Policy: Family and Parent Support Services

Policy Purpose

To outline the legislative requirement of Territory Families to provide Family and Parent Support Services.

Policy Statement

Mandate

The ability of Territory Families to provide Family and Parent Support Services is mandated in the Care and Protection of Children Act 2007 (the Act).

- The Northern Territory Government is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the wellbeing of children and supporting families in fulfilling their role in relation to children (s7 of the Act).
- The Minister under s25 of the Act, and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) under s41 of the Act, have the power to fulfil this responsibility.
- Under s42 of the Act, the CEO may take any action to promote the wellbeing of children generally, including:
  - Provide or facilitate the provision of services or support to children, young people, families and communities aimed at promoting or safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people;
  - Provide information to children, young people, families and the community generally about the development and safety of children and young people; and
  - Provide or facilitate the provision of assistance to Aboriginal communities to establish programs for preventing or reducing incidents of harm to children in Aboriginal communities.

Territory Families has responsibility for promoting the wellbeing of children and young people. To achieve this outcome Territory Families works in partnership and collaboration with other government agencies and non-government providers of services and supports. Refer to related Family and Parenting Support procedures for more information and service specific referral processes.

Enhancing the opportunity for families and communities to readily engage with required services and support is paramount to children and young people’s wellbeing. Active efforts must be made to provide services and support to children, young people, families and communities that:

- Involves meaningful engagement in a manner and language that the participants in decision making understand;
- Are culturally responsive;
- Includes a holistic assessment of children, young people and families to enable appropriate and relevant services and supports to be provided; and
- Promotes decision-making processes that seek to empower and strengthen families to make decisions for themselves. Children, young people and their families are to be actively involved in decisions which are developed with regard to the age, maturity, health, cognitive ability and cultural background of the children and young people involved.
Legislative Basis and Related Documents

*Care and Protection of Children Act 2007*

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<th>Authorised by:</th>
<th>HPRM (TRIM): 61:F2020/811</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Executive Officer</strong></td>
<td>27/06/2016</td>
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**Version 1.0**  
Family and Parent Support Services.

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<tr>
<th>Current Version</th>
<th>Update: Updated information to align with legislative amendments.</th>
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**Approver:**  
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