

Notice of Conditions

of Accreditation as a Designated Agency

Issued under Clause 65 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012

NSW Department of Communities and Justice - Northern NSW District

ABN: 87 503 966 787

Effective date: 21 December 2021

This notice supersedes the Notice of Conditions of Accreditation as a Designated Agency, issued on 26 July 2018. The Children's Guardian has varied the conditions on the accreditation of NSW Department of Communities and Justice - Northern NSW District as a designated agency.

In addition to the general conditions of accreditation in Schedule 3 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012, the Children's Guardian has imposed the following conditions on the agency's accreditation.

Condition 1

This agency may arrange:

- statutory out-of-home care (foster care)
- supported out-of-home care (home based care).

Condition 2

This agency must verify online the Working with Children Check clearance, or in the absence of a clearance, an application for:

- each staff member in child-related work or in a child-related role
- each volunteer in child-related work or in a child-related role
- each authorised carer
- each adult residing with an authorised carer
- the agency's Principal Officer and
- each member of the agency's governing body

before commencing employment or engagement.

Condition 3

This agency must comply with the guidelines for the emergency authorisation of staff and contractors, issued by the Children's Guardian.

Condition 4

This agency must maintain records of practice relevant to the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young persons placed with it. These records must be made available to the Children's Guardian for inspection upon request, in written form or an electronic format approved by the Children's Guardian.

Special Condition 5

The District, or the Department on the District's behalf, provides training to relevant staff on the Department's new and updated policies and procedures relating to child protection - allegations against an authorised carer/s, adult household members or staff members engaged to provide care to children and young people by 1 March 2022.

Special Condition 6

The District implements the Department's updated procedural guidance and resources for staff responsible for identifying and responding to child protection allegations against an authorised carer/s, adult household members or staff members engaged to provide care to children and young people by 1 March 2022.

Special Condition 7

The Department's quality assurance and oversight mechanisms relating to child protection allegations against an authorised carer/s, adult household members or staff members engaged to provide care to children and young people have commenced by 1 March 2022 (as per goal C in DCJ's action plan).

Special Condition 8

The District, or the Department on the District's behalf, reports to the Children's Guardian every two months on its progress on the implementation of the 'Safety in Care' Action Plan.

Special Condition 9

The District, or the Department on the District's behalf, is to consult with the OCG prior to making any substantial changes to the goals, actions, or timeframes within the 'Safety in Care' Action Plan.

Giving false or misleading information to the Children's Guardian is a serious offence.

The Children's Guardian may suspend, shorten or cancel the agency's accreditation if it fails to comply with any of these conditions.

The Children's Guardian may publish details of failure to comply with conditions of accreditation in the Children's Guardian's Annual Report to Parliament.

A decision of the Children's Guardian to impose, not impose, vary or revoke a condition of accreditation is reviewable by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT), under clause 7 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012, following an internal review by the Children's Guardian. Further information about NCAT and internal reviews may be obtained from NCAT (ph: 1300 006 228).

**Janet Schorer PSM
Children's Guardian**