preparing for restoration, guardianship, adoption or long term placements may be undertaken by any agency accredited for SOOHC.
- Case work and actions to finalise adoption may only be undertaken by agencies accredited to provide adoption services. These are:
  - Training and approval of prospective adoptive parents
  - Legal consents
  - Approval of Adoption Plans
  - Preparing applications for Supreme Court.

# Office of the Children's Guardian

## Contact details

Please contact us with any questions about the standards or accreditation processes.

Accreditation Team - Office of the Children's Guardian

(02) **8219 3600** or [accreditation@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au](mailto:accreditation@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au)

Copies of the standards and further information about accreditation can be found on the OCG website:

[www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au)