

Policy: Placements

Policy Purpose

To define Territory Families' responsibility for sourcing and approving appropriate out of home care placements for all children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Policy Statement

The safety, wellbeing and best interests of the child or young person must be the paramount consideration when decisions about the care of a child or young person are being made. Territory Families must know where the children live, and who is providing care for them, at all times

The child or young person should be matched with carers who have the capacity to meet their needs, support their development and maintain positive family, community and cultural connections.

Aboriginal children are placed according to the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle, as specified in s12 of the [Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#).

An Aboriginal child should be placed with a person from one of the following groups in order of priority:

1. A member of the child's family;
2. An Aboriginal person in the child's community in accordance with local community practice;
3. Another Aboriginal person; or
4. A non-Aboriginal person, who in the CEO's opinion is sensitive to the child's needs, is capable of promoting the child's ongoing affiliation with their culture and, if possible, can provide ongoing contact with the child's family.

An Aboriginal child should, as far as practicable, be placed in close proximity to their family and community.

A placement within the child's immediate or extended family is preferred for all children and young people, therefore the search for suitable placement options within the child's immediate and extended family should continue until all options have been exhausted, before placing the child with non-related carers.

When kinship care placements are not immediately possible, including the time during which kinship placement options are being found, a child will preferably be placed with trained and authorised Territory Families Carers, as home-based placements provide the best environments.

Siblings should be placed together when:

- It is in their best interests;
- In accord with their wishes; and
- There are no safety concerns.

Where co-location of siblings is not possible, regular contact will be facilitated when it is in the best interests of the children.

Where the needs of the child are beyond the capacity of the home-based care system to provide, the child should be placed into the best alternative placement option to meet their individual needs.

Children placed in residential care are afforded the same personalised care as children in home-based placements.

For children with complex needs the Case Manager, in partnership with the child's care providers and In Care Support, may develop a safety plan to address identified concerns for the child's safety and the safety of other children in the care setting, or a behaviour management plan to guide the management of the child in the placement.

The child or young person and their birth families will be provided with relevant, clear, concise, age specific and culturally appropriate information during their time in care and through all transitions.

In accordance with privacy principles, information is shared with the carer about the child or young person to promote the best possible care and wellbeing of the child or young person. Sensitive personal information will be treated with respect. Where possible and appropriate, a young person's consent will be sought prior to sharing their personal information

Out of home care services will promote continuity of care and minimise placement disruption to children and young people by ensuring their progress through out of home care is planned and considered.

Legislative Basis

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#) s12, s77 and s78.

Standards

[Standards of Professional Practice](#) 1, 5 and 6.

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