

## *Policy: Transition to Independence*

### Policy Purpose

Young people must be engaged in collaborative planning, preparation, and meaningful support, to make a successful transition from care to independence.

### Policy Statement

Pursuant to sections 70 and 71 of the [Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#) (the Act), a young person's *My Care Plan* must identify their needs, and how their needs will be addressed. A *My Leaving Care Plan* should be developed for children or young people reunifying with family, or to prepare them to leave care when they turn 18 years of age. For all children in care collaborative planning for their transition to independence must commence from 15 years of age.

Planning for a young person's transition to independence is an inclusive process. Their *My Leaving Care Plan* must be developed in collaboration with the young person, their family, their Carer and any person identified by the young person as significant in their life. The young person's wishes and views must be taken into account where reasonable and appropriate to do so.

The *My Leaving Care Plan* must be written in clear and plain language and in a manner that can be understood by all participants. The plan must outline the needs of the young person – including their cultural needs – and the actions that must be taken to address the identified needs. The *My Leaving Care Plan* must be reviewed at least every six months.

Some young people may have the capacity to transition to independence before they leave the care at 18 years of age, e.g. an employed young person living who is no longer living with their carer. In these circumstances, the young person will be supported to live independently and to maintain their independence. This support will continue after they have left care. Refer to the *After care support policy and procedure* in relation to a young person who has left care and subsequently needs assistance from Territory Families.

Under s85A of the Act, the CEO must provide any services that are considered appropriate to assist a young person to successfully transition from care to independence. Refer to *Transition to independence - Procedure* for details and the *Financial Delegations* schedule.

A young person in the care of the CEO who is attending a course of education or training at the time they turn 18 must be provided with the necessary assistance (including financial assistance) to maintain their living arrangements until they have completed the course. The arrangements are to be recorded in the *My Leaving Care Plan*.

### Supporting Participation

The views and wishes of the *My Care Plan* or *My Leaving Care Plan* participants must be given appropriate consideration.

Participants in the development of the child's *My Care Plan* or the young person's *My Leaving Care Plan* must be provided with information in a timely way and in a language and manner the participant's understand. All reasonable steps must be taken to arrange for the provision of services (including an interpreter or translator) to facilitate the participation of all people involved in the preparation of a plan. Refer to the *Guideline: Using Interpreters, Translators and Assisted Communication Services* for information about how to determine if a person requires an interpreter and how to arrange one.

## Legislative Basis and Related Documents

*Care and Protection of Children Act 2007*

*Financial Delegations Schedule*

Authorised by:	<b>HPRM (TRIM):</b>	61:F2020/4778	
<b>Executive Leadership Group</b>	29/9/2018	<b>Active from:</b>	11/01/2018
<b>Version 2.0</b>	Updated to align with new Leaving Care Plan Template and legislative amendments.		

Current Version V 2.0.1

<b>Approver:</b>	Executive Leadership Group	27/05/2020	<b>Active from:</b>	19/06/2020
<b>Update:</b>	Amended to reflect the policy also pertains to planning for children who leave care before 15 years of age, for example, planning for a child to be reunified with family.			
<b>Review due:</b>	May 22	<b>Maintenance:</b>	<a href="mailto:Tf.policy@nt.gov.au">Tf.policy@nt.gov.au</a>	