

Policy: Overnight Stays and Other Activities

Policy Purpose

To ensure children in out of home care are supported and encouraged to have normal and safe interactions with their friends, extended family and local community.

Policy Statement

It is part of an authorised Carer's role to create a safe environment for a child placed in their care. In order to provide for normal interactions with friends, family and community, the Carer can decide if the child should be involved in everyday activities e.g. an occasional sleepover at a friend's house, school excursions and recreational activities, unless any such activities may present an increased risk of harm to the child.

Consent from Territory Families is required in all situations of increased risk to a child such as regular overnight stays at other people's homes, intrastate, interstate and overseas travel, school camps and school excursions that include activities that require a waiver of legal liability due to the risk associated with the activity.

This policy does not apply when children or young people have overnight stays because their Carer requires respite or is temporarily unable to care for the child, as in these circumstances the Carer will not be fit to make the decision.

If there is doubt

Carers should be advised to always discuss the circumstances with a Case Manager when they are unsure or have concerns when making a decision about the child in their care.

Legislative Basis

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#) sections 46, 103, 123, 139

Standards

DCF Standards of Professional Practice 1, 3 and 6

Authorised by:

Executive Director, Service Development and Policy on:		16/03/2015	Active from:	16/03/2015
Version 1.0	To highlight the importance of supporting children in care to have normal and safe interactions with their friends, extended families and local community.			
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