Policy: Transition to Independence

Policy Purpose

 Territory Families is committed to supporting young people who are leaving or have left the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Young people must be engaged in collaborative planning and preparation, and be provided with meaningful support to make a successful transition to independence.

Policy Statement

In accordance with section 70 and 71 of the Care and Protection of Children Act 2007, planning for a young person’s transition from care planning must commence when they turn 15 years of age. Some young people may have the capacity to transition to independence before they turn 18 years of age and before they leave the care of the CEO, e.g. an employed young person living in shared private accommodations. In these circumstances the young person will be supported to live independently and supported to maintain their independence until they turn 18 and after they leave the care of the CEO.

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 in a manner that can be understood and outline the needs of the young person, including their cultural needs, and the actions that must be taken to address their identified needs. A young person’s My Leaving Care Plan must be reviewed at least every six months. The completed My Care Plan document is stored in CCIS.

Under Division 5, section 85A of the Act a young person in the CEOs care who is 15 years of age or more, or a young person who has left the CEO’s care (s68 of the Act) and is between 15 and 25 years of age, has the right to continued assistance from Territory Families. The CEO must ensure that the young person is provided with any services that the CEO considers appropriate to the child to successfully transition and maintain independence.

As examples the CEO may assist the young person to obtain:

- Information about resources, services and entitlements;
- Accommodation;
- Education or training;
- Employment;
- Financial security;
- Legal services;
- Health services;
- Community services;
- Personal, family and relationship counselling; and
- Access information in the control or possession of the CEO about the child or young person while in the care of the CEO.
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 should be recorded in the My Leaving Care Plan. See Financial Delegation 5.14.13

Also refer to the Financial Delegation 5.14.14 and the Policy: After Care Support for more information applicable to a young person who has left care and subsequently seeks assistance from Territory Families.

Supporting Participation

The views and wishes of the Care Plan participants must be given appropriate consideration.

Participants in the development of 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 understands. 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 the 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* - s70, 71 and s85A

*Financial Delegations Schedule*

*Procedure: Transition to Independence*

*Policy: After Care Support*

*Procedure: After Care Support*

*Interpreters Practice Guideline*