



## Leaving care – report released

20 July 2021

A review by the Office of the Children's Guardian of the experiences of young people leaving care will be used to strengthen requirements for statutory out-of-home care providers in NSW.

The experiences of 635 young people leaving care last year are examined in a report released today into the practice of agencies in the leaving care monitoring program 2020–21.

### Key themes emerging from the review

- Most young people who left care between 23 March and 31 December 2020 had a leaving care plan, but the quality of these plans varied significantly
- most young people who had a leaving care plan participated in the development of their plans and were able to influence

decisions impacting on their lives

- where young people were not engaged in planning for leaving care, plans were often generic and not informed by an assessment of the young person's independent living skills
- those who were in stable placements and had the support of at least one adult had more comprehensive plans
- agencies need to strengthen approaches to cultural planning to help young people to maintain connections with culture, particularly for Aboriginal young people
- many leaving care plans were approved after the young person had turned 18 and leaving care casework must begin much earlier, and
- the support that young people receive after leaving care varies significantly across the sector.

These themes will inform the review of the *NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care* to better support young people leaving care and building independent lives with the supports they need.

[Read the report on the leaving care monitoring program 2020–21 \(370.4KB\)](#)

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