



Home > Statutory out-of-home care
and adoption

Statutory out-of-home care

Accreditation of statutory out-of-home care providers in NSW

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the process of evaluating the performance of statutory out-of-home care providers and certifying that standards have been met to the level required.

[Consultation on the Children's Guardian's accreditation and monitoring functions is now underway.](#)

To provide statutory out-of-home care services in NSW, agencies must first be accredited by the Children's Guardian. Accredited agencies are known as designated agencies. [Here is a list of designated agencies in NSW.](#)

Accreditation provides a formal framework based on accepted standards for service delivery. Standards establish what is expected of service providers in relation to the quality and effectiveness of services. The accreditation process helps statutory out-of-home agencies review how they provide services, identify areas where they meet current standards of good practice and areas where there is a need for change or improvement in their services.

The accreditation process supports agencies to:

- share a common understanding of good practice
- work towards continuous quality improvement
- systematically review performance against standards
- encourage greater scrutiny of outcomes and quality by service users.

Why do statutory out-of-home care service providers need accreditation?

Children and young people who need to be placed in statutory out-of-home care experience many different levels of service. Going into care can be an uncomfortable or even traumatic time for children and young people, at a time when they are at their most vulnerable.

Some children and young people find out-of-home care improves their lives by helping them to escape abuse and neglect. Others find being in care a frustrating and tough time, making it difficult for them to get on with their lives.

The Children's Guardian's accreditation process encourages agencies to focus their work on meeting the needs of these children and young people.

How can my agency be accredited by the Children's Guardian?

If your organisation is considering applying for accreditation to provide statutory out-of-home care or adoption services in NSW, please contact the Accreditation and Monitoring Team at accreditation@ocg.nsw.gov.au

Information and resources you will need to apply for accreditation are available on the [Application package](#) page of this website.