

Charter of Rights

At Family Spirit we are committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) are aware of their rights. There are several fundamental reasons why we need to make them aware:

Protection:

Knowing their rights helps protect children and young people from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. It ensures they are aware of what constitutes inappropriate behavior from others and empowers them to report violations.

Empowerment:

Understanding their rights can empower children and young people in OOHC by giving them a sense of control and agency over their lives. This knowledge helps them to advocate for themselves in situations where their needs are not being met or their rights are being infringed upon.

Participation:

Awareness of their rights encourages the active participation of children and young people in decisions that affect their lives. This includes their care arrangements, education, and health. Engaging them in such decisions respects their developing autonomy and contributes to their sense of belonging and self-worth.

Quality of Care:

When children and young people know their rights, it can lead to an improvement in the quality of care provided. It ensures that care providers are held accountable and adhere to the standards set out by child protection legislation and policies.

Mental and Emotional Well-being:

Understanding their rights can significantly impact the mental and emotional well-being of children and young people in OOHC. It can provide them with reassurance that there are guidelines and protections in place to safeguard their welfare, contributing to a sense of security and stability.

Legal Advocacy:

Knowledge of their rights is crucial for children and young people if they need to engage with legal systems or advocate for themselves in legal matters. This is particularly important in situations where their care arrangements or the support they receive is under review.

Transition to Independence:

For young people aging out of the OOHC system, understanding their rights is vital as they navigate the transition to independent living. This includes rights related to housing, education, employment, and accessing adult services.

In NSW, various laws, policies, and frameworks are designed to protect children and young people in OOHC, these include the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998. The Office of the Children's Guardian and advocacy groups such as Create play a significant role in promoting the rights of children and young people in care, ensuring they are informed, protected, and respected.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information.



Sheree James
CEO