

## Transfer of OOHC Services to Non Government Agencies

Minister for Family & Community Services – Minister Prue Goward has approved Phase One of the transfer of Out of Home Care (OOHC) Services to Non Government Organisations (NGO).

As FaCS Carers you will be asked to transfer to the NGO OOHC agencies and at this early stage the transfer will be staged and voluntary. In order to make an informed decision as to which agency will best suit your family, some important questions that Carers are asking agencies are as follows.

### Questions to consider:

- Do I have a say in which agency I will be transferred to?
- What policies will I be required to sign?
- Will I need to be reassessed & or retrained before transfer to your agency?
- How often will we be asked to meet with agency workers?
- Will I be expected to facilitate contact?
- What kind of support can I expect from your agency?
- Can I continue to use my chosen support organisation e.g. AbSec and/or CCNSW?
- Do I need a separate bedroom for each child in my home?
- Are there limits on the number of children I can care for?
- Is there an age restriction on Carers?
- What is your philosophy regarding same sex couples?
- What if the Carers are on a disability pension?
- Do you have a partnership agreement similar to FaCS?
- What respite opportunities are available?
- Is respite compulsory?
- Will I continue to receive an allowance when my child is in respite?
- Can I choose the respite Carers for the children in my care? What is this process and will they receive an allowance?
- What is your policy regarding adoption?
- Who investigates allegations and what supports are available to me?
- If I disagree with a decision, what is the process of appeal?
- What is your complaints policy and procedure, is this an independent body?
- Will I be included in the decision making process for issues related to children I care for and my family?
- Can I choose my own support person?
- Do I have the option to leave your agency, what is the process of exit transfer to another agency and what will happen to the children in my care, can they follow me to another agency?
- Will I lose my care plus allowance?
- My child is Aboriginal (What will this mean for us)?
- Is ongoing training compulsory, if so what are the requirements?
- What if I move to another area and your agency does not cover this area?
- Can my authorisation be changed e.g. short term Carer to long term Carer?
- What is your policy regarding Carers working full time/part time?
- Who will pay for Preschool fees, before/after school care, tutoring, ongoing dental/optical professional therapy, establishment costs, maintaining culture and identity, compensation for loss and damages?
- My child is currently at a private school, will you continue to pay for this and anything that is already part of the current case plan?

**CCNSW have a 24 hour support line 1300 794 653 to support you through this transition period if and when you have any concerns or questions.**

