

The Hon Kate Washington MP

Minister for Families and Communities
Minister for Disability Inclusion



Ref: SGM23/6259#03

Dear Carer,

Aboriginal Out of Home Care Transition

We are moving one step closer to making sure Aboriginal children in the statutory care system reconnect with their culture and community.

The Aboriginal Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) Transition Project aims to uphold the best interests of Aboriginal children in OOHC by transferring their case management to Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs). We acknowledge that Aboriginal children being on country – and having deep and caring connections to community and culture – will help them thrive in the future and lead fulfilling lives.

The case management transfer of Aboriginal children and young people and their carers to ACCOs will occur over the next few years. Transfers will be managed in a way that ensures ACCOs can continue to deliver quality and sustainable services.

This project is a partnership between the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), the Aboriginal Child, Family & Community Care State Secretariat (AbSec) and the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA). The Government aims to deliver on this longstanding commitment because we see how it will help nurture the identities and sense of belonging of Aboriginal children who are currently in care.

The case management of Aboriginal children by ACCOs will support self-determination and build the Aboriginal Community-Controlled sector, in line with the NSW Government's commitments under Closing the Gap. It also promotes the involvement of Aboriginal communities in decision-making about Aboriginal children. This is consistent with the Family is Culture amendments to the Care Act passed by the NSW Parliament in November 2022, as well as the Department's Aboriginal Case Management Policy.

A fact sheet with more information about the transition is attached, along with a list of ACCOs who are accredited with the Office of the Children's Guardian and accepting case management.

If you have questions about transferring to an Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation as a carer, you can talk to your caseworker or email Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes Tao-CareandHousing-QCA@facs.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Washington".

Kate Washington MP
Minister for Families and Communities
Minister for Disability Inclusion

6 / 10 / 2023