



OUT-OF-HOME CARE PROCUREMENT CARE ARRANGEMENTS - GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Requirement to provide services across the spectrum of care needs

The principle of children and young people remaining in the same environment with the same carer, with the level of support increasing or decreasing to cater to the needs of the child or young person is a key element of the Community Foster Care and Group Care services. Service Providers will be required to provide care arrangements across the full spectrum of care needs, adapt their care model as required, and support their carers to meet the child or young person's needs as they evolve.

The level of support required will be determined through the Department of Communities' *Needs Assessment Tool (NAT)*. The Department's Child Protection Worker will complete the NAT:

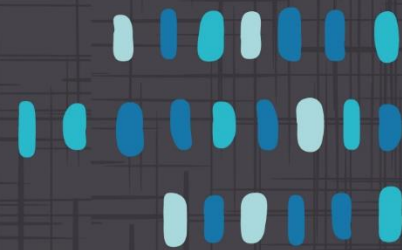
- within 90 days of a child entering the CEO's care;
- annually (at a minimum) while the child remains in the CEO's care; and
- when there is a significant change for the child or young person.

Service Providers may provide the service individually or in partnership with another organisation in order to demonstrate ability and capacity to provide care arrangements across the spectrum of need (all NAT levels).

2. Carers

The Cross-Sector Foster Carer Panel commenced in March 2017. It is expected that from early 2018 the foster carer assessment process will require all carers to meet the required competencies, including staff employed in a carer role. Service Providers will be required to submit all carer assessments to the Cross-Sector Foster Care Panel for endorsement prior to the CSO approving or declining the application and the person providing care arrangements.

Further information regarding the changes to the Foster Care assessment process can be found on the Department's website: [Cross-Sector Foster Care Panel](#)



3. Partnership with an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)

To facilitate increased service provision to Aboriginal children and families, and recognising that service provision by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people is appropriate and effective, the Department will strategically support the growth of service provision by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in the OOHC sector.

The Department's long term goal is for: "Aboriginal children and families to be supported by Aboriginal carers, supported by Aboriginal organisations" (*Building a Better Future Out of Home Care Reform in Western Australia, April 2016*).

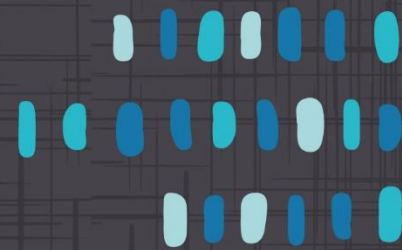
To achieve this there will be a requirement for all non-ACCO out-of-home care tender respondents to the care arrangement services to outline a *Statement of Intent* to partner with an ACCO at the point of submitting their tender Response. This will need to include a plan that sets out how and what steps all non-ACCO Respondents will take to develop a partnership with an ACCO over the first three years of the contract. The tender Request will outline minimum requirements and associated timeframes for the establishment and implementation of the partnership/s with the ACCO.

To be classified as an ACCO the organisation must satisfy the following requirements:

- If the organisation is incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)*:
 - a copy of the organisation's Certificate of Incorporation; and
 - a copy of the organisation's Constitution reflecting not-for-profit status.

OR

- If the organisation is incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* or the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*:
 - a copy of the organisation's Certificate of Incorporation;
 - a copy of the organisation's Constitution reflecting majority Aboriginal membership and/or Aboriginal board of governance and not-for-profit status;
 - a registered local business address; and
 - a copy of the Australian Business Directory of Western Australia registration or a 'Statement of Commitment' by the Management Committee that the organisation represents the local Aboriginal Community.



4. Outcome and Compensation Payments

Outcome Payment

The Department will provide an outcome payment to service providers to support an increase in Aboriginal children being cared for by Aboriginal carers.

Service Providers will receive an annual payment for successfully achieving long-term care arrangements for Aboriginal children with Aboriginal carers.

Targets will be set in tiers e.g. 65%-74%, 75%-89% and 90%-100% of Aboriginal children placed with Aboriginal carers and the outcome payment will be linked to each tier.

Service Providers will be expected to report on the achievement of the outcome in the Progress Reports.

Compensation Payment

In recognition of the costs involved with the recruitment, assessment and training of new carers and to encourage support for carers to transition to Special Guardianship Order or Adoption Order (herein referred to as a permanent care order) arrangements for children where appropriate, the Department will provide a compensation payment to Service Providers when a permanent care order of this nature is granted and the child and carer/s transition to the permanent care order together.

A one-off compensation payment will be made to the Service Provider for each carer or carer family following transition to the permanent care order after the order has been granted. This payment is also intended to support permanency and stability for children in their care arrangements.

Service Providers will provide the required information via the six monthly Progress Reports to enable assessment of payment eligibility.

5. Demonstration of a place-based approach

To assist services to be responsive and tailored to the unique needs of the community in which they are based, the Service Provider will be required to demonstrate an understanding of the local community. This could be by demonstrating significant connections with the community, a history of or current involvement with the community (such as through the provision of services), and/or through a partnership or partnerships with key stakeholders or organisations within the community.

