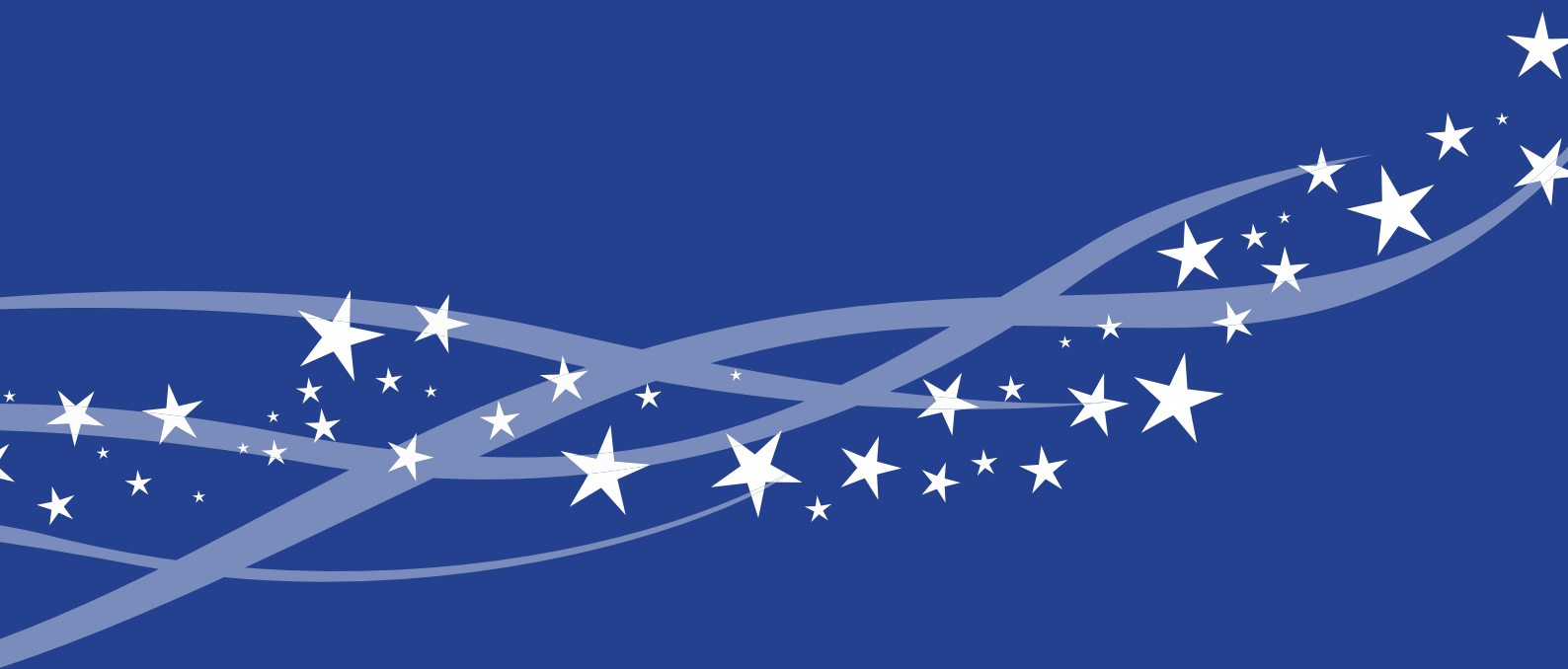


FOSTER AND
KINSHIP CARERS
ASSOCIATION
TASMANIA



HANDBOOK





Foster and Kinship Carers Association Handbook

Authorised and published by the Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania, 4 Harts Place, Rokeby, Tasmania, May 2018.

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Message from the CEO of the FKAT

This third edition of a handbook for foster and kinship carers in Tasmania is made possible by the generous support of the Tasmanian Community Fund, the commitment of the FKAT Board and a partnership with Children and Youth Services. We are hoping this Handbook will be a dynamic document with regular updates made to the online version and used in training and recruitment of new carers.

I hope you find the information in this Handbook useful. However, as each situation is different and the law is complex, we encourage you to use the Handbook as a starting point for information only. Please remember that any specific advice in relation to your situation will need to be discussed with a young person's Child Safety Officer (CSO) and your NGO. Any legal advice will need to be sourced from a lawyer or Community Legal Service as the information contained within the Handbook is a general guide to the landscape of OOHC and should not be relied upon for legal advice pertaining to your situation.

I would like to personally thank Mary Dickins for the amazing work she has done in relation to this Handbook, and to the other individuals who have had input along the way. The feedback was welcome at all stages of the project. I am confident that the foster and kinship carers in Tasmania will appreciate the hard work that has been applied in collating this Handbook for them.

I would also like to thank Elizabeth Spiegel for her editing services and Helen Latham for her graphic design services.

Updates to this Handbook will occur online annually through our website www.fkat.org.au

Cheers,
Dr Kim Backhouse
CEO

**FOSTER AND
KINSHIP CARERS
ASSOCIATION
TASMANIA**



Message from the Minister

Foster and kinship carers are the backbone of our out-of-home care system. They are key partners in our efforts to provide stable and high-quality care for children unable to live at home. Working as a foster or kinship carer can be a hugely rewarding experience but taking a child or young person into your care, giving them a safe and loving home and helping them become a part of your family also has its challenges.

Difficulties and problems are a normal part of raising children, no matter whether you are a parent or a foster or kinship carer. They are normal and expected but it is our responsibility to ensure you get the support as well as educational programs that will assist you in your role.

Whether you are an experienced long-term carer or just starting out on the caring journey, you are not alone. The Child Safety Service, Foster and Kinship Carers Association Tasmania and Children and Youth Services are here to help you, as are many others.

This Foster and Kinship Carers Association Handbook is aimed at providing a basic starting point for you as a carer, for a child or young person to find the information you need or at the very least the people to contact to help you provide care. This Handbook will also help you understand how Children and Youth Services will work with you and the best ways to access support and information from them.

It is through your willingness and dedication that these children and young people have the opportunity to thrive and succeed. Caring isn't always glamorous and there's no denying it is hard work, but can also be highly rewarding. As a community, we are very proud and grateful to you for the work you do.

I sincerely thank you for your commitment and dedication.



Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Human Services



Introduction

Thank you!

As a foster or kinship carer, you undertake one of the most important roles in our community – providing a safe, caring environment for children and young people and building their self-confidence to help them fulfil their potential.

The *Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania Handbook* was developed to support you in your important role as a foster or kinship carer. We hope it will clarify your role and the roles of others involved in the care of children who are subject to the child protection system in Tasmania.

It answers common questions and explains:

- what to expect as a foster or kinship carer
- the out-of-home care system
- the services available to you and the child or young person in your care
- how to be an effective advocate for a child or young person.

It does not address every situation that may arise for the child in your care but we hope that it will give you an idea of what services are available and how you can go about finding an answer. If there is something that is not answered, or you know a service that should be included, the Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania (FKAT) welcomes suggestions for future editions of the Handbook.

FKAT developed the Handbook in consultation with:

- its members
- Child Safety Service
- the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Kennerley Children's Homes
- Key Assets Tasmania
- Life Without Barriers Tasmania
- foster care agencies in Tasmania
- the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF)
- CREATE Foundation (CREATE)
- the Office of the Children and Young Person's Commissioner (the Commissioner).

It reflects DHHS's legislation and the policies practice and procedures of CSS and attempts to describe a complex system. As the legislation, policies and procedures are subject to change, we have included an online version of information from DHHS so that you can see the most recent policy. A link to this can be found in the [Appendices](#) section.

Updates to this Handbook will occur online annually through our website www.fkat.org.au

Definitions

Care Team Meeting: A meeting held regularly with all the adults important to the child, including the Child Safety Officer, carer, teacher, psychologist and other relevant individuals, to discuss the needs of the child and develop or review the Case and Care Plan.

Case and Care Plan: The plan developed during Care Team Meetings to provide direction to all those involved in the child's care. It should include the child's basic information, routine, behaviours, services needed (medical and educational), case direction (reunification or permanency), contact plans and the child's aspirations.

Child or young person: According to the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* a child is defined as a person under the age of 18 years while the term 'young person' is defined as a person who is 16 or 17 years of age. For brevity and ease of reading, the term child is used to mean both child and young person, unless otherwise specified.

Child Safety Officer (CSO): This refers to the CSS worker who is responsible for the child in your care.

Child Safety Service (CSS): The area within the CYS responsible for the protection of children and young people at risk of abuse or neglect.

Children and Youth Services (CYS): Area within the Department of Health and Human Services which provides a range of services and support that contribute to ensuring children, young people and their families are safe, nurtured and well.

Contact: A regular time that is arranged for the child in your care to visit with their biological family.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified by Australia in 1990. Ratification obliges Australia to ensure that all children in Australia enjoy the range of rights set out in the convention.

Custody: Refers to the person or authority (for young people in residential facilities) who has the day-to-day care of the child. Foster and kinship carers generally have custody of the child and can make day-to-day decisions.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): The agency responsible for managing and delivering health and wellbeing services for Tasmanians.

Family Group Conference: A court-ordered meeting with family members of a child in care to discuss how the family is going and if they are meeting the requests of CSS for the safety and wellbeing of their child.

Foster care agencies: Community organisations that provide out-of-home care services in Tasmania. In this Handbook 'agency' will refer to your out-of-home care worker, which could be the out-of-home care team in CSS if you care through the CSS or your foster care agency worker if you foster through a funded community organisation.

Guardianship: Refers to the person or authority having legal responsibility for the child. The guardian can make the major decisions about the child's life, for example what school they attend and where they live.

LGBTI: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex.

Minister: Refers to the Minister for Human Services whose responsibility is the out-of-home care system in Tasmania.

Out-of-home care (OOHC): The system that provides formal care to children and young people who are assessed as unable to live safely at home.





Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania

Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania

FKAT is the peak body for foster and kinship carers in Tasmania and provides a voice for carers in Tasmania. The association aims to:

- provide support services to all foster and kinship carers
- keep members informed of new ideas and changes in policy and laws relating to children in care
- give members an opportunity to present ideas to state and national policy makers
- safeguard and promote the best interests of those in our care
- keep members up-to-date on foster care allowances and benefits
- work with the DHHS and CSS to ensure the best outcomes for those in our care.

FKAT membership is open to all foster and kinship carers in Tasmania regardless of who you care through and how long you have been caring.

Membership

FKAT is a member-representative organisation. The CEO is appointed by the Board, with approval from the Minister for Human Services, and reports directly to the Board. The Board is made up of volunteers who are foster and kinship carers or people with an interest in the sector, such as representatives of community organisations. The Board needs representation from foster and kinship carers statewide. Board appointments are for two years; expressions of interest are called for in September in even-numbered years. If you are interested in being on the Board, positions will open in 2018.

Membership of FKAT is open to all foster and kinship carers at minimal cost. As a member, you receive:

- newsletters
- information about events
- information about policy and procedural changes
- access to the Foster Care Advocacy and Support Team (FAST).

Appendix 1 Membership form

Foster Care Advocacy and Support Team

FAST aims to provide greater levels of support and advocacy for foster and kinship carers. FAST is a team of trained volunteer foster carers led by a professional psychologist to provide support, advice and advocacy on behalf of other carers, as either individuals or a group. You can contact FAST for individual support or advice, or if you have a larger policy or procedural question or issue.

FAST has a 24-hour assistance and support line 1800 149 994.



Backpacks for Kids

Backpacks for Kids is an Australian charity that provides backpacks and nappy bags to children entering foster care and emergency accommodation. The backpacks are filled with age- and gender-appropriate clothing, toiletries, bedding, stationery and other special and essential items. In Tasmania, FKAT is the provider of the Backpacks for Kids program. If a child arrives in your care without any of their own belongings or special things, please contact FKAT or order one online.

Backpacks for Kids
www.backpacks4vickids.org.au

Carer Connect events

FKAT hosts events for foster and kinship carers around the state. The get-togethers are an opportunity for carers to socialise and to find support and information. They are all held in public, child-friendly spaces and all kinship and foster carers are welcome. They are hosted by FKAT volunteers in each region. FKAT is keen for more Carer Connect events so please contact FKAT if you would like to host one.

Southern Carer Connect events are hosted at FKAT's office at 4 Harts Place, Rokeby
south@fkat.org.au

Northern Carer Connect events are hosted at the Door of Hope Church
north@fkat.org.au

North-west Carer Connect events are hosted in various locations around the north-west
northwest@fkat.org.au

Annual events

FKAT supports and hosts several annual events for foster and kinship carers. FKAT also supports all the events organised by the CREATE Foundation and other foster care agencies, which are promoted in their newsletters and Facebook pages.

Big Day Out

The Big Day Out is a special free event for foster and kinship carers and their families statewide. It is a chance for children and their families to have fun and celebrate together. The event is held annually in May in Launceston. It is a day full of fun activities for children of all ages.

Foster and Kinship Carers Week

In the second week of September every year is the national Foster and Kinship Carers Week. The aim of the week is to raise awareness about foster and kinship care in the wider community and celebrate carers and the contribution they are making to the lives of vulnerable children and young people and the community as a whole. In Tasmania the week is coordinated by FKAT and many organisations in the sector host events. These are all publicised in FKAT newsletters, website and the Facebook page.

National Foster and Kinship Carers Conference

In each state and territory there are similar peak organisations for foster and kinship carers. Annually these organisations host a National Foster and Kinship Carers Conference and the location rotates around Australia. The conference is held during Foster and Kinship Carers Week in September.

FKAT has representation at the conference and will also support carers interested in going.

Christmas events

FKAT hosts a Christmas event in each region of the state. Information about these events will be in the FKAT newsletter, website and Facebook page close to the time. These are lovely opportunities to meet other carers and celebrate the year.



Sidney Myer Fund 'Carers Connect'

In December FKAT received a grant from the Sidney Myer Fund to develop and enhance:

1. Recruitment and Community Awareness
2. Education and Training Services and Resources
3. Support and Advocacy Services.

To do this FKAT developed the 'Carers Connect' website to be a connection point and portal for foster and kinship carers to access:

- education and training resources
- information

- calendar of upcoming carer events across the state (including regional carer connect meetings)
- advocacy and support services, as part of FKAT's FAST program
- an online carer community forum to give carers the opportunity to ask questions, seek and provide assistance and enable peer support with other carers across Tasmania.

In addition to the website, FKAT built an app for Apple and Android phones that provides a portal to Carers Connect.

Carers Connect will be launched in 2018 and will be accessible from FKAT's website.



Contact FKAT

Website www.fkat.org.au

Facebook www.facebook.com/Fkatas/

Email ceo@fkat.org.au

Address 4 Harts Place, Rokeby TAS 7019



Child Safety Service

Child Safety Service

CSS is the lead child protection agency in Tasmania. It is a part of CYS in DHHS; ultimately the Secretary of DHHS (Department of Community Services as of 1 July 2018) is responsible for all work of CSS. CSS is required by law to ensure that children are safe from abuse, neglect and harm in their homes.

CSS works under the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* (Tas) (the Act). The Act is strongly based on the CRC and works within the National Framework. As a foster or kinship carer you are also operating under this Act and these frameworks, so it is important you understand the objects and principles of the Act and you can refer to it if you have questions regarding your situation.

Under the Act, CSS's commitments in Section 7 to children who are unable to live with their family are:

- to maximise a child's best interests
- that a child's family is the preferred environment for a child's care and upbringing
- that the responsibility for the protection of a child rests primarily with the child's parents and family.

To allow everyone to work for the best interests of the child it is important that the various workers involved know what their roles and responsibilities are and have a productive relationship with the child at the centre.

The role of CSS

CSS has the legal responsibility for children in out-of-home care. They are also the agency that does the initial removal of children from their birth family, makes assessments, works with the families and deals with the court processes. Determining the best interests of the child is tricky and CSOs are trying to balance the needs of the child with the desires of the birth families; sometimes these two things can be in conflict and at odds with what you as the foster or kinship carer is seeing. However, if everyone has the child at the centre of their work and is open and transparent about processes, timelines and how the child is progressing, you can expect that even if as a carer you disagree with a decision, you can understand why it is being made.



Case management

Case management is the term used to describe the coordination and delivery of services provided to a child in out-of-home care. Case management is the responsibility of the child's CSO.

Child Safety Officer

Each child in out-of-home care will have a CSO who will be part of a regional team. This worker is responsible for working with the child, their carer and their birth family. You can expect this person to:

- meet with the child every four weeks
- manage the child's Case and Care Plan
- provide you with the relevant paperwork and documents so you can care for the child
- liaise with any other relevant agencies, such as school, hospital, mental health services
- organise contact visits with birth families
- as the Secretary's delegate, oversee decisions made regarding the child.

This person will be part of a team with a team leader who you can contact if needed.

Care teams

When a child is placed in your care, there are many people who share responsibility for the things parents would generally do. This group of people is called the care team. The care team aim to 'strengthen communication between the important people in the child's life, and members of the care team work together to achieve the best outcomes for the child or young person.'

The care team is led by the child's CSO. At care team meetings you will develop the Case and Care Plan and discuss the progress and achievements of the child. If appropriate the child can attend.

While minutes are not taken at care team meetings, discussions should be reflected in the Case and Care Plan.

Care team members should include:

- the CSO
- the foster or kinship carer
- the agency worker
- any other adults significant to the young person
 - for example, teacher, psychologist, Aboriginal community member, grandparent
- if appropriate, birth family members.

Care teams will have:

- clear, open and regular communication between the carer, the agency and CSS
- regular discussions – face-to-face, email/telephone
- a responsibility to share information
- the child involved in decision-making where appropriate.

Shared roles and responsibilities

To ensure the best interest of the child are met everyone needs to be on the same team. Sometimes lines can be blurred as who is responsible for doing what. The chapter on the Role of foster and kinship carers provides guidance on your responsibilities. If you are ever unsure, ask your agency worker and then the child's CSO.

Case and Care Plans

A key part of a child's placement with you is the Case and Care Plan. This document is a 'living' plan that is reviewed at all meetings between yourself, CSS and your agency. It is also the document you can refer to during the placement and add information to, such as health and education needs. Appendices 1 and 2 are the CSS fact sheet and flowchart on Case and Care Plans.

Case and Care Plans contain four sections:

1. Section 1: Essential Information – contains important information relating to the child, including culture, carer, family, orders and needs. It will also have the purpose of the plan.

As a foster or kinship carer you should receive a copy of Section 1 at the beginning of each placement.

2. Section 2: Case and care direction – identifies the current plan for the child and any anticipated needs, such as upcoming medical appointments. It should outline the case direction and reasons for that direction, for example whether kinship care is being explored and if not, why not.

The carer must be informed of the intended case direction and invited to have input.

3. Section 3: Care plan – must be completed within two weeks of any Child Safety Order being issued. It is divided into six sections relating to the child's circumstances. The sections are

- 3.1 Health and wellbeing
- 3.2 Education
- 3.3 Identity and social needs
- 3.4 Contact
- 3.5 Placement needs
- 3.6 Care plan involvement – records the details of all those involved with the Case and Care Plan

4. Section 4: Summary and approvals – the 'action plan' part of the plan; summarises the needs in the form of actions including who is responsible and timeframes. It also includes financial needs and who will sign off on financial requests.

Case and Care Plans are to be reviewed at least every 12 months (six months for children under 5 years old) and at any point where significant changes occur for the child.

Appendix 2 Case and Care Plans

Appendix 3 Case and Care Planning flowchart



Contact visits

Contact is the term used for children's visits with their birth families. This will vary from situation to situation: some children may see both parents together, their siblings, grandparents, have phone calls or not have any access visits. Contact visits are a way for family members to stay in touch and reassures children that the important people to them are still interested in them and want to maintain connection. Good contact visits can also enable a child to understand their situation and maintain their social identity, helping them understand who they are and where they come from.

As mentioned above, during Care Team Meetings you will discuss how contact occurs. As a foster or kinship carer you may be asked to assist with transport or facilitate contact. This should be an open discussion and will be dependent on many factors relevant to your situation.

Appendix 4 Contact visits: Information for families

Support workers

Support workers are part of CSS and supervise contact visits between children and their birth families. The child's CSO Case Worker works with the support worker team to organise supervision and transportation, where appropriate, for these visits. Support workers are responsible for:

- facilitating positive contact visits
- ensuring children and young people are safe at visits
- providing reports to the CSO about how contact visits are going
- letting you know at the end of a contact visit if there is anything you should be aware of, such as if the child has been fed, slept, etc.

If CSS has organised support workers to transport your children to and from contact, then they should do so in age-appropriate and safely fitted booster and car seats. You can check a seat is fitted appropriately and if you have any concerns, let your child's CSO know.

Support workers cannot legally tell you, as the carer, about the birth family's situation or case directions, so please do not put them in this position.

Family decision-making

As part of the court process, CSS will be required to organise a Family Group Conference. This is a meeting where family members get together to help make decisions and plans about the safety and wellbeing of the child. It is an opportunity for the people who care about the child, and sometimes the child themselves, to talk about what is working well, what is worrying them and what should happen in the future. Generally, a court will mandate a Family Group Conference during each 12-month order; it is organised by the child's CSO and run by an independent facilitator. The CSO works with the family and child to determine who attends the Family Group Conference and in some instances the foster or kinship carer is invited.

Appendix 5 Family Group Conferences

Making a complaint about CSS

Just like any service you receive, you may be happy with it or not. As mentioned above, there will be times during your out-of-home care experience that you do not agree with a decision CSS is making, but this does not always mean it is the wrong decision. If you are not satisfied with the work of your child's CSO or their manager, you can make a formal complaint. We encourage you to take the following steps:

1. Talk to your agency worker about what is concerning you and what might be the best way forward. It may be better for this worker to talk to your child's CSO or for you all to get together.
2. If you are not satisfied with this step, talk to someone at FKAT and FKAT can assist you in talking to a manager or area director at CSS.

If you make a complaint you should expect the staff of CYS to:

- listen to you
- give you information where they can
- keep your complaint confidential
- tell you about the complaints process
- help take your complaint to the right area and provide you with a key contact person
- check that you have support
- let you know when they are no longer able to help you with your complaint and recommend who you can talk to outside of CYS if necessary.

If you make a complaint it should be in writing and include the following:

- who was involved, when did it happen and did anyone else see what happened
- how the complaint has affected you, your family and the child or young person
- any relevant documents or photographs
- what you would like to see happen to resolve your concerns
- your contact information.

You can also contact the Ombudsman, your local state Member of Parliament, the Minister for Human Services, or the Commissioner for Children.

Appendix 6 Children and Youth Services complaints and compliments

CYS South Complaints

complaints.cys.south@dhhs.tas.gov.au

CYS North Complaints

complaints.cys.north@dhhs.tas.gov.au

CYS North-west Complaints

complaints.cys.nw@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Ombudsman

www.ombudsman.tas.gov.au

Minister for Human Services

www.parliament.tas.gov.au/HA/Cabinet.htm

Commissioner for Children and Young People

www.childcomm.tas.gov.au





Foster and kinship care agencies in Tasmania

Foster and kinship care agencies in Tasmania

In Tasmania, DHHS funds successful community organisations to support foster and kinship carers and the children in their homes, and assist CSS finding appropriate placements for children and young people. This section briefly introduces each community agency, what service it provides and where they work.

Glenhaven Family Care

Glenhaven Family Care (Glenhaven) is a community service organisation committed to 'caring for, strengthening, enriching and equipping individuals and families'. It provides foster care services in the North and North-west regions.

Glenhaven provides both foster care and respite care for foster carers.

Glenhaven
www.glenhaven.org.au

Kennerley

Kennerley is funded in southern Tasmania to provide a foster and kinship care program. It is a private, not-for-profit organisation run by a volunteer board. It has been working with vulnerable Tasmanian children since 1869.

Kennerley runs a foster care program for both foster and kinship carers. It offers respite care for foster and kinship carers as well as a community respite program to allow vulnerable families to have a break from parenting. It also runs the Moving On Program for young people leaving care.

Kennerley
kennerleykids.org.au

Key Assets

Key Assets is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing safe and secure homes for children and young people in need of foster care in Tasmania. It is currently funded to provide sibling group services in throughout Tasmania.

Key Assets
www.keyassets.com.au/tasmania

Life Without Barriers (LWB)

LWB is a not-for-profit organisation providing foster and kinship care services across Tasmania.

LWB
fostercare.lwb.org.au/contact-us/tasmania-foster-care

Possability

Possability is a Tasmanian not-for-profit organisation with more than 25 years' experience in providing support services to children and youth in out-of-home care and people with disabilities.

Possability provides statewide support to foster carers by providing respite care for children in a safe and supportive environment. Foster carers can have a break with peace of mind, knowing that their child is having an enjoyable stay in a home-like environment, supported by friendly and qualified professionals.

Possability also works with foster carers to build their capability to understand and respond to challenging behaviours. We can also undertake behaviour support planning, drawing on our expertise in Positive Behaviour Support strategies.

Phone 1300 067 842

Possability
possability.com.au





Other important organisations

Other important organisations

The Commissioner for Children and Young People, the CREATE Foundation and the Australian Children's Foundation have functions and services which may be important to you in your role as a carer.

Commissioner for Children and Young People, Tasmania

Promoting the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in Tasmania

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is an independent statutory officer who reports to the Tasmanian Parliament. The office of Commissioner is established under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016* (CCYP Act). The Commissioner's work is informed by the principles set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Commissioner advocates for the rights, wellbeing and best interests of all children and young people in Tasmania. The Commissioner must have special regard for the interests and needs of children and young people with experience of the child protection, out-of-home care or youth justice systems and those who are disadvantaged for any reason. The Commissioner's role is therefore one which foster and kinship carers should be aware of.

The Commissioner's general functions, which are set out in Section 8 of the CCYP Act, include advocating for all children and young people in Tasmania, advocating for young people involved in the youth justice system, and working with children and young people to promote their interests in Tasmania.

The Commissioner promotes the rights and wellbeing of children and young people by:

- providing advice to Parliament, and government and non-government agencies on legislation, systems, policies, practices and services that affect children and young people
- promoting children and young people's participation in activities and decision-making about issues that affect their lives
- conducting research and monitoring children and young people's wellbeing, inquiring into and investigating important issues relating to children and young people and

- providing information to help children and young people.

The Commissioner has been given additional funds to establish and undertake systemic monitoring of out-of-home care in Tasmania.

An important part of the Commissioner's job is to make sure that adult decision-makers take children and young people's needs and views into account when making their decisions. Advice and feedback is provided by the Children and Young People's Consultative Council, made up of people aged 9 to 17 from a range of backgrounds and places around the state.

It is important to note that (with the exception of the Commissioner's individual advocacy role for young people in youth justice detention) the Commissioner's role is a systemic one. The Commissioner can only investigate or review the circumstances of an individual child if requested to do so by the Minister for Human Services.

Further information

Phone 6166 1366.

Commissioner for Children and Young People
www.childcomm.tas.gov.au

CREATE Foundation

Creating a better life for children and young people in care

The CREATE Foundation (CREATE) is the peak national advocate of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience. CREATE's vision is for 'all children and young people with a care experience to reach their full potential.' To do this, it seeks to:

- **Connect** children and young people to each other, CREATE and their community
- **Empower** children and young people to build self-confidence, self-esteem and skills that enable them to have a voice and be heard
- **Change** the care system, in consultation with children and young people, through advocacy to improve policies, practices and services and increase community awareness.



What CREATE does for children and young people in care

Some of CREATE's programs and services include:

- **clubCREATE:** By becoming members of clubCREATE, children and young people aged 0 to 25 with a care experience can connect with CREATE, and other children and young people in care. They receive invitations to events, birthday cards, magazines, Entering Care Kits and Welcome Packs. While some children and young people are automatically subscribed to clubCREATE through CSS, the best way for carers to ensure each young person stays connected is to email CREATE or complete the membership form on the CREATE website.
- **Connection events:** These include the annual Christmas, Easter, Waterslide and Halloween parties held around the state. They offer fun ways for clubCREATE members to get together.
- **The Speak Up Program:** Aimed at young people 10 to 25, this program teaches leadership and advocacy skills. Upon completing the training, young people are offered leadership opportunities as Young Consultants at CREATE events and training sessions for foster carers.
- **CREATE Your Future:** This series of holistic life skills workshops support young people aged 13 to 25 in their transition from care to independence and adulthood.
- **Youth Advisory Groups:** These regular forums allow children and young people aged 10 to 25 to meet regularly in a safe space to discuss issues within the care system, before a fun activity. The groups also provide opportunities for young people to contribute to developing resources, programs and general government or organisational policy development.
- **Go Your Own Way Kits:** Developed for young people aged 15 and above who are starting to plan for their transition to adulthood and independence.

CREATE's advocacy role

CREATE also aims to change the care system in Australia through consultation with children and young people to improve policies, practices, services and increase community awareness. It undertakes various research projects and publishes report cards on key issues with the out-of-home sector. One example is the five-yearly CREATE National Survey, which invites children and young people with a care experience to share their experiences and opinions

around living in care. A report based on the 2017–2018 National Survey will be available on the CREATE website when finalised.

CREATE in Tasmania

The Tasmanian CREATE team runs regular programs in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport plus events in regional areas. They work with the department and many agencies around the state to engage children and young people with a care experience. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for details of upcoming events and programs.

Further information

The Tasmanian CREATE office is located in Hobart.

Email tasmania@create.org.au

Phone 6223 7749.

CREATE
www.create.org.au

Facebook
www.facebook.com/CREATEfnd

Twitter
[@CREATEfnd](https://twitter.com/CREATEfnd)

CREATE Your Own Future
www.createyourfuture.org.au

Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF)

The ACF is an independent children's charity working in a number of ways to prevent child abuse and reduce the harm it causes to children, families and the community. It offers services statewide in Tasmania, based in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie.

Some of ACF's services include:

- specialist trauma counselling for children and young people
- support and education to carers
- support and education to CSS staff
- guidance and mentoring in creating and facilitating care teams
- parenting programs
- advocacy
- training in trauma-informed practice and caregiving, face-to-face or online via SMART (Strategies for Managing Abuse Related Trauma) online training.

Therapeutic Services Tasmania

ACF has been specifically funded by the Tasmanian Government to provide an Out-of-home Care Program and Family Violence Counselling Program. Any child who is under the care and guardianship of CSS, and their carer, can access support via the Out-of-home Care Program.

Through this program, ACF can provide:

- Consultations to CSS staff and any other relevant key adults in the child's network. This helps to orientate thinking and decision-making around identifying the unmet needs of children who have experienced abuse and neglect, and actions that can be taken to help meet those needs.
- Child-Specific Training: A referral to ACF for Child-Specific Training is intended to help the key adults around the child to create a safe and stable environment.
- A Clinical Intervention referral is for direct counselling support to children who are subject to Care and Protection Orders. For a child to access this intervention, it is preferable that the child has safe, stable, consistent and supportive relationships in their network, most particularly a consistent carer.
- A foster parent who is supported by an out-of-home care agency is able to access the Level 1 and Level 2 Trauma Training series. This is a total of 11 sessions of half-day training sessions, which run cyclically throughout the year.

The service can be offered in ACF offices statewide or ACF Therapeutic Specialists will meet children and young people and their carers in their homes or where they are comfortable. Services are tailored to support the needs of the child.

A request for this service has to come from the child's CSO, but you can ask them to make the request if you think it would be helpful.

Further information

ACF

www.childhood.org.au

SMART online training

professionals.childhood.org.au/smart-online-training





Becoming a foster or kinship carer

Becoming a foster or kinship carer

This Handbook is aimed at people who are already foster or kinship carers. However, if you are reading this thinking about becoming a foster or kinship carer, this section may help you to make a decision. If you have been caring for a long time, use it as a check to ensure you have everything up-to-date.

Steps in becoming a carer

1. Call CSS or one of the foster care agencies listed in Foster and kinship care agencies to make an enquiry. They will send you information or let you know about upcoming training or information sessions.
2. Attend foster care training.
3. Have background checks done.
4. Do an extended assessment – usually two hours a week for six weeks in your home.
5. Do a home safety check.
6. Ready to go!

Becoming a kinship carer is not as straightforwardly step-by-step as it often is not a decision you are thinking about ahead of time, but instead happens if a child in your family is removed and you either offer to take the child in or are asked by CSS. The chapter on Kinship carers will be useful for you to read. You can ask to go through the same training and receive the same supports as foster carers.

Types of foster and kinship care

Short-term foster care

Short-term care is provided for children or young people while their family situation is assessed. The length of stay can be from a few nights through to 12 months. At the end of short-term care the child may return to their family or be placed in long-term care. Sometimes a family who takes a child on as a short-term placement become their long-term placement.

Long-term foster care

Long-term care is provided for children who need a stable, supportive home until the circumstances of their family change, or they reach adulthood.

Respite care

Respite care is provided for children for short periods to give their long-term carers a break on a regular basis, for example one weekend a month. Wherever possible respite carers give a commitment to be regular respite carers for the same children for 12 months.

Kinship care

Kinship care is a formal arrangement where foster care is provided by a member of the child's family. In the Tasmanian child protection system, kinship care must be explored before other placement options are considered.

Specialised care

There are three types of specialised care: sibling group care, residential care and therapeutic services.

Sibling groups

When siblings are removed, CSS tries to keep them together. As few foster carers have the capacity in their own home to take sibling groups, the government has homes that the children are placed in and the carers move into. If siblings cannot stay together, then contact plans will be developed with the children's CSOs, agency workers and the different foster and kinship carers to ensure the children have regular visits with their siblings.

Residential care

Where older children and young people have high or challenging needs and where foster or kinship care is not available or appropriate, they may go in to residential care. Their carers are paid social workers who are rostered on to care for the children 24/7.

Therapeutic services

Children with more complex or higher needs require carers with a different level of skill and understanding. These children have often experienced significant trauma, grief and loss. As a result, they will often have complex needs and behaviours, attachment disorders, developmental delays or learning difficulties. These children therefore may require carers with more skills.

What you should expect from your agency

Most foster and kinship carers in Tasmania provide care through an agency. As a carer, you will have a worker from this agency. This is your worker, where as the CSO is the child's worker. Your agency and worker will provide you and your family with:

- initial training and assessment
- ongoing training and support
- respite care if needed
- advice about caring for the child, working with CSS and understanding the legal processes
- 24/7 phone support
- connection with other foster and kinship carers
- financial support
- practical support.

If required, they can advocate for you with CSS and just generally give you someone to talk to.

Recruitment and training

Regardless of who you care through, CSS and all the agencies run similar recruitment, assessment and review processes to ensure consistency of care and standards. They also all apply the same best practice models of caring for children in out-of-home care including:

- principles of the CRC which place the best interests of the child at the centre of all decision-making and planning
- trauma-informed model of care, which ensures that everyone working and volunteering in the out-of-home care sector is aware of trauma and its effects on children, and is educated to support children through trauma and on to meaningful lives
- the Signs of Safety Practice Principles.

The Signs of Safety Practice Principles are:

1. Respect the people we are working with as people worth doing business with.
2. Children's and families' voices should be at the centre of our work.
3. Cooperate with the person not the problem.
4. Cooperation is possible even when coercion is required.
5. Recognise that all families do some things well and have signs of safety.
6. Maintain a focus on child safety.
7. Understand the families' motivation.
8. Always search for the details.
9. Focus on creating small changes.
10. Offer choices.
11. Any interaction with a family is a possibility for impacting change.
12. Treat the practice principles as aspirations not assumptions
(kennerleykids.org.au/our-model-of-care).

Appendix 7 Signs of Safety meeting fact sheet

Appendix 8 Signs of Safety family meeting pamphlet

Keeping children physically safe

The Foster care induction checklist and Home safety checklist are CYS documents that must be signed off on before you can take a placement. These are useful guides for you if you are considering becoming a carer. The Foster care induction checklist has a list of things CSS must provide you and the Home safety checklist are the things you need to ensure your home is child-safe.

This full checklist is a useful guide to what you will need to do to have your home and family ready to welcome a child.

Keeping children safe from abuse

The National Framework and reforms happening in Tasmania are making it everyone's responsibility to keep children safe. As a carer of vulnerable people you need to ensure that all the people around the child in your care are aware of this and have the appropriate checks.

You should be aware of the definition of child abuse (Appendix 9) and some of the signs that it might be happening (Appendix 10).

Working with Children and Vulnerable People card

All foster and kinship carers need to have a Working with Children and Vulnerable People card (WWCVP card). You can apply for the card on the Department of Justice website or at a Service Tasmania office. Once you receive your card it will be valid for five years. The agency you care through will cover the application cost of the card.

The WWCVP process includes national and state police background checks. It also allows you to defend yourself if a concern in your past is raised.

WWCVP card

www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children/application

Safeguarding children

Unfortunately, far too many children have been abused by staff and volunteers entrusted to care for children, including in the out-of-home care system. The Safeguarding Children Program is a 'voluntary accreditation scheme for organisations who have a duty to care for children and young people while delivering a service or activity to them and/or their families.' The program supports organisations with resources to meet evidence-based standards that ultimately reduce the risk of abuse of children and young people by employees and volunteers.

As a foster or kinship carer you can encourage the organisations your child is involved in to do the Safeguarding Children Program accreditation.

Safeguarding Children

www.safeguardingchildren.com.au

SMART online training

ACF offers a great free, online training for anyone working with traumatised children and young people. It is called SMART program and can be accessed on the ACF website. This is a great resource for foster and kinship carers, but also one you can recommend to teachers, child care workers, sports coaches, or anyone else interacting with your child in care to help them have the tools to support the child.

SMART Online Training

professionals.childhood.org.au/smart-online-training

Bravehearts

Another organisation to be aware of is Bravehearts. Like Safeguarding Children, it can support organisations to be child-safe, but it also provides training to children on personal safety. Many schools in Tasmania have Bravehearts visit with 'Ditto' the lion to talk to children. The Bravehearts website has lots of useful information for children and carers.

Bravehearts

bravehearts.org.au

Further information

1800 REAL CARERS (1800 732 522)

Appendix 9 What is child abuse?

Appendix 10 Indicators of abuse

Appendix 11 Foster care induction checklist

Appendix 12 Home safety checklist

Foster carers

www.fostercare.tas.gov.au





Kinship carers

Kinship carers

We have included this chapter on kinship care as while there are many similarities to foster care, kinship care is unique and special. Kinship carers are eligible for all the same services and support as foster carers and should seek FKAT's support if they are not receiving it. However, it is the unique relationship that a kinship carer has with the biological family of the child in their care that makes things both special and more complicated.

In Victoria, the Government has developed a Handbook for kinship carers and much of this chapter has drawn from this resource.

Kinship care is often the preferred placement option for children and young people because it minimises disruption to a child's life and ensures connection to family networks. In Tasmania, when a child needs an out-of-home care placement, it is a legislative requirement that kinship care be explored before other placement options are pursued. As a kinship carer, you provide the child in your care with a connection and shared family history.

Kinship care is provided by family relatives or members of the child's social network. Many kinship carers are grandparents, aunts and uncles. Being a kinship carer presents special challenges in caring for the child:

- The child is family.
- You may be hurting for the child's parents who are also your family.
- The parents know who you are and where you live.
- Sometimes the parents will be happy that you are the carer, and sometimes they are not.
- Sometimes you will have to say 'no' to someone close to you.
- You are working with a government department to raise a family member, and this can often be hard.

Just as with foster carers, kinship carers need to go through a CSS assessment, ensure their home is ready, and that everyone has the appropriate checks.

Victorian Handbook for Kinship Carers
services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/kinship-care



FKAT's commitment to kinship carers

FKAT recognises kinship carers in its Constitution. We encourage kinship carers to join FKAT to receive support, advocacy and training.

Privately arranged or informal kinship care

Privately arranged or informal kinship care are terms that may be used to describe arrangements where children and young people are cared for by relatives without any child safety intervention. While the information in this Handbook is for foster and kinship carers with formal child safety involvement, much of it is equally useful for privately arranged or informal carers.

Challenging relationships and family dynamics

As a kinship carer, you will face unique challenges when you are trying to build a relationship with vulnerable child, while also managing family dynamics. Kinship care will usually involve connection with the child's parents and other family members, and you will be attempting to re-establish or maintain that connection for the benefit of the child.

In some circumstances, family contact may be so fraught with difficulties and challenges that establishing or maintaining family contact may not be possible. Pre-existing tensions and hostilities within the family may impact on you and the child's wellbeing.

Some carers report that attempting to deal with family dynamics is the hardest part of their caring role – one that impacts significantly on their own emotional and physical wellbeing. This may involve navigating changing relationships with members of your own family or managing your feelings about a family member who may be the parent of the child.

Please discuss your circumstances with the child's CSO or your agency worker if you are experiencing difficulties with family dynamics that may be impacting your role as a carer. You can also contact FKAT for more support.

Supervision and support

Just like other children in care, children in kinship care will have visits with their birth family. You should discuss with your CSO and agency worker what contact visits will look like and what is expected of you.

Financial support for kinship carers

There is a range of financial supports available for kinship carers. You will need to discuss your individual circumstances with CSS if you have any issues regarding financial support. This is something you will need to discuss with your child's CSO.

The Commonwealth Government also provides benefits that are available to the broader community. It is the role of CSS, your agency and the care team to identify and access the full range of financial supports available.

Centrelink's Grandparent Advisers

A Grandparent Adviser at Centrelink may be able to assist you if you are a grandparent or relative carer and have questions about eligible and the assistance available. The adviser can provide information specific to your circumstances, assess your eligibility and refer you to other services if required.

Call the Grandparent Adviser Line on free-call 1800 245 965 or search for 'Grandparent Adviser' on the Centrelink website.

Grandparent advisers

www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/grandparent-advisers

See also Money matters

Further information

Appendix 13 What if I become a kinship carer?

Appendix 14 What is kinship care?

Victorian Handbook for Kinship Carers

services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/kinship-care



A decorative graphic featuring a series of white stars of varying sizes, some of which are connected by thin, wavy white lines. The stars and lines are scattered across the upper half of the page, set against a solid pink background. In the background, there are faint, large, stylized outlines of stars and wavy lines in a lighter shade of pink.

The role of foster and kinship carers

The role of foster and kinship carers

The role of foster and kinship carers is broad and, at times, challenging. In this section of the Handbook we have tried to include all the things that may come up for foster and kinship carers, so it covers lots of topics! Hopefully it covers all the things you should keep in mind about your role and responsibilities when caring for a child in care.

When a child first enters your home

When a child comes into care or enters a new placement, they may be anxious and nervous, and possibly upset. They may be quiet or withdrawn, appear indifferent, or seem eager to please or 'not put a foot wrong' or feel hostile. Your first task is to help the child settle in with as little stress as possible.

It is nice to have their room set up attractively, a new set of sheets and towel that is theirs, a small gift and a special first meal together.

It is a good idea to talk about household routines and rituals, so they do not feel too lost straight away. Until a child is completely familiar with the operation of the household, keep them informed about what activities are taking place and when.

As children settle into your home, they may need space and time alone in their room.

Getting to know each other will take some time, but warmth and openness will help. Your CSO and agency worker will assist you with how best to support the child in your care.

Obtaining official documents

When children are removed from birth families it can be messy and frantic. During this process it can be hard to obtain the official documents for the children, such as birth certificates and Medicare cards. You can expect your child's CSO to try to obtain these, but this must be done sensitively and may take time. This obviously has implications for you as the child's carer, as it may mean paying for medical appointments up front or being unable to apply for benefits.

Some useful things for you to know are:

- CSS can apply for a child's birth certificate through Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- Talk to your agency worker about paying medical bills before you have a Medicare card so you know what is expected.
- Any official documents you need should be identified in the child's Case and Care Plan, so everything can be followed up on.
- Passports can be applied for with the approval of your child's CSO.
- Many Aboriginal services now ask for a letter confirming a person's Aboriginality to access their services. If your child is Aboriginal, you can seek this letter from their CSO.

Carers cannot be expected to be provided with:

- personal background information about the child or their family, or
- copies of court reports.



Providing day-to-day care

As a foster or kinship carer you have been approved to provide day-to-day care for the child placed with you. It is important to remember the Secretary of DHHS is the legal guardian, so if you are unsure of whether you can or cannot do it is worth checking with your child's CSO. It is also critical to have a thorough Case and Care Plan so everyone is clear on where different responsibilities lie.

You **may** do the following **without** seeking permission from your child's CSO:

- buy new clothes for a child
- have the child's hair cut
- allow the child to stay with a friend for one overnight
- arrange babysitting
- approve school trips – low to moderate risk activity
- allow the child to take part in low risk activities or sports
- allow the child to enrol in cubs, brownies etc.

You **must** get permission from your child's CSO for the following:

- take a child on a holiday – within the state or interstate
- take a child overseas
- change a child's school
- choose school options
- approve school trips that involve high-risk activity
- allow a child to take part in high-risk activities or sports
- allow the child to have body piercings or tattoos
- allow the child to participate in religious worship
- change the child's hairstyle.

Medical decisions are listed in the Health chapter.

You are also responsible for your and your family's safety and wellbeing. You need to ensure that:

- you and anyone spending a significant amount of time with the child, such as foster grandparents, babysitters etc. have an up-to-date WWCVP card
- your home and vehicle conform to CSS requirements, see sections below
- you send regular updates to your CSO and agency worker, so there is frequent sharing of information and a record
- you keep a diary of your child in care to assist with keeping notes of behaviour and developments
- you let your CSO and agency worker know if there is a change in your circumstances, such as someone new moving into the house, someone leaving the house, change of school for one of your own children etc.

Sex education

Discussions about sex education will naturally come up as children age. Schools offer great programs that introduce these topics to your children. These will need to be supported at home with family discussion. If you are unsure of how to have this discussion, talk to your agency worker, and below are some website resources.

Also, let your CSO and agency worker know when you have these discussions and diarise them yourself, in case something comes up later.

Family Planning Tasmania

www.fpt.asn.au/education

Bravehearts

bravehearts.org.au

Bank accounts

From the age of 15, children in care need to have a bank account; this will be part of their Leaving care plan. As part of this plan you will discuss how this is to be set up and with which bank.

Pocket money

Within the allowance paid to foster and kinship carers, there is an amount for pocket money for the child. The amount of pocket money that a child is to receive is not specified by CSS, however, the carer must provide pocket money to the child weekly. The level of the pocket money will depend on the age of the child, community norms and the amount of pocket money that the carer's own children receive.

If you are unsure, CSS recommend children receiving the level of pocket money equivalent to their age, therefore a 4-year-old child would receive \$4 per week, a 10-year-old child would receive \$10.

See also Money matters

Babysitting

As a foster and kinship carer you can arrange babysitting for the child in your care with anyone you believe is appropriate. Children can be left with a babysitter for up to one night, just like going for a sleepover at a friend or family member's house for one night, but anything longer than this needs approval from your child's CSO. You have been trusted with a child in your care, so it is expected that you will choose an appropriate babysitter for the age and needs of your child. If you have a regular babysitter, we recommend asking them to have a WWCVP card. If your family members are going to be helping out a lot with the children in your care we recommend this as well; they may also want to do some kinship or foster care training through your agency so they are better equipped to understand the children in your care.

If you need a longer break, respite care is available for all foster and kinship carers. This is discussed in the section below on Taking a break.

Legal ages

It is useful to be aware of at what ages children can take on different responsibilities. It is an area which there are often rumours about!

Leaving a child at home alone

There is legally no set age that a child can or cannot be left alone on their own. Your obligation is to make sure that your child is properly looked after for example has appropriate food. Here are some questions from the Raising Children Network to assist with deciding if you could leave your child home alone:

- Does my child usually make sensible decisions?
- Can my child stay alone for a while without being frightened?
- Would my child be able to cope in an emergency, such as a fire or a break-in?
- Does my child know how to use the telephone?
- How safe is our home and neighbourhood?
- Does my child know important information such as phone numbers?
- Can my child follow the house rules, whether I am there or not?
- Does my child feel confident about being left alone?
- How long will I be away?
- How often would my child be at home alone?

If you are not sure your child is ready, trust your judgement and wait until they are a bit older. If your child is unsure or feels frightened about staying home alone, be patient and reassure them that they will feel ready as they get older. There's no need to rush into it if they are not ready.



The Raising Children Network has the following suggestions to prepare your child for being left alone:

- Build up the time, leave them for a few minutes, to an hour, to after school.
- Draw up a list of things your child can do and cannot do when left alone.
- Have a signal that your child can let you know when they arrive home, for example call your phone three times or send a message.
- Have a rule about answering the front door when home alone.
- Ensure there are rules about babysitting.
- Ensure your young person knows how to use things when you are not home, for example the phone, the microwave.
- Leave your child some tasks or a routine.
- Do your own home safety check before you leave for the day, so your young person feels safe when they arrive home.
- Make sure your child knows who to call for help.
- Have an emergency plan.
- Have a plan for what your child is to do if they lose their key or comes home to the house unlocked.

Raising Children Network
raisingchildren.net.au/

Walking to school

Like staying home alone, there is no set age for when a child can walk to school by themselves. This is a decision for the carer and child. Some safety ideas to go through with your child before they begin walking to school include:

- walk the route together
- have friends walk with them
- talk to the school about organising a Walking School Bus.

Department of Education travelling to school
www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/school-colleges/travelling-to-school/

Cycling safety

The Bicycle Network of Tasmania provides information on cycling safety in Tasmania. It also provides education programs in schools. As with walking to school, there is no minimum age that a child can ride to school. However, you should ensure that:

- your child wears visible clothing
- there are working lights and bells on the bike
- your child wears an Australian standard helmet
- your child understands road rules and where they can ride on the footpath etc.
- your child is competent on the bike.

Cycling safety
www.biketas.org.au/cycling_safety

Road rules
www.hobartlegal.org.au/handbook/community-and-environment/road-rules-for-cyclists-and-skaters/bicycle-and-cyclist-specific-laws/

Australian helmet standard
www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/bicycle-helmets

Setting your house up

When you become a foster or kinship carer, your agency or child's CSO will assist you with how to set your house up to keep everyone safe and happy. If you must make any adjustments to your house, such as extra locks or gates, this will happen prior to your first placement.

Your agency will provide you with a Home safety checklist that can be then be a tool for regular safety checks of your home. Some general safety things you should be aware of include:

- Products, chemicals and medications etc. which could be a hazard should be stored appropriately.
- All medicines should also be stored appropriately.
- No firearms should be kept in the home.
- You should have a first-aid kit.
- You should have working smoke alarms, fire safety plan, fire blanket, fire extinguisher, child-resistant fire screens around fire places and open fires, and heaters in safe locations.
- Steps should have barrier gates.
- Railings should be free of potential footholds for children.
- Glass doors are made obvious.
- All breakable items are kept out of reach of a young child.
- All sharp edges on tables and furniture are covered.
- Check your blind and curtain cord safety.
- Any flat screen TV should be secured to reduce the risk of it falling and hurting a child. This can be done by mounting the TV on the wall, or there are safety straps available to secure the TV to a cabinet or a wall (refer to the manufacturer's instructions).
- Safety plugs are fitted into unused power points and all appliances and cords are in good condition.

The CSS policies regarding other rooms and parts of the house are outlined below, along with some general best practice suggestions.

Appendix 11 Foster care induction checklist

Appendix 12 Home safety checklist

Appendix 15 Home smoke alarms

Home safety

kidsafe.com.au/home-safety

Bedroom

It is important that children in care at home are safe in their new home. Allowing them to make their bedroom their own and a safe place is a way you can do this.

The following is a list of things **required** by CSS:

- Each child has their own bed.
- Bedding and towels must be cleaned weekly.
- There is to be no nudity in public areas of the house.
- Children under 9 years of age should not sleep in a top bunk.
- Bunk beds have fixed ladders, guardrails and comply with Australian standards.
- There should be space for each child's clothing and belongings to be stored.
- All toys and furniture are appropriate to the child's age and do not risk hurting the child.

In addition, CSS and FKAT **recommend** the following:

- Children from different family groups should have their own bedroom.
- Bedroom doors are left open.
- You have a knock and enter policy.
- Bedrooms are not used as play areas for children.
- Children always wear nightwear to sleep in.

Product safety: Bunk beds

www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/bunk-beds

Appendix 16 Bunk bed safety

Bathroom

Children and young people need to feel safe using the bathroom. Here are some ideas on how to do this:

- All young people who are old enough and able to bathe and wash themselves should have privacy in the bathroom.
- All electrical items are unplugged if not in use.
- Young children are supervised in the bath to ensure safety and where necessary the bathroom door is left open.
- If children are known to have a history of sexual abuse or sexualised behaviour talk about bath or shower times with your CSO and agency worker about a strategy.
- Use dressing gowns between the bathroom and bedroom.

Kitchen and laundry

According to the Home safety checklist, carers should comply with the following in the kitchen and laundry:

- Use back hot plates when possible.
- Turn pot handles around to prevent being pulled from the hot plate.
- Closely supervise children in the kitchen.
- Use a child restraint on the oven door.
- Position the microwave out of reach of the child.
- Keep the dishwasher closed at all times.
- Keep all plastic bags out of reach of children.
- Empty all buckets and sinks when not in use.
- Have a top loading washing machine that switches off when opened.
- If you have a front loading washing machine or dryer, keep the doors securely closed to prevent a child climbing in.

Hygiene

During the initial assessment your home will be assessed for cleanliness and hygiene. It is understood that everyone has different approaches but try to maintain as clean as home as possible and ensure that your household does not pose a risk to the health of the people living in it. Best practice suggested by CSS and FKAT on general hygiene include:

- Vacuum and mop weekly – twice weekly if you have pets as well.
- Ensure children are showering or bathing on a regular basis.
- Purchase age-appropriate toiletries and deodorant for children and teach them good hygiene practices.

Food

Good nutrition is vital to a child's development. Carers are required to:

- provide children with three nutritious meals a day as well as fresh fruit and after-school snacks
- make adequate and healthy school lunches
- control special or treat foods.

You may have a child enter your home with specific dietary needs. We recommend you work with your agency worker to research their needs and how your family can accommodate them.

Food handling is also important and promotes the safety, handling, storage and distribution of food to reduce the risk of food poisoning or other illnesses.

To handle food appropriately:

- Ensure hands are washed appropriately.
- Cover all cuts and wounds and use gloves over any dressings you may have.
- Use utensils when dealing with food wherever possible.
- If you have a cold, cough into your elbow.
- Keep food covered and refrigerated.
- Separate cooked and raw foods.
- Ensure fruit and vegetables are washed before use.
- Always defrost food in the fridge, not at room temperature (Kennerley, 'A Foster Carers Handbook').

Healthy eating for children

www.eatforhealth.gov.au/sites/default/files/content/The%20Guidelines/n55f_children_brochure.pdf

Australian Guide to healthy eating

healthy-kids.com.au/food-nutrition/guidelines-recommended-intakes/australian-guide-healthy-eating/

Household pets

During the initial assessment of your home, your household pets will be assessed and talked over with you. You may need to discuss how you will look after your pets around the children in care in your home.

Backyards

In your backyard:

- You must have a safe playing space outside which is visible from the house that is away from any driveways.
- All play equipment must be safe, stable and in good condition. Play equipment should have a soft landing underneath.
- Your garage, shed or workshop should be locked and all garden and building tools locked away.
- Rainwater tanks must be securely sealed and any other drowning hazards appropriately covered.

Appendix 12 Home safety checklist

Trampoline safety

kidsafe.com.au/sports-and-play

Swimming pool

Unfortunately, children are at risk of drowning in backyard swimming pools. Children at greatest risk are toddlers aged 1 to 3 years old.

- Take precautions – the most important precaution is a safety fence completely isolating the pool. The fence should meet the Australian standard with self-closing and self-latching gate, be well maintained and have nothing nearby that a child could use to climb over it.
- Always watch children near the water.
- Know what to do in an emergency.

Appendix 12 Home safety checklist

Appendix 17 Backyard swimming pools

Australian standard pool rules

www.spasa.com.au/consumer-info/fencing-laws/

Royal Lifesaving Society

www.royallifesaving.com.au

Rural properties

If you live on a large rural property or working farm, you will need to do some additional home safety checks. The full list can be found at Appendix 12, but some things you will need to ensure are:

- There is a fence around the house with a child-safe gate.
- The house is away from machinery and livestock.
- You have removed any old machinery, junk etc. from where children play.
- All silo doors are locked and ladders removed.
- You have spoken with workers on the property about the sensitive nature of having children in care and that they are aware of any behavioural needs; ensure all workers have WWCP cards and any other relevant checks or training.
- Children are kept away from machinery when in use and when not in use machinery is turned off and keys removed.
- All workshops, sheds and other outbuildings are locked.

Appendix 12 Home safety checklist



Vehicle safety

Just as it is important that your home is safe, you need to ensure your vehicle is as well.

- CSS and your agency need a copy of your driver's licence.
- Your vehicle must be registered, roadworthy and have appropriate seatbelts.
- Use age-appropriate child restraints that comply with national standards. If you are unsure about appropriate child restraints we recommend contacting your local RACT.
- Leave all vehicles not in use turned off, parked in gear, handbrake on, windows closed, vehicle locked and keys away from children.
- Do not leave children in the vehicle unattended.
- Wherever possible, do not allow children under the age of 8 (or the age of 12 if the car has a front passenger airbag) to travel in the front seat of a car.
- Do not allow children to be in control of a motor vehicle or motorcycle unless they are in possession of a Learner's or Provisional Licence.
- You need to seek written approval from the CSS manager prior to allowing a child to ride or be a pillion passenger on any motorcycle (street, trail, farm) or quad bike. If they do ride a motorcycle or quad bike they must wear appropriate protective gear including an approved helmet.
- Ensure that your child wears an approved helmet and protective gear when riding a bike or scooter, or when using inline skates, skateboards or rollerblades.
- Children 12 are not permitted to ride, skate or roller blade on a public roadway.
- Ensure that children over 12 have shown they understand and can follow road rules prior to being permitted to leave the confines of the property without adult supervision.

Appendix 12 Home safety checklist

Vehicle specifications in Tasmania

www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicles/specifications

Australian child restraint standards

www.raa.com.au/motoring-and-road-safety/child-safety-advice-and-news/australian-standard

Kidsafe child restraints

www.kidsafetas.com.au/national-kidsafe-day/

Child restraints

www.ract.com.au/child-restraints

Australian helmet standard

www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/bicycle-helmets

Change in your circumstances

Just as a child in care is living their life, so are you and your family. If there are any big changes in your circumstances, you need to let your CSO and agency worker know. This probably will not affect anything, but as the Secretary is the legal guardian of the child, it is important that CSS knows the child's situation. You should let your child's CSO know if any of the following happens:

- you decide to move house or leave Tasmania
- your contact details change
- your relationship with a partner changes, for example, your relationship ends through separation, divorce or death, or you take a new partner
- you experience a change in personal circumstances, for example, significant health problems,
- the demands of your employment change
- you form an intention to provide care for other children (for example, family day care or relatives)
- you or a household member ceases to have a current WWVPC card
- you feel you are no longer able to meet the required standards of care
- a person, excluding other children in care, intends to begin living in your household, or
- there is a change to the criminal or child protection history of you or any member of your household. This includes someone being
 - arrested or taken into custody by the police
 - charged or convicted of an offence
 - a victim of domestic violence or having a domestic violence order made against them.

Electronic devices and the internet

As with all parents, foster and kinship carers need to monitor the time they spend on electronic devices and the internet. For children in care you also need to be extra careful about what they share online and who they try and reach out to. Here are some things to think about. If you are unsure, talk to your agency and child's CSO.

Taking photos

It is expected that you will take photos of your children. You just need to make sure:

- they are stored securely
- you do not share photos of your children in care without checking with their CSO
- if your child's photo does appear on social media, it does not identify them as being in care
- always ask the child if they are happy for you to take their photo
- you never take a photo of a child in care naked, even babies
- you only have photos of the child in your home with their agreement
- that if the child would like photos of their birth family in their room, you facilitate this
- that you seek authorisation from CSS about photos being used in newsletters, newspapers, etc.

Internet safety

Be aware of where your child will access the internet and have discussions with them about how they are using it in each environment, for example, at school, in a LINC or elsewhere. It is recommended that you:

- use parental control software to help blocking access to certain types of website
- block access to newsgroups and chat rooms (your Internet Service Provider (ISP) can assist with this blocking)
- locate computers in communal parts of the house
- if a child has another device which they can move into their room, then negotiate how they are to be used, for example taken out of the room at a certain time before bed, turning wi-fi or internet off at a certain time, etc.
- do not share your child's email address
- tell your child not to give away their personal details
- be aware of age limits for chat rooms and social media sites; ensure your child does not use them before the specified age and uses only those that are age-appropriate.

Australian Government, Stay Smart Online

www.staysmartonline.gov.au

Think u know

www.thinkuknow.org.au

Australian Government eSafety

www.esafety.gov.au

Australian Federal Police

www.afp.gov.au/policing/child-protection-operations/online-exploitation

Mobile phone safety

CSS has an information sheet on the use of mobile phones for children in out-of-home care. Permission to own and use a mobile phone is based on a discussion between the carer, the child and their CSO. From this discussion carers can set down rules about appropriate use of the mobile phone.

According to CSS's policy, children are responsible for paying for their own mobile phone use, not the carer. The phone is part of the child's private property, so a carer cannot look at its contents without consent or prior agreed discussion about how the phone is to be used.

If your child has a mobile phone, here are some ideas to teach them how to use it appropriately and for you to control its use:

- Use content control applications on your child's mobile phone.
- Ask the mobile phone provider about barrier and filtering mechanisms.
- Talk to your child about what they are using their phone for.
- Talk to your child about how they use the camera on their phone and the photos or videos they take.
- Unfortunately bullying happens using mobile phones and social media. Talk to your children about this and that it is a criminal offence to bully on mobile phones or social media.
- Be aware of online grooming of young people and that children will be asked to keep the relationship a secret.

Appendix 18 Mobile phone ownership and use by children and young people in out-of-home care

Mobile phone safety for children

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/mobile-phone-safety-for-children



Caring for a newborn

Children can come into care at any age and each age will have its own joys and challenges. Some carers will take children straight from birth. This can be daunting and overwhelming, but the staff at all the hospitals are lovely and warm and will help you in whatever way you need. Often children entering care from birth may need to stay in hospital for a bit longer than other newborns, but you can begin visiting the child and forming an attachment and bonding. Talk to the hospital staff about what times are appropriate, as birth family members may also be visiting.

Some things to be aware of with newborns include:

- Ask their CSO to ensure the child's birth is registered with Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- Ask for their 'blue book' and contact your local child health nurse, so you can receive support and the child have all the necessary checks.
- Ask their CSO to apply for a Medicare card and Health Care Card.

The Home safety check includes additional points for newborns, which include:

- Cots need to comply with Australian standards.
- Cot mattress must fit snugly in the cot.
- Bedding must comply with Safe Infant Sleeping recommendations (see Appendices 20 and 21).
- The cot must be free of soft items such as pillows and toys.
- Cot must be away from the window and power points.
- You agree to never leave the child on a baby change table.
- You agree to safely supervise a child using a walker.
- You agree to constantly supervise a young child in the bathroom.
- You have a non-slip surface or non-slip mats.
- You always test the bathwater before putting a child in.
- The bath water is always drained after use.
- The high chair is stable and has a five-point harness.
- Keep hot drinks out of reach of a young child.
- You must supervise a child under four when playing outside at all times.
- You must keep a child under 4 away from a lawn mower in use.

The Parenting Line is a 24 hour phone line that can assist you 1300 808 178

Appendix 12 Home safety checklist

Appendix 19 Safe sleeping

Appendix 20 Safe sleeping and SIDS

Blue Book and Child Health Centres

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/child_health_centres

Product safety: Household cots

www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/household-cots

Caring for a teenager

Just as caring for a newborn has unique circumstances, so can caring for a young person. Even if a child has been in your care since birth, their teenage years are going to be a time of exploration and discovery. It is a time to assist them understand their world, where they fit in it, and what their identity is. Two topics to be aware of are dating and driving.

Dating

The best model of appropriate relationship is your relationship with your partner or spouse and how you treat and are treated by other genders. Try to model respectful and caring relationships built on trust and friendship. When your young person starts dating, try to:

- encourage group dates
- have set time periods
- not leave them alone for long periods of time.

Driving

A young person can apply for a Learner's Driver's Permit when they turn 16. When learning to drive a young person must:

- have a fully licensed driver in the passenger seat at all times
- have clearly displayed L plates on the front and rear of the vehicle
- carry their license with them while driving
- obey the conditions of their licence.

Transport Tasmania

www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/getting-a-licence

Insurance

During your assessment to become a foster or kinship carer you will need to show evidence of having home and car insurance. This is to ensure security for you and the children in your home. It is recommended that you talk to your insurers if you are worried about what you are and are not covered for. It is recommended that all carers have:

- home and contents insurance
- comprehensive car insurance
- evidence of vehicle registration.

This will also be checked as part of your annual review.

There may be circumstances where damage or injury is not covered by your insurance policy and in these cases we recommend you talking with your fostering agency about the best steps. For example, in some situations, the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* may apply.

Confidentiality

As a carer you are entrusted with confidential information to assist you in your caring role. You need to remember this information is the child's information and story and not for you to tell. It may also be their birth family's story which is also their story to tell.

If you are unsure about what information can be shared and with whom, it is best to check with your child's CSO.

Appendix 21 Information sharing

Safety for you and the children in your care

CSS has a legal information not to publish information that identifies or may lead to the identification of a child as being in care. Carers need to be aware of this and seek permission from the CSO about the child in their care going into media articles, newsletters, etc. This is not to exclude children, and there will be many instances where it is fine for a child's photo to be published, but it is just worth checking with your CSO.

This same care must be taken with social networking websites, such as Facebook and Instagram. We generally advise carers not to put photos or names of children in care onto any social media sites. When children get to an age where they can begin engaging in social media themselves, this should also be done with care and caution, as discussed in the section above about internet safety.

Annual review

All foster and kinship carers will have an annual review with either your agency worker or the child's CSO. In the review, the previous year's review document will be compared to assess where things are at, what is working well, identify any worries and plan what needs to happen. This review meeting should be consistent with the Case and Care Plan and any ongoing communication throughout the year.

The review meeting should be an opportunity for the carer and worker to look at what has gone well for the carer and any challenges that may have been encountered, as well as looking ahead to developing further. It is a chance to affirm what is going well and what is needed to better support the carer and the placement.

After a child leaves

A child leaving can mean many changes and feelings for the foster or kinship family. The family may need time to grieve. The family can debrief with CSO and agency workers. You may also find it useful to:

- allow time to have mixed feelings
- support your own children expressing their feelings
- discuss how the family feels about fostering in general
- talk to other foster or kinship carers
- take a holiday!

See *Birth families and Transitions* for more detailed discussions.

Learning and development for foster and kinship carers

Throughout your time as a foster or kinship carer you will be invited to attend lots of different training. Training is hosted by FKAT, CSS and foster care agencies. We encourage you to attend as much training as possible to learn about child's brain development, the effects of trauma, attachment, therapeutic care, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and so many other topics! If you find training you are interested in, talk to FKAT about how it can facilitate the training.

We recommend all foster and kinship carers do the following regularly:

- make sure your WWCVP is up-to-date
- keep your first aid up-to-date
- complete a mental health first-aid course and keep this up-to-date
- complete the ACF trauma training offered to all foster and kinship carers; if you cannot get to it in person, then use the online SMART program.

FKAT can provide some financial reimbursement for carers to do first aid and mental health first aid; please contact the CEO ceo@fkat.org.au

Looking after yourself

Parenting can be hard for all of us but parenting someone else's child who has potentially suffered trauma and neglect can be challenging. It is important that you take care of yourself, your relationships and your family. Think about what you enjoy doing and how you can still include this in your day and have a plan if things just get too much.

Local foster and kinship carer groups

Through FKAT and the organisation you care through or informally, local groups of foster and kinship carers form and can provide friendship, support, advocacy and information.

Taking a break

Just as families need support and time-out from parenting, foster and kinship carers do too. Short breaks from caring can happen as needed or be planned regularly and put into your Case and Care Plan. Respite carers are generally the people who will have your child at this time. However, if you have a family member or friend who already has a relationship with the child in your care, they can receive the training to become the respite carer for your child. There may also be extended family of the child who want to be their regular respite carers. Ideally it is best for the child if their respite carers are regular and a part of the community around them.

Carers can take up to 21 days paid supportive respite. Your usual payments will continue during your respite days. You can seek respite at any time of the year except over Christmas and on a child's birthday. You can arrange your respite with your agency worker and we recommend planning it an advance.

Sometimes emergency respite is needed; if this happens work with your agency as quickly as possible to organise this.

Looking after your family

If you are a carer in a de facto or marriage relationship or have your own children, whether still at home or older, bringing other children into your family will change things. Most families benefit enormously from fostering, but it can be difficult to balance the needs of your spouse and children around the needs of your fostered children.

Try and share decision-making as much as possible and have safe spaces for your own children to express how they are going. Plan date time for you and your spouse.

Think about how you can talk about your foster children's behaviour around your own children and why there may be different expectations and discipline used.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

All foster and kinship carers are eligible to access CSS's Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP is a 24-hour phone line with trained counsellors who can listen and support you through a difficult time in your caring journey. As a carer, you and your family are eligible for up to four confidential sessions a year.

EAP 1300 687 327

Needs of biological children

As discussed, the decision to bring children in care into your home needs to be a family decision. You need to inform your extended family and understand their capacity to be involved, support your decision and help out. Of course, this is even more important with your own biological children: whether they are young children or grown adults, they need to know their place in your home and how the new children fit in.

CSS have a general policy that you should only bring children into your home younger than your own children. This means the order of children in your home remains the same and children do not feel like they are being replaced, or all of a sudden have an older sibling. This cannot always be adhered to if you are considering taking a sibling group or with kinship care. However, it is a good thing to remember when considering what would work for your family.

Fostering can be a great experience for biological children and from a young age teaches them compassion and empathy. Your own biological children will also teach your children in care what 'normal' behaviour is in your home, how to respond to praise and punishment, how to show physical love, and how to play, among many other things!

A major study in the Australian Capital Territory into the needs of biological children in foster care found that:

- Biological children played a major role in caring for other children in their home.
- Parents felt their biological children played a real and tangible role in caring for children in their home, particularly with practical day-to-day tasks.
- The majority of biological children indicated that the positive impacts of fostering outweighed the negative experiences, and highlighted that fostering had helped them to broaden their world view, build family and friendships, have access to more fun and shared activities, and develop new skills.

The main challenges identified by biological children were:

- behaviours of children in care
- sharing people, time and toys
- feeling jealous, ignored and left out
- changing family dynamics
- increased levels of family stress and conflict
- loss and worry.

The study found that while biological children were identified as playing a major role in the lives of the children in care in their home, they were often not

included in decision-making and policy development. Many biological children felt they did not want to express their concerns or worries, about fostering or anything else, as they did not want to add extra stress to their parents. Many also felt stigma and misunderstanding of being part of a family that fostered.

With this information in mind, FKAT encourages you to:

- talk to your children before starting to provide foster or kinship care and allow them to express their worries and concerns
- continually include your biological children in family decision-making
- celebrate the contribution your children make to your family to enable it to care and the role they play in the lives of the children in care in your home
- make 'date time' for your biological children so they can express how they are going, especially to discuss difficulties
- catch up with other fostering families, so your biological children can see this is normal for other families; just as CREATE allows a place for children in care to find commonalities, this can allow your biological children can find connection with others
- talk to your children's teachers, coaches etc. about the joys and challenges of being a family that fosters and how they can support your child; educate others about being a fostering family
- prepare your children for the end of placements and transitions
- be willing to engage supports for your children such as social workers and psychologists if they need someone to talk to
- seek opportunities for training and development for your biological children, and
- continually advocate for the needs of biological children as they are key stakeholders in the out-of-home care system.

Needs and experiences of biological children of foster carers

aifs.gov.au/cfca/pacra/needs-and-experiences-biological-children-foster-carers

The impact of fostering on biological children

www.afkcp.org.au/files/rees_centre_review_impact_of_fostering_on_carers_children.pdf

Supporting sons and daughters of foster carers

www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/sites/www.fostering.net/files/public/resources/fostering-networks-position/sons_and_daughters_policy.pdf





Helping the
child in your
care to thrive

Helping the child in your care to thrive

The aim of all foster and kinship carers is for the child in their care to thrive! Children and young people in care often need extra support to thrive and reach their full potential. This section provides you with some useful resources to assist you in your journey with the child in your care.

Life story work

Children in care benefit from knowing their story; it should be developed in an age-appropriate way. Sometimes there can be different versions of their story, which can be confusing and destabilising for a child. Life story work involves working with the child to develop, or better understand, their story and help them create memories they will have forever. It is a lovely opportunity for foster and kinship carers to develop an open and strong relationship as you learn about one another.

Many of us take for granted knowing where we were born and who was there or where our first holiday was; unfortunately for children in care these parts of their story may be missing. Life story work can begin this story from the time a child enters your care, and as you develop a relationship with their case worker or birth family, you may be able to fill in some of these gaps for children.

Begin to keep the your child's school reports, photos, certificates, and other memorable things into a folder or special box so they can keep their memories somewhere special.

Aboriginal life books

www.vacca.org/product/life-books

CREATE

create.org.au

New South Wales Family and Community Services

www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/carers/kinship/caring-for-a-child/chapters/life-story-work

Books on life story work by Richard Rose, Director of Child Trauma Intervention Services Ltd

www.childtraumaintervention.com/page/33/therapeutic-life-story-work.htm

Responding to a child's behaviour

As a foster or kinship carer you are in a prime position to make positive changes in a child's life. For a child to be accepted, loved and belong will change the trajectory of their life. To support you do this, there are lots of services available for you and the child, such as counsellors, teachers, your CSO, other foster and kinship carers, and health professionals.

Before reacting to the behaviour of a child in care, it is useful to remember the following:

- The child's developmental age may not necessarily equal their chronological age.
- Children model themselves on significant people in their lives.
- Think about discipline strategies that are most appropriate considering the child's history.
- The behaviour may have nothing to do with what just happened, but be related to a recent contact visit or uncertainty or a past trauma.
- Broken attachments may affect the child's behaviour.
- Children who enter care have often suffered trauma, they are emotionally fragile and have complex needs. Shame, grief or loss issues are often underpinning their responses to situations.
- Their behaviour is often their language, and their only way of communicating their level of stress.
- Dr Dan Hughes recommends the PACE approach: when we are Playful, Accepting, Curious and Empathic with children, it reduces interpersonal struggles.

If you are struggling with a child's behaviour it is a good idea to talk to your CSO and agency worker, and with the child if this is considered appropriate. Together, come up with an agreed plan as to how to deal with the child's behaviour. Depending on the age of the child, it may be really beneficial to have them involved in these conversations and decisions as well.

What is meant by PACE?

ddpnetwork.org/about-ddp/meant-pace/

Triggers

As you learn more about a child's history and background you may realise there are certain triggers that bring back memories and lead to unacceptable behaviour. Often this behaviour is communicating a level of distress that they do not otherwise know how to express. Some of these triggers may be unavoidable, such as contact with birth family members but others, such as driving past a certain area or certain foods, can be avoided and as a carer you can support the child in your care by being aware of these triggers. As a child grows up you can also talk to them about the triggers and assist them gaining control over them.

Routine, rules and consequences

As much as possible you should try to be clear with the child in your care. They may have come from confusing backgrounds where the rules change and there is no routine. You can really support the child in your care by making rules and expectations clear and sticking to a regular routine each day, particularly the way the day begins and ends. Early in a placement, it is a good idea to stick to a routine and not have late nights, so everyone can settle into life as a family. It is a good idea to explain how this household or family runs, what sort of expectations and rules there are in this family. Having the structure and routines of a home consistently applied is also important, as this sense of predictability can then grow for a child and is a way of building their sense of safety in the home and relationships.

It is also a good idea to let the young person in your care know what the rules and expectations are for their behaviour and what the consequences will be if these are not met. Early in a placement, you may need to be quite specific too, as it may not be enough to say 'be polite', you may need to explain what you mean by this.

We encourage you to think about appropriate consequences for the child in your care. Many children in care have been over- or under-disciplined and manipulated by adults in their life, so picking consequences and appropriate discipline is an important consideration. Often, different children need us to respond in different ways, and it is important for us as carers to adapt to these differing needs. If you are unsure talk to your CSO or agency worker.

Raising Children Network
raisingchildren.net.au

ACF
www.childhood.org.au

Disclosure of abuse

Sometimes CSOs are unaware that a child has been abused prior to being placed in a foster or kinship carer's home. You may be the first person to become aware of it. If this should happen, you should inform the child that you will support them to tell their account to the relevant people. Do not question the child about the information they have told you.

Even if disclosure sounds unbelievable, it is important to listen and believe the child. The child has chosen to entrust you with the information and often children fear telling anyone.

As soon as possible, record the conversation and let your CSO know.

Bravehearts
bravehearts.org.au

Responding to child's disclosure
aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/responding-children-and-young-people-s-disclosures-abu

Understanding attachment and brain development

Attachment is an emotional connection between a parent or carer and a child. It is a two-way process that develops over time. The experience of a secure attachment provides the basis for a child to explore the world with confidence, and is the safe relationship that a child can return to when experiencing distress. This includes the capacity to form positive relationships throughout their lives.

Children in out-of-home care are likely to have attachment problems stemming from their experiences that resulted in the need for them to be placed in care and further changes in care arrangements can contribute to greater attachment problems. Even a child removed as a newborn baby has had an attachment broken with their biological mother.

Children with attachment problems can grow up displaying aggression or withdrawal or be over-affectionate with strangers or excessively clingy to carers.

As a carer you should try and learn as much about attachment and how you can support your child with it. Great resources are available from ACF, Dr Dan Siegel and the Circle of Security website.

Children's attachment needs in out-of-home care
aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/childrens-attachment-needs-context-out-home-care

Understanding the importance of attachment
fostercare.lwb.org.au/assets/Uploads/1.-Attachment-for-Children-in-Foster-Care.pdf

ACF
www.childhood.org.au

Circle of Security
www.circleofsecurityinternational.com

Books by Dr Dan Siegel
www.drDansiegel.com

Understanding trauma

The effects of trauma on childhood development is also something carers should be aware of and try and understand as much as possible. Trauma affects us from the embryo in the womb, right through to adults. Depending on when trauma occurs and the developmental stage of a child, the effects can be quite different.

For children who have been affected by trauma, the external world can be bewildering and threatening. They often feel unable to trust others, experience difficulty processing information, and are often stuck in survival mode of 'flight, fight or freeze'. This can make caring for a child challenging and sometimes confusing.

Children can recover from trauma and learn how to form positive relationships and see the world as an exciting and wonderful place. To aid recovery, you should find out as much as possible about trauma, talk to your child's General Practitioner (GP) and any other specialists, and work as a team around the young person.

Trauma-informed care
aifs.gov.au/cfca/sites/default/files/publication-documents/cfca37-trauma-informed-practice.pdf

The effects of trauma on development
aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/effect-trauma-brain-development-children

SMART trauma training
professionals.childhood.org.au/smart-online-training

Child Trauma Intervention Services
www.childtraumaintervention.com

Child development and trauma guide from the Western Australian Department of Child Protection
www.dcp.wa.gov.au/ChildProtection/ChildAbuseAndNeglect/Documents/ChildDevelopmentAndTraumaGuide.pdf

Secure Base Model
www.uea.ac.uk/providingasecurebase/the-secure-base-model



Sexualised behaviour

Sexualised behaviour may be challenging for you as a carer. Children are just children, but unfortunately some children, from a very young age, show highly sexualised behaviour. Like all behaviour that children present with, we need to try and understand the meaning and need driving the behaviour. Unfortunately, sexualised behaviours can be more confronting, but just as with other challenging behaviours, we need to respectfully put boundaries in place, create understanding and respond in ways that are not shaming. Seeking specialised support will be really important.

Responding to a child's disclosure of sexual abuse aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/responding-children-and-young-people-s-disclosures-abu

Sexual Assault Support Service
www.sass.org.au

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Disorder (NASD)

FASD and NASD are two other disorders foster and kinship carers should be aware of. Both disorders occur when a fetus is developing in its mother's womb; as you know so many amazing things are happening to create the tiny human and anything toxic introduced into the environment can have devastating effects.

FASD leads to permanent brain damage to a child. The effects vary greatly on each child depending on:

- when the alcohol was drunk and what part of the brain was developing
- the amount of alcohol consumed
- the frequency of the alcohol consumption
- intergenerational alcohol use
- mother's age
- mother's health
- other environment factors such as stress, violence or
- other substances the mother may be consuming.

Therefore, the effects of FASD vary considerably and it is sometimes referred to as the 'invisible disability' as it goes undetected, overlooked, ignored or misdiagnosed as ADHD (Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) or attributed to poor parenting.

There may be some physical characteristics in the child and often children have significant cognitive, behavioural, health and learning difficulties, including problems with memory, attention, cause and effect reasoning, impulsivity, receptive language and adaptive functioning difficulties.

It is worth being aware of FASD to ensure that you can receive an appropriate diagnosis for your child in care so they can receive the appropriate supports and you can parent them with this in mind.

Like FASD, NASD occurs when a developing fetus is exposed to addictive opiate drugs in the mother's womb. It can occur if a pregnant woman takes drugs such as heroin, codeine, oxycodone (Oxycontin), methadone or buprenorphine. Similarly to FASD, the effects can vary depending on when a mother takes the substance, how much and so on.

A baby may be born dependent on the drugs and then go through a withdrawal process. This may need to occur similarly to an adult withdrawing from drugs, with the aid of other medications. Newborns may need to stay in hospital during this time and it is very distressing for them and their carers.

The long-term effects of NASD on a child vary and as a carer you should be aware of it when seeking support for the child in your care.

At time of publication, the effects of children born to mothers using the drug ice (crystal meth) are still unknown. But again, if you know this is part of your child's health history, it is worth being aware of it, so you can advocate for them as they grow and develop.

NoFASD website

www.nofasd.org.au/alcohol-and-pregnancy/what-is-fasd/

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007313.htm

Identifying and responding to self-harm and suicide risk

Children and young people who have experienced abuse and who have very little family support are at an increased risk of self-harm or suicide.

The most common indicators of a child being at risk of self-harm or suicide include:

- a previous suicide attempt – this is the most significant risk factor for a child to commit suicide
- deliberate self-harm
- a history of mental illness, including clinical depression
- being bereaved by the suicide of a family member, friend or other significant person
- drug or alcohol abuse
- suffering major loss
- having a disruptive and unsupportive family, family breakdown or conflict
- being exposed to suicide
- feeling socially isolated, alienated or not belonging within family or community
- having poor coping and problem-solving skills and low self-esteem
- having issues with sexuality and sexual identity
- having problems with the law.

If a child is not their usual self, or if they are showing some of the indicators for self-harm or suicide, you should not ignore it. You must immediately:

- talk with the child about what is happening, and
- call your CSO to report and discuss your concerns and ask for help to respond to the child.

If a child is suicidal or self-harming it is important to talk to CSS and other significant people in the child's life. Be open about your concerns and let the child know that you are seeking additional support.

Headspace
www.headspace.org.au

R U OK?
www.ruok.org.au

Parenting Support
www.parentline.com.au/parenting-information/tip-sheets/suicide.php

Youth Beyond Blue
www.youthbeyondblue.com/understand-what%27s-going-on/suicide-prevention

Canadian Foster Family Resources

www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca/video-workshop-understanding-and-managing-self-harming-behaviours

Drug use

If you suspect or discover that a young person in your care is, or has been, in possession of drugs you need to contact your agency and CSO for advice and action. It is not appropriate for you to deal with this situation without professional support that can help to keep everyone in your family and the child safe.

Headspace

headspace.org.au/health-professionals/understanding-substance-abuse-for-health-professionals/

Mental illness and substance use

aifs.gov.au/cfca/bibliography/mental-illness-and-substance-abuse-young-people

Drugs and teenagers

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/drugs-teenagers

Bullying

FKAT has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying by adults and children. Unfortunately, children in care can be the target of bullying at school. If your child is bullied:

- report it to your community organisation and CSO
- take action to resolve the situation and support your child
- in extreme cases, notify the police.

Headspace

www.headspace.org.au/young-people/understanding-bullying-for-young-people/

Bullying for children and young people

bullying.humanrights.gov.au/children-and-young-people-0

Other resources

The Tasmanian Department of Education website has great information that can help you with the child in your care, from how to support them during meal times to information on asthma and allergies. We recommend looking at the website to see what is available to support the child in your care.



Connections with birth families

Connections with birth families

It is in the best interest for the child to maintain links with their birth family. Every situation is different, and you will work with your worker at CSS and agency to develop a plan. In Tasmania the word 'contact' is generally used when talking about visits with birth family. Contact may be in person at CSS or another location, phone calls or letters. They may be with one or both parents, siblings or other family members.

Foster and kinship carers play a vital role in supporting a child before, after and sometimes during contact. Some ways carers can help are:

- writing in a 'communication book' between the carer and the family
- having printed photos of the child
- talking to the child about what they might want to share with the birth family.

It is also in the best interests of the child for all the adults in their life to have a good relationship. This will be facilitated by CSS and will have boundaries to keep everyone safe.

Foster and kinship carers can expect the following from CSS regarding contact visits:

- dates, times and arrangements will be documented in the child's Case and Care Plan and adhered to as much as possible
- to be provided with information on the details of the visit
- to have their other commitments considered when planning contact
- to be informed of any changes to a contact visit at least 24 hours in advance
- to be available to support the child before and after contact
- to be provided with feedback from the person supervising the contact, and
- to be informed if a child needs to take food or drinks or anything else to contact.

Appendix 22 Rights of parents with children in care

How contact happens

The decisions about a child's contact arrangements are made by the Magistrate's Court and then put in place by the child's CSO. They are referred to in the Case and Care Plan. All decisions about contact will consider the child's age, stage, school, home and other requirements, wishes of the young person or child, and the carer's family commitments.

During care team meetings decisions are made about providing transport and support for the child before, during and after visits, promoting a positive experience and environment and making arrangements for them to be supervised as required. The CSO arranges this.

Foster and kinship carers may be asked to provide transport for contact visits but should not be required to supervise contact visits.

Only people who have been approved by CSS can attend contact visits with the child. If someone who is not approved turns up, the visit will be terminated to protect the child.

You can support the child's contact with their family by:

- talking positively about their birth family
- taking photos or certificates or something else for them to show their birth family
- showing a positive attitude and interest in their culture.

There are times when you may be frustrated in managing a child's contact with their family. There might be cancellations by either the family or the child's CSO, and periods when their birth family do not attend. While this is of course frustrating for you as their carer, it is even harder for the child and they may experience extreme emotions. You need to support them to understand that it is normal to miss their family or be angry or sad at things that happen, while encouraging them to see the positives in remaining connected to their family.



You are the one standing beside the child as they go through the many different and confusing emotions when things go well or not so well. It is important to remain neutral or positive about their parents and family, while providing this support. It is important also to be honest; you do not know if a birth parent loves their child or why they have behaved in a certain way, so it is best not to say 'of course they love you' when you do not know and you may be reinforcing a very negative picture of love. It is better to be honest and say you do not know or ask the young person what they think.

How your child is before and after contact visits should be an ongoing discussion with the child's CSO and your agency worker. Any concerns should be written into the Case and Care Plan and if it is consistently going badly, then there should be a change in contact arrangements. The whole purpose of contact is to build a positive relationship for your child with their birth family and if this is not happening, then the wishes of the child should be paramount.

Appendix 4 Contact visits: Information for families

Transport to and from contact

CSS organises the transport for your child to go to and from contact visits. However, your child's CSO may ask you to assist with transport or you may want to do the transport if you have a young child or a child that struggles with transitioning between too many people. This should be discussed at care team meetings, so that what is expected of you can be agreed upon.

You can talk to your agency worker about being compensated for transport.

Foster and kinship carers supervising contact

As a carer, you never have to supervise contact between the child in your care and members of their birth family. However, the child's CSO may request this of you and there may be circumstances when it is acceptable. For example:

- If your child has siblings also in care, as carers you may organise a visit and supervise the children.
- If reunification is happening you may be part of the reunification team and doing some of the transport or supervision for short visits. In this scenario it is best for the child in your care to see you get along with their parents.
- If a more permanent order is put in place you may form a more natural relationship with the child's birth family and have them as part of the child's life as they grow.
- You may be comfortable supervising visits with extended family, but not the child's birth parents.

In any of these situations, it should all be discussed in care team meetings and as a carer you need to:

- express any concerns you have
- know what course of action you take if you have to report something
- be confident that the birth family members understand and respect the fact that you may be asked about their behaviour.

Phone calls

To enable a second contact visit in a week or a contact visit with an extended family member, CSS may ask you to facilitate a phone call between the child in your care and their birth family. Phone calls mean that you as the carer are supervising the visit as you need to ensure the child is emotionally alright on the phone call, the birth family member says appropriate things and the phone call keeps to the designated time limit. As a carer you can always say you do not want to facilitate these phone calls.

Phone calls as a contact visit should be discussed at care team meetings and, as discussed above regarding supervision, everyone should be clear of what is expected of you.

Sibling group contact

If you have a child in your care, but not their siblings, there may be extra visits or special visits for birthdays and special occasions which you will be asked to, and may want to, facilitate. This should be discussed at care team meetings and you can express how comfortable you are with other foster or kinship carers having your contact information and arranging these with or without the CSO.

Sometimes siblings live interstate, so these visits need to be arranged between the government departments and then with you.

CREATE sibling contact

create.org.au/resources/sibling-contact/

Reunification

If reunification is going to happen, it should not come as a surprise. It should be in the Case and Care Plan and be part of discussions regarding how the case is developing. You may be asked to be part of the reunification process by talking to your child, facilitating extra visits and providing information to birth families.

It is not your role to promote or encourage reunification, but it is CSS's responsibility to investigate and ensure birth families are doing what is being asked of them. CSS will be assessing all the risks associated with reunification and working with the birth family to address them.

If a child is going to return home, it will be a staged process involving the carer and the child. Some ideas that will assist you and the child include:

- the child being actively involved in the process
- allowing them to maintain contact with the foster or kinship family
- ensuring there is appropriate attachment with the birth family
- ensuring appropriate supports are in place, such as social workers or trauma counsellors, who will continue to work with the child and their birth family.

Catholicare in the south works with CSS to support birth families while reunification is happening. It runs the *Pathway Home Reunification* and *Pathway Home Parenting Education through Group Work* programs that both work with biological families.

Social Care Institute for Excellence Placement Guide

www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide07/placement/placement/





Caring for children with diverse needs

Caring for children with diverse needs

Diversity can refer to a person's cultural background, their language, disability, sexuality or gender identity. All different types of children and young people are in care and you may be asked to look after a child with one or more of these needs.

Diversity can impact on a child's sense of identity and worth, development and experience. There are many ways to support diversity and to access services if needed, and there are plans and actions that support cultural identity and community connection.

Aboriginal children

Nationally, all states and territories follow the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle'. As mentioned in the Legislation and Legal Information chapter, the fundamental goal of the principle is 'to enhance and preserve Aboriginal children's connection to family and community and sense of identity and culture.' (aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/enhancing-implementation-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-child/aboriginal-and) In practice this means that placement priorities are:

- within family and kinship networks
- unrelated carers in the child's community, then
- carers in another Aboriginal community, if no other suitable placement with Aboriginal carers can be sought
- children are placed with non-Indigenous carers as a last resort, provided they can maintain the child's connections to their family, community and cultural identity.

'Enhancing the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle: Policy and practice considerations' CFCA Paper No. 34 – August 2015 aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/enhancing-implementation-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-child/aboriginal-and

In Tasmania, this principle is reflected in Section 10G of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act*.

Despite this commitment, the reality is that many Aboriginal children are placed with non-Aboriginal carers in Tasmania. Non-Aboriginal carers and staff who are caring for Aboriginal children have a responsibility to make sure that the child does not lose connection with their family, community and culture.



Education

The Department of Education works in partnership with community and families to support Aboriginal students from birth and throughout school. Aboriginal students are provided with:

- an inclusive approach to teaching and learning that values their community and culture
- support through targeted programs and through Aboriginal workers attached to some schools
- access to specific Aboriginal career pathway programs and opportunities
- a curriculum inclusive of Tasmanian Aboriginal histories and cultures
- a Learning plan developed in partnership with you, your child and their teacher.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children may also be eligible to receive ABSTUDY if they are continuing their study over the age of 14.

ABSTUDY

www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/abstudy

Further information

Aboriginal Health Liaison Service (South Tasmania)
6166 8264

Aboriginal Health Liaison Service (North Tasmania)
6777 6168

North-west Multicultural and Health Diversity Liaison Officer 6478 5318

Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Service (Hobart, Launceston and Burnie) 1800 132 260

Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation
tacinc.com.au or 6231 3527

Reconciliation Council of Tasmania
rectas.com.au

Magabala Books
www.magabala.com

Yarn Strong Sista has a good range of early childhood toys, puzzles and books
www.yarnstrongsista.com

Cultural diversity

Culture, language and religion go to the heart of a child's identity and how they connect to others. Children may have preferences connected to their religion or culture. You may need to seek guidance or advice to understand how to support these practices. And they could be really enriching for your family too!

Cultural identity is about sense of belonging within a community. As a foster and kinship carer you play a part in assisting that child belong to the world they came from and into your world.

There are many ways you can support a child to express and understand their culture, including:

- thinking about your own culture, aspects that are important to you and how it shapes your identity
- thinking about attitudes or beliefs you may have about their culture
- improving your understanding of the child's culture through research or by contacting the Multicultural Council of Tasmania or Migrant Resource Centre in northern or southern Tasmania
- celebrating cultural and religious occasions with them
- encouraging them to talk about their culture, family, religion and traditions and what is important to them
- identifying significant people in their life who can help them maintain contact with their own culture, language or religion
- speaking to elders in the community
- encouraging them to seek opportunities to develop their own language
- encouraging them to participate in activities that involve people from diverse backgrounds and teach them about diversity
- recognising that they may be subject to discrimination and talk about this with them, and
- supporting them if they have different dietary requirements.

Refugee/Migrant Liaison Service located at the Royal Hobart Hospital 6166 8126 or 0448 902 042

North-west Multicultural and Health Diversity Liaison Officer 6478 5318

Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania
mrctas.org.au

Multicultural Council of Tasmania
mcot.org.au

Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia
www.fecca.org.au

Interpreter services

If you have a child with English as a second language it may be useful to use the national Translating and Interpreting Service (TILS). TILS can arrange interpreters in person or over the phone. In smaller communities, it is sometimes better to use someone over the phone and ask for an interpreter in another state to ensure your child and their situation is anonymous to the interpreter. You can also request a male or female interpreter and if it is a medical situation, an interpreter with relevant medical knowledge.

For some services, you may need to be an advocate for the child in your care and ask that a professional uses TILS to ensure the child can share all the information needed, for example in a medical setting.

TILS 24-hour phone line 13 14 50

Religion

It is important that you respect the religious view of the child's family as well. When considering a child's religion, it may be useful to ask the following questions:

- Were they baptised before entering out-of-home care?
- What are the parents views?
- What are the child's views?

This is also important if a parent does **not** want the child involved in religious activities, so should be a discussion with the child's CSO and may be a placement consideration.



Fostering a child with a disability or special needs

All children in care should receive services that meet their individual needs and enhance their physical, emotional, cognitive, social and cultural development. You may have a child in your care with a physical or learning disability or communication difficulties. This may not be obvious when the child is initially placed with you.

Talk to your agency worker and child's CSO as to what the child's needs are and how you can all support the child. All their needs should be listed in the child's Case and Care Plan.

A child with a disability may also need more intimate care, such as bathing and toileting. Make sure you know how to do these things appropriately and always treat the child with respect and dignity. Also ensure that what you need to do and how you will do it is recorded in the Case and Care Plan.

You can support a child in your care with a disability by:

- supporting and advocating for their engagement in education
- understanding the range of services that are available for them, helping them find access to these supports, and advocating for them if needed
- ensuring they have access to the aids, equipment and services they require to achieve their goals and aspirations
- maintaining opportunities for them to socialise and participate in community activities
- learning what you can about the particular disability and ways to support them with their communication, physical and social-emotional development
- being aware of their additional vulnerability to abuse and providing appropriate care and protection.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The NDIS is a national approach to providing individual support and services for people with a disability, their families and carers to achieve their goals and aspirations.

Based on insurance principles, the NDIS will provide people with a disability (including mental illness) who meet access requirements with the support and services the need to participate in and contribute to the community.

Each person who meets the access requirements receives a plan of supports that are tailored to their needs and aimed at helping them achieve their goals. The scheme is implemented by the National Disability Insurance Agency. The NDIS helps identify early interventions and support for children from birth.

Knowme App

knowmetools.com/know-me/

My NDIS Pathway – a new way to access disability support

www.ndis.gov.au

Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS)

The ECIS support children with a disability or development delay from birth to school entry, and their families or carers. The service builds on opportunities for learning and development that are provided at home or through birth to 4-year-old programs.

ECIS

www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/early-years/early-childhood-intervention-service/

Further information for carers of children with a disability

Australian Human Rights Commission

www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights

Disability Standards for Education

education.gov.au/disability-standards-education

Supporting All – Students with Disability Focus

Frequently Asked Questions

documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/_layouts/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=TASED-4-6154 (PDF, 890KB)

Association for children with a disability

acd.org.au

The 24-hour National Relay Service for children or young people who are hearing-impaired

13 36 77 or 1300 555 727 or 0423 677 767

Home and Community Care Program (HACC) Tasmania

1300 769 699

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) children and young people

According to the Department of Education Tasmania, '[a]pproximately ten per cent of young people acknowledge feelings of same-sex attraction while they are at school and college. A smaller percentage of students question their gender.' So, a child or young person in your care may identify as LGBTI.

A child's sexual orientation and gender identity is very personal to them, and you may or may not be informed about it. Some may never talk about it, no matter how supportive their environment is. It is important not to make assumptions, but where it is known that a young person is LGBTI, this needs to be respected. You also need to be aware that they may be subject to bullying and discrimination.

You can support the young person by:

- not making assumptions about their gender or sexuality
- responding positively when they discuss or acknowledge their sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status
- respecting their right to privacy
- identifying and linking them in with support organisations such as Working it Out
- reading available information so you are more informed
- ensuring you have access to information about sexual health and safety
- understanding that they are at risk of suffering discrimination and mental health issues and ensuring that you do not blame the child or tell them to modify their behaviour
- understanding why they might be a target of bullies.

Working it Out

www.workingitout.org.au

Qlife

qlife.org.au

Sexual Health Service Tasmania

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/sexualhealth/sexual_health_service_tasmania

CREATE LGBTQ

create.org.au/resources/lgbtq/

Department of Education, 'Guidelines for Supporting Gender and Sexual Diversity in Schools and Colleges'
documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/Guidelines-for-Supporting-Sexual-and-Gender-Diversity-in-Schools-and-Colleges.pdf



An abstract graphic featuring a series of white stars of varying sizes, some of which are connected by thin, white, swirling lines that create a sense of movement and flow. The background is a solid orange color, and there are faint, larger-scale white star shapes in the background.

Education

Education

Education is a vital part of any child's life and plays a significant role in their ability to access future employment and life opportunities. Children in care often have unique educational needs, and meeting those needs requires planning and support. As a foster or kinship carer, you need to make an extra effort to understand these needs and advocate for the child in your care. You will then be able to work with the school to help the child stay connected and have a positive educational experience.

Education requirements by law in Tasmania

In Tasmania, children are required to attend school from the age of 5 years to at least 17 years old; by 2020 the government will be requiring children to attend school until they are 18 years old. Some other points to be aware of are:

- Every child 5 to 17 years of age must be enrolled at and attending school or an approved home education program.
- Children can also attend Kindergarten from 4 years of age.
- From 2020, all students must participate in education and training until they complete Year 12, attain a Certificate III, or turn 18 years of age (whichever occurs first).

The new Education Act allows for more flexible school enrolment options to facilitate students to access schools in certain circumstances.

- **Students with disability:** Dual enrolment for students with disability are able to enrol at more than one school (both a specialised support school and another school) to provide a flexible education program to meet specialised needs. Contact the Professional Support Staff at your enrolled school. Contact the Manager Disability Programs on 6165 5464 or email disabilityprograms@education.tas.gov.au.
- **Students wishing to enrol in Year 13:** Year 13 enrolment supports students who need an additional year of senior secondary education before moving on to further education or the workplace. Contact an extension high school offering senior secondary years or a college.
- **Home-educated students:** Home-educated students may be enrolled at one school for up to two days a week to support their existing home education program. Contact the Office of the Education Registrar on 6165 6135 or email registrar@oer.tas.gov.au.

Choosing a child's school

When children are initially placed in out-of-home care it is often best to maintain the school the child is at for continuity. However, as a picture of the child's needs, risks involved and carer's capacity develops it may be best for the child to move school. These discussions will contribute to the Case and Care Plan.

As the Secretary is the legal guardian of a child in out-of-home care, it is your child's CSO's responsibility to decide what school a child should attend and enrol them. However, this should be discussed in care team meetings and form part of the Case and Care Plan. The state will pay the school fees of children attending government schools, but if a child needs to attend a different school, you can discuss options with your child's CSO.

The My School website has information about every school in Australia.

My School
www.myschool.edu.au



Boarding school

If you live in an area where school does not extend beyond Year 10, boarding school (or distance learning) will be encouraged to allow your child to complete Years 11 and 12. If the young person in your care needs to attend boarding school to continue their education, this should be a discussion at care team meetings as to how this will work and be funded.

Learning in Families Together (LIFT)

LIFT is a Department of Education initiative to support parents and carers with the skills to support children's literacy and numeracy learning at home. LIFT encourages collaboration between home, school and the community to help lift the literacy and numeracy outcomes for all children. LIFT is offered in only some schools for children from Kindergarten to Year 2. For more information contact your child's teacher or school principal.

Individual Education Plan (IEP)

All children in care will have an IEP. This will be developed with the foster or kinship carer, relevant teachers, CSO and anyone else that may be relevant such as a school social worker or the child's psychologist. The IEP is developed in a meeting in Term 1 and contains information about what the child needs to achieve in their education. It should also contain goals for the student which encompass academic, communication, social and any other skills. The IEP should be clear and agreed to by all parties and contain timeframes of when it is to be assessed, which should be at least annually.

School activities

Schools have to carefully assess the risk of injury with sport and other activities. Child Safety encourages participation in approved school sports.

Sometimes schools do incorporate potentially risky activities: talk to the child's CSO about the child's participation in such activities.

School camps

CSS will cover the costs for one regular school camp per year for each child in care. This should be discussed at a care team meeting, so everyone is aware of the expectation and requirements.

Special camps

CSS may pay for the child to participate in special camps if it is beneficial to the child's development and has been discussed in a care team meeting and approved. Examples of special camps include sports camps, music camps or summer camps.

School photos

Children in care should be included in the class photo. Payment for the child's photos should come from the carer's reimbursement.

Tutoring

If the child in your care is assessed as needing additional tutoring, it will be included in the Case and Care Plan and the IEP at which point a discussion about funding, logistics etc. will happen.

If the child in your care is assessed as particularly talented and would benefit from accelerated learning or special tutoring programs, it should also be discussed at care team meeting and included in IEP, with a discussion about funding and expectations.

Child's development during school

What happens if you do not think your child is ready for school

If you do not think the child in your care is ready to start school, you can work with the child's CSO to have their development checked. This decision is made with your input along with medical professionals. The Kindergarten Development Check (KDC) is designed to assist teachers in the early identification of Kindergarten students who are at risk of not achieving expected developmental outcomes and may require specific intervention program or specific support personnel.

To discuss holding your child back from starting school, contact Education Performance Review 6165 5706

Performance indicators in primary schools

In Prep the child in your care will do a Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS) test. This is an online test done with the child's teacher and assesses their literacy and numeracy. It is administered nationally by the University of Western Australia and assesses how each child is developing.

PIPS information from the University of Western Australia

www.education.uwa.edu.au/pips/

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

NAPLAN is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It is an everyday part of the school calendar and has been since 2008. NAPLAN assesses reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar, and punctuation) and numeracy. You will receive a report of how your child went in NAPLAN.

National Assessment Program

www.nap.edu.au

National Assessment Plan (NAP) sample assessments

The NAP sample assessments tests students' skills and understanding in science, literacy, civics and citizenship and information and communication technology literacy. Only selected groups of students in Years 6 and 10 participate in these samples.

National Assessment Program

www.nap.edu.au/nap-sample-assessments



Preschool programs

There is strong evidence that intensive and sustained participation in high-quality, early childhood services makes a significant and enduring difference for the most disadvantaged children and young people. There are a range of universal and specialist services that promote early education and care.

Launching into Learning

Launching into Learning is a free program for families with children birth to four years of age in all Tasmanian schools and Child and Family Centres. It is a great way to engage the child in your care in early learning and for you and the child to feel comfortable in your local school and Child and Family Centre. For more information about Launching into Learning visit the It's A Great Start website.

Launching into Learning

www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/early-years/launching-learning-lil/

It's A Great Start

www.education.tas.gov.au/2017/06/its-a-great-start/

Child and Family Centres

These centres provide great environments of support and learning for parents and their children. They are located around the state.

Child and Family Centres

www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/early-years/child-family-centres/

LINC Tasmania

LINC Tasmania are the libraries around Tasmania. They offer great programs for children and young people from birth onwards. They are more than just great resources for books!

LINC Tasmania

www.linc.tas.gov.au

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a valuable experience for children. In Tasmania children begin kindergarten the year after they turn 4 and attend for 15 hours a week. Registered teachers teach in kindergartens; most kindergartens are located on primary school sites.

At kindergarten children:

- learn through play and activities planned by a registered teacher guided by the Early Years Learning Framework
- play with other children and discover, create, improvise and imagine
- test out their ideas, ask questions and expand their thinking
- use a wide range of equipment specially designed to support their learning
- spend time playing and learning as part of small and large groups and on their own
- build independence, confidence and skills for getting along with others
- develop literacy and numeracy skills and learn about the world around them.

Early Childhood Intervention Service

ECIS supports children with a disability or development delay from birth to school entry, and their families or carers. The service builds on opportunities for learning and development that are provided at home or through birth to 4-year-old programs.

ECIS

www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/early-years/early-childhood-intervention-service/

Childcare and preschool programs

Table 1 is from the Victorian Handbook for Foster and Kinship Carers and shows the various childcare and preschool programs available for children.

Table 1: Education and childhood services

Type	Description	Providers
Long day care	Primarily aimed at 0 to 6-year olds, long day care is usually based in a centre, typically operates for at least eight hours a day on normal working days, for a minimum of 48 weeks per year, and is staffed by qualified workers. Education and care programs are created around the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child.	Lots of childcare centres around Tasmania. www.careforkids.com.au/child-care/tas
Preschool programs	These education programs are delivered by qualified early childhood teachers and engage each child in effective learning, communication and thinking. Preschool programs can be delivered as a sessional program or integrated within a long day care program.	www.careforkids.com.au/child-care/tas
Family day care	Family day care provides home-based education and care for children delivered within a carer's home. It includes all-day care, part-time, casual, overnight and outside school hours care.	www.careforkids.com.au/child-care/tas
Outside school hours care	This care is provided for primary school-aged children before and after school (7:30 to 9:00am and 3:00 to 6:00pm), during school holidays and on pupil-free days. Vacation care is a type of outside school hours care that includes indoor and outdoor activities. This type of care is usually provided on a school property.	Talk to your child's school

B4 Education

b4.education.tas.gov.au

Working Together for 3-year olds

www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/projects/working-together-3-year-olds/

Belonging, Being and Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/early-years/belonging-being-and-becoming/

Homeschooling

As a foster or kinship carer you can request to homeschool the child in your care. This will be a conversation with the child's CSO and your agency worker.

Home Education office 6165 6135 or
registrar@oer.tas.gov.au

Children with special needs

If it is identified that your child in care needs extra educational support, this should be discussed in care team meetings and recorded. The Department of Education has a range of supports available, but you may be able to access other resources as well. As the child's carer, you should be their advocate for extra supports.

The Department of Education supports for children with extra needs include:

- English as a second language (ESL) teachers
- support teachers
- speech and language pathologists
- school psychologists
- social workers
- school chaplains
- student welfare workers
- autism consultants
- Physical Impairment Coordinators
- Deaf and Hearing Impaired Service
- Vision Services
- Respectful Schools Support Teams.

Supporting Student Need

www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/supporting-student-need/

Aboriginal children

The Department of Education works in partnership with community and families to support Aboriginal students from birth and throughout school. Aboriginal students are provided with:

- an inclusive approach to teaching and learning that values their community and culture
- support through targeted programs and through Aboriginal workers attached to some schools
- access to specific Aboriginal career pathway programs and opportunities
- a curriculum inclusive of Tasmanian Aboriginal histories and cultures
- a Learning plan developed in partnership with you, your child and their teacher.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children may also be eligible to receive ABSTUDY if they are continuing their study over the age of 14.

ABSTUDY

www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/abstudy

Students with a disability

The Department of Education is committed to enabling all students to achieve quality outcomes through their participation in inclusive, high-quality education. The child or young person's teacher or principal will develop Learning Plans for children with disabilities and you as the carer, will be part of these. You can find more information about the specific services the Department of Education offers on its website.

Department of Education

www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/students-with-disability/

Suspension or expulsion from school

A 'school disciplinary absence' or suspension or expulsion from school is a last resort for inappropriate behaviour. If a child in your care receives one of these, both you and your child's CSO will receive a letter from the school with the reason for the decision.

You will then need to review the child's IEP and Case and Care Plan to assess how best to support them moving forward.

School absences and truancy

If a child in your care has an unexplained absence from school, the school principal will contact you first to make sure the child is safe.

If the whereabouts of the child is not known, the CSO may be contacted as well.

If the child has ongoing problems with truancy, the IEP will be reviewed to develop strategies to address these problems.

Bullying

All students have the right to be safe from discrimination, harassment and bullying.

Unfortunately, children and young people can be bullied in person and then via social media which can happen anywhere, making it harder for children to leave bullying at school. Children in care may be the subject of bullying just because their lives are different. It is important for you to be aware of this and talk with your child about their story and how much they want to share or what story they want to tell. For example, they may want to call you Mum or Dad in public. Talk to your child's teacher before Mother's Day and Father's Day or family history days about how these can be celebrated for your young person.

In Tasmania the Department of Education has a 'Staying Safe in Schools' policy. This is the government's commitment to ensure 'all students feel safe and supported so they can focus on learning and have fun.'

The Department of Education defines bullying 'repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. It is intended to cause harm, distress and create fear.' Cyber bullying is 'bullying that is carried out through the internet or mobile phone technologies.'

Bullying? No Way!

www.bullyingnoway.com.au

Department of Education Staying Safe Policy

www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/parent-fact-sheets/staying-safe/

Secondary school

For any child, the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 is a big one. You can help make it an exciting one for the young person in your care. Some ideas to help with this transition include:

- Start talking to your child about how they are feeling about starting secondary school and discuss any concerns they may have.
- Find out as much as possible about the secondary school the child will be attending, so you can answer all their questions.
- Attend any orientation events.
- Encourage your child to begin using a diary to get organised.
- Plan for greater homework after school and in the evenings.
- Encourage your child to begin learning good time management.
- If your child is going to use public transport to get to secondary school, practise this with them and ensure they have the appropriate tickets and timetabling information.



Years 11 and 12

The vast majority of today's jobs require a Year 12 or higher qualification. Completing Year 12 or attaining equivalent qualifications should be the aim of all students in Tasmanian government schools. Currently there are eight colleges in Tasmania that provide a range of programs and study options and a number of regional schools go through to Year 12.

In Year 10, your young person will begin discussing post-Year 10 options with a coordinator at the school. You can also begin looking at options with them.

Year 11 and 12 Information

documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/year11-12-course-information-GENERAL-Information.pdf

Where do I study table

documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Documents/Where-do-I-study-2018.xlsx

Australian school-based apprenticeships in Tasmanian government schools

Australian School-based Apprenticeship (ASbA) is a paid, employment-based training arrangement available for students in Year 10, 11 or 12. It enables students to combine work, training and education to gain a nationally recognised qualification, usually at Certificate II or III level across almost every industry sector and training package. If this is something that would suit the young person in your care, contact the Department of Education ASbA unit.

Phone 6165 6097

Email asba.admin@education.tas.gov.au

After school

In Years 10, 11 and 12, young people start thinking about what they will do when they leave school. This may include study at TAFE or a similar training institute, university, an apprenticeship or employment. Study and training can open many possibilities for young people in their work and personal life.

It is important that young people who have grown up or spent time in out-of-home care are encouraged supported, like any other young person, to pursue and aspire to higher education, and develop their knowledge and skill through formal study. This will help to prepare them for the next phase of their life, and provide more options for meaningful employment, and a career.

Talking to the young person in your care and their school will help them to think about and identify areas of interest, strengths, possibilities for future study and employment.

There are some positions in schools and colleges that can assist your young person with thinking about their future. These include learning mentors and career counsellors.

TAFE and the University of Tasmania may provide support with application forms, understanding FEE-HELP, guidance around the different courses, and liaising with departments to advocate for young people.

Myfuture website

www.myfuture.edu.au

Study Assist

www.studyassist.gov.au

Vocational education and training (VET)

VET is designed to deliver workplace-specific skills and knowledge in a wide range of careers and industries, including trade and office work, retail, hospitality and technology. If your young person would like to enrol in VET programs they need to begin this discussion in Year 10 with the Year 10 coordinator. This person will assist them finding appropriate programs and information. In Tasmania TasTAFE (TAFE) is the largest provider of VET courses and there are lots of other providers with locations in Tasmania or online options. If this is something your young person is interested in, they should begin the conversation in grade 10 and below are some useful contacts for further information. The Australian Government also offers support paying for apprenticeships and VET courses with the VET-FEE-HELP program.

Preparing secondary students website
pssfw.myskills.gov.au

Australian Apprenticeships
www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

Australian Apprenticeship Pathways
www.aapathways.com.au

My Skills (provides a list of VET organisations and courses)
www.myskills.gov.au

Arts training bodies
www.arts.gov.au/what-we-do/performing-arts/performing-arts-training-bodies

Australian Film Television and Radio School
www.aftrs.edu.au

Australian Qualifications Framework
www.aqf.edu.au

Indigenous Advancement Support
www.pmc.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/employment/tailored-assistance-employment-grants

StudyAssist
studyassist.gov.au

TasTAFE
www.tastafe.tas.edu.au

University

If your young person is interested in progressing on to university study this is something that should begin to be discussed in Year 10, so they can choose the appropriate Year 11 and 12 subjects. The University of Tasmania has campuses around the state, and many universities offer online study. Universities offer scholarships and support to assist with studies and FEE-HELP is the Commonwealth program to support paying for a university education.

University of Tasmania
www.utas.edu.au

Open Universities Australia (has a wide range of online courses available)
www.open.edu.au

StudyAssist
studyassist.gov.au

Transition to work

The Commonwealth Government 'Transition to Work' is a service to support young people aged 15 to 21 on their journey to employment. It provides intensive, pre-employment support to improve the work readiness of young people and help them into work (including apprenticeships and traineeships).

The Commonwealth Government funds a network of jobactive services across 1,700 locations in Australia to provide employment services to employers and jobseekers. They work closely with jobseekers, tailoring services to their assessed needs, so they can find and keep a job. A jobactive service will have a face-to-face meeting with the jobseeker to develop a Job plan, which will set out the activities the jobseeker should do to help them find work, such as job searches and activities like Work for the Dole.

Job Active
jobsearch.gov.au



Health

Full information about the child's health may not be known when they are taken into care. All known information will be provided to the foster or kinship carer when the child is placed, and subsequent health information will be provided as it becomes available.

In general, children in out-of-home care experience an increased level of unmet health needs compared with peers of the same age. Some children in out-of-home care may have health needs that have not been attended to and they may have experienced significant developmental delay due to physical and environmental factors.

For all children in out-of-home care, there are health issues that should be considered, including:

- dental
- optical and auditory testing
- general health issues – such as immunisations and general childhood illnesses
- specialist assessments – for example paediatric development assessment, speech development, fine and gross motor development
- specialist health needs – for example, asthma, skin conditions, orthodontics
- congenital defects
- counselling and psychological assessment
- alcohol and other drug use
- sexual health
- blood borne diseases
- allergies and intolerances to food.

When a child enters care

As soon as possible, work with the child's CSO to:

- obtain or apply for the child's Medicare card
- make the necessary arrangements to get the child a Centrelink Health Care Card
- seek a copy of the child's immunisation history, and if there are any gaps, undertake to get these done. There are free immunisation clinics around the state or they are free at your GP, so ask your worker if you are unsure about how to go about this
- appoint a GP for the child and let the child's CSO know who this is
- make an appointment and take the child to a DHHS oral clinic (dentist) for a check-up. These are free for children until they are 18 years old

- make an appointment at your local Child Health Centre to see a nurse (if the child is under 4 years old)
- make an appointment at your local optometrist. All children are bulk billed up the age of 18 and are eligible for free prescription glasses if required.

Before you know the child's full medical history it is important to take precautions, such as children not sharing cutlery or cups, face washers, towels, hair brushes, etc. and using gloves if there is blood.

Comprehensive health assessment

When a child first enters your home, a comprehensive medical assessment will be arranged by the child's CSO. The way this happens around the state varies; in Hobart all children in out-of-home care have their assessments done at the Royal Hobart Hospital Paediatric Outpatient Clinic. In other parts of the state, the carer will make arrangements with the child's CSO to have the assessment done at a GP convenient to the carer. This assessment provides everyone with a baseline health assessment of the child and identifies any extra health supports they may need. Depending on these needs, the carer and CSO will work together to find these supports and assist the child.

In addition to this medical assessment, all children entering care need to have an oral health assessment. These can be done at any state government Oral Health Service and are again arranged in consultation with the child's CSO and carer.

Children and young people under the age of 18 can receive free check-ups at all optometrists.

All these appointments should be covered by Medicare, but if you have any questions ask your child's CSO.

Paediatric Outpatient Clinic

outpatients.tas.gov.au/clinics/paediatics

Oral Health Tasmania

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/oralhealth

Ongoing health needs

Children get sick! If your child in care needs anything more major medically, you need to seek permission from CSS and work with the child's CSO as to how to proceed. If your child in care has an everyday illness that you need to go to your GP for, you do not need to get permission from the CSO to do so, but you should email them and let them know.

For everyday medical costs of raising a child, the foster and kinship carer reimbursement should be sufficient. With the child's Medicare card and Health Care Card, you will be bulk billed for most services and receive medications cheaper. For anything greater you can ask the child's CSO whether it can be reimbursed and have a discussion. If there is going to be ongoing medical needs for a child, then this should be written into the Case and Care Plan and the expectations around logistics and costs set out.

You can make or consent to the following health-related activities without consulting your child's CSO:

- non-emergency GP check-ups
- emergency trip to the hospital or GP (**but** inform CSS as soon as possible)
- routine check-ups at the child health nurse for children under 4 years old
- check by school nurse
- immunisations set by the government schedule
- annual oral health check-up
- annual optometry check-up (free at any optometrist for children under 18)
- administer over-the-counter medication such as Panadol.

You must seek the approval of your child's CSO before you:

- consent to diagnostic tests recommended by GP or dentist
- provide consent for extra immunisations
- administer prescription medication
- approve non-routine or specialist assessment, treatment or surgery
- make long-term medical decisions
- arrange extensive dental treatment
- arrange a medical examination following suspected sexual abuse.

Immunisation

Tasmania's immunisation program protects against infection, saves lives and protects those who are too young or too sick to be immunised. You may not know if a child's immunisations are up-to-date when they first come into your care, so it is important to make sure that you, your family and the child in your care are all up-to-date with your immunisations to ensure you are protected.

Ask your doctor if there are any additional immunisations recommended for people caring for children. Children are eligible to receive some vaccines for free under the National Immunisation Program. Some immunisations are also funded by the Tasmanian Government.

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register is a national register that records all vaccines given to children and young people under 20 years of age. Talk to your agency or the child's CSO about accessing their immunisation record.

The Tasmania Government requires all children to be up-to-date with their immunisations to be enrolled in childcare or Kindergarten in Tasmania. If the child in your care requires catch-up immunisations, they are eligible to enrol and commence at the service under a 'grace period' provision, while you bring their immunisations up-to-date. After the child is immunised, you need to provide an immunisation status certificate to the childcare or Kindergarten.

The best document to provide is an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register.

Tasmanian Immunisation Phonenumber 1800 671 738

Appendix 23 National immunisation schedule

National Immunisation Record

www.immunise.health.gov.au

Medication

When administering prescribed medication to a child in your care you need to follow directions provided by the doctor or pharmacist.

You can give them over-the-counter medications as part of routine care. The administration of medication should be discussed with the pharmacist, and the dose must be given in accordance with their age or weight.

Children and young people who are on long-term medication should have their treatment reviewed regularly by their doctor and information about their treatment recorded in the Case and Care Plan and discussed at care team meetings. Carers are not able to consent to long-term ongoing medical treatment on behalf of the child and should consult with their CSO.

If a child refuses to take their prescription medication, you should address the situation in an age-appropriate manner. Never force them to take medication. Contact the doctor or dentist who prescribed the medication to tell them that the child is refusing it and ask for advice. This is something your CSO or agency worker needs to know, so they can provide you with advice and support.

Medication recording

Generally, you will not be required to record a child's use of prescribed and over-the-counter medication. However, the use of ongoing medication must be recorded in the child's Case and Care Plan. CSS will keep records of their medical and dental assessments, including records of immunisations, and pass these to the child, their family or another relevant agency, when they move from your care.

Dealing with the effects of trauma

ACF works statewide with children and their carers to help them heal from the effects of trauma. The Foundation uses therapeutic techniques based on a comprehensive understanding of interpersonal neurobiology, child development and attachment. This includes strategies which stabilise a child's stress response system, reconfigures their baseline arousal levels, integrates their memory functioning and builds connections with the important network of adults in their life. Specific programs include problem sexual behaviour intervention, creative arts groups, music and rhythm activities. The services utilise individually tailored care teams to build a consistent framework of responses to children across settings, including school, extended family and sporting and recreational groups.

ACF's approach also supports foster carers to understand what is happening to the child they care for and how to make sense of what their behaviours are really expressing, so they are able to respond to the child's needs for healing with confidence and love. It is through destructive relationships that children are hurt and harmed, and through connected, safe and trusting relationships that they begin to recover.



Specialist health services

If your child needs any specialist health services they will be referred within the government health care system and all costs covered. As mentioned above, all children under the age of 18 can access oral health and optometry services for free. If there are other services you feel would benefit your child, the list below may be helpful.

Multidisciplinary services

- St Giles is a service available in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Penguin. It provides children and adults with developmental delays and disabilities with a range of services including speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and others.
www.stgiles.org.au
- Total Health and Rehabilitation is a centre that specialises in holistic diagnosis and support. It has occupational therapists, exercise physiologists, physiotherapists, speech pathologists and nutritionists. It also can diagnose autism and several other disorders.
www.threhab.com.au
6227 1161

Occupational therapy and physiotherapy

- p.a.n.d.a Physiotherapy: Paediatric and Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Therapy provides specialist services to children in Tasmania and has a range of information on its website for carers and others.
www.pandatherapy.com.au
6278 8600
- Independent Kids is a group of occupational therapists in Hobart that provides specialist services to children.
www.independentkids.com.au
6234 5333

Pathology collection centres

If your child needs blood tests this can be done at the GP, hospital or a private pathology service.

- Hobart Pathology has a number of collection centres; the Sandy Bay centre has longer opening hours and specialises in testing for babies and young children.
www.hobartpath.com.au/locations/collection-centres.aspx
- Launceston Pathology provides collection services for children.
www.launcestonpath.com.au
- North west Pathology in Burnie provides collection services for children.
www.northwestpath.com.au

Speech pathology

- Speech Pathology Tasmania provides specialist paediatric speech pathologists and services for children with autism and other disorders.
www.spt.com.au
6234 5717
- Find a speech pathologist.
www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist.aspx

Osteopathy

- Connections Health, Heather Pearson: An osteopath that provides specialist support for children. 6234 4886

Autism and Asperger's syndrome

- Sue Larkey provides great resources and information for girls with autism and their carers.
suelarkey.com.au
- Tony Atwood provides great resources and information on caring for a child with autism or Asperger's syndrome.
www.tonyattwood.com.au

Preventing the spread of infectious diseases

The following procedures are commonsense precautions which will protect against a range of minor and major infections which can be transmitted via blood and bodily fluids. It is useful for foster and kinship carers to be use these as we do not know what diseases children entering our home may have or been exposed to.

- Cuts or sores on the hands should be kept covered with waterproof adhesive dressings.
- Hands should be washed thoroughly any time there is blood or other bodily fluids.
- Where possible, use disposable gloves.
- Implements that may transfer blood, such as razors, nail scissors and toothbrushes should definitely not be shared.

Medicare

Medicare is Australia's universal health scheme. Through Medicare, children in out-of-home care receive free treatment in a public hospital, as well as reduced costs for out-of-hospital care.

Services that are partly or fully funded by Medicare include:

- consultation fees for doctors, including specialists
- tests and examinations by doctors, including x-rays and pathology tests
- eye tests performed by optometrists
- most surgical and other therapeutic procedures performed by doctors
- some surgical procedures performed by approved dentists.

The child in your care is eligible for services funded through Medicare with a valid Medicare card (or a valid Medicare number). If parents are unwilling or unable to provide a Medicare card or number, your agency and CSO can obtain these, provided the child is either already registered with or eligible to be registered with Medicare.

If you do not have the child's Medicare card you should talk to their CSO and make an arrangement for payment. Sometimes medical professionals will still bulk bill.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

The PBS ensures that prescription medicine is provided at affordable prices. To be eligible for the PBS, you need to provide the child's Medicare card or Medicare number, and the pharmacist will automatically reduce the cost of your medicine.

Health Care Card

All children and young people in out-of-home care are entitled to a Health Care Card from Centrelink, either in their own name or by being added to your Health Care Card, if you have one. A Health Care Card entitles the child to:

- bulk billing for doctors' appointments, decided by the doctor
- greater refunds for medical expenses through the Medicare Safety Net
- lower cost prescriptions
- assistance with hearing services through the Office of Hearing Services.

You can apply directly for the child's Health Care Card, using a range of acceptable evidence for eligibility (such as a document or letter from your agency or CSS to show they are in your day-to-day care).

After-hours medical attention

For non-urgent after-hours care you can call the Call the Doctor service on 1800 225 584. This is a bulk-billed service. If there is an emergency, you need to call 000 and then call the CSS after-hours number and your agency after-hours number to let them know what is happening. There are also a number of after-hours GP services in Tasmania, some of which are listed below.

Call the Doctor
call-the-doctor.com.au
 1800 225 584

Tas After Hours
www.tasafterhours.com

Health Direct
www.healthdirect.gov.au

Early intervention services

There are a number of services specifically available for children from birth to school age. Research shows that these early years are critical to brain development and the ability to engage in school later. These services include:

- Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) is part of the NDIS and specifically supports children from birth to 6 years who have developmental delays or a disability.
- ECIS supports children with a disability or developmental delay from birth to school entry, and their families. The service is available statewide and can be provided in people's homes or at a centre.
- Parent Line is available 24/7 to assist parents of children from birth to 5 years with stressful parenting issues or concerns. Just call 1300 808 178.
- Child Health and Parenting Service is a free, statewide, government-run service. Local child and family health nurses offer child and development checks at 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 8 weeks, 4 to 6 months, 12 months, 2 years and additional checks if necessary. These are the checks that appear in a child's 'blue book'. Child health nurses also offer parent information on a range of health topics.
- Playgroup Tasmania provides access to a network of playgroups where children and carers can relax and make connections. PlayConnect groups are set up to meet the particular needs of children with autism spectrum disorders.

ECEI partners

www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/locations.html#tas_ecei

ECIS

www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/early-years/early-childhood-intervention-service/

Child Health Centres

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/child_health_centres

PlayConnect playgroups

playgrouptas.org.au/about-playgroup-tas/playconnect-asd-playgroups/

Mental health

Children in out-of-home care are at increased risk of mental health problems due to their experiences of trauma and separation. It is important to have an open conversation with the child's CSO regarding any mental health concerns you may have so these can be recorded and addressed in an ongoing way. There are a number of mental health services for children and young people available in Tasmania.

A mental health care plan is available for you or your child through your GP; it identifies what type of health care is needed and identifies mental health services which would benefit you and/or your child. It is only available to people diagnosed with a mental illness.

If you or your child has a mental health care plan then you will be entitled to Medicare rebates for up to 10 individual or 10 group appointments with some allied mental health services in a year. This includes psychologists, occupational therapists and social workers. You need to be aware that not all psychologists bulk bill, and a gap payment may be required. This needs to be discussed with the child's CSO.

If you are thinking of getting a mental health care plan for a child in your care, you need to talk to their CSO and ensure this step is agreed upon and included in the Case and Care Plan.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/mentalhealth/mhs_tas/gvt_mhs/child_and_adolescent_mental_health_services

Sexual Assault Support Service Inc.

www.sass.org.au

Youth Beyond Blue

www.youthbeyondblue.com

Bullying No Way

bullyingnoway.gov.au

Headspace

headspace.org.au

Kids Helpline

kidshelpline.com.au

Reachout

au.reachout.com

Phone support

The following free support lines can be accessed by you as a carer or by your child.

- Lifeline provides a 24/7 phone counselling and suicide prevention service on 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 offers a free, 24/7 phone and online counselling service for
 - children aged 5 to 12
 - teens aged above 12 to 18
 - young people aged 19 to 25
 - parents and carers
 - teachers
- Parentline 1300 30 1300
- Samaritans offer a free, 24/7 anonymous crisis support line 13 52 47
- Bravehearts offers an information and support line regarding child sexual assault for parents and carers. Bravehearts can also link you into specific counselling and support services. The support line is available 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday on 1800 272 831
- 1800 RESPECT (Family Violence and Sexual Assault Line) 1800 737 732

Age of consent

For minors, a doctor can assess that they understand the nature of the medical treatment and can provide informed consent for a medical service, without the need for their parent or carer to consent.

This principle applies regardless of whether the child is in out-of-home care or not. This is particularly relevant for young women receiving contraception, but it applies generally for access to healthcare professionals and treatment.

Family Planning Tasmania
www.fpt.asn.au

Young people's health services

From the age of 14 young people have the right to privacy regarding their health. The following services are useful ones to know about for the young person in your care.

North-west – Youth Health Team
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/service_delivery_points/youth_health_team_-_north_west

South – Pulse Youth Health
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/service_delivery_points/Pulse_Youth_Health_South

North – Youth Health Program
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/service_delivery_points/youth_health_program_-_north

The Link Youth Service Inc.
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/service_delivery_points/the_link_youth_health_service

Youth ARC
www.youthartsandrec.org

The Zone – Youth Information and Access Centre
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/young_people/the_zone_-_youth_information_and_access_centre

Sexual Assault Support Service Inc.
www.sass.org.au

Support Help and Empowerment Inc.
www.she.org.au

Children and Young Persons Program (CHYPP)
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/family_violence_counselling_and_support_services



Contraception

All young people should grow up with sensible knowledge and understanding of sexual relationships and contraception. As discussed in the chapter on the Role of foster and kinship carers, you will need to have conversations with your children about this as they grow.

Minors may receive medical advice about contraception with a health professional without the agreement of a parent or CSO. You should find out where young people get contraceptive advice in your area. If you are worried, talk to your CSO and agency worker for advice.

Talk to the young person in your care about sexually transmittable diseases.

Family Planning Tasmania

www.fpt.asn.au

Sexual Health Tasmania

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/sexualhealth/sexual_health_service_tasmania

Pregnancy

If you suspect that a young person in your care may be pregnant, you should inform their CSO and your agency immediately. It is important that she has enough time to decide what she wants to do about the pregnancy.

You will play an important part in helping the young woman sort out her feelings about the future. There are also some specific services available for young pregnant women.

C U @ Home

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/c_u_@_home

Karinya (Launceston)

www.kyws.org.au/young-mums-program

Esther's House

www.estershhouse-pps.com

Brave Foundation

bravefoundation.org.au

Disability

In Tasmania and around the country, the NDIS is being rolled out. Children in your care with a disability may be eligible for support through the NDIS and this will assist you caring for them. As it is still being implemented, it is worth asking the child's CSO and GP what you may be eligible for.

The NDIS will ensure that people with a disability and their carers are given an opportunity to make their own decisions regarding their treatment. It will provide information, referral and linkage to ensure families and carers can access supports in their community.

By 2019 it is hoped that all children and young people in Tasmania with a disability will be eligible for the NDIS.

See also

Caring for children with diverse needs

NDIS Tasmania

www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/TAS.html

Private health insurance

If you have private health cover for your family, you can include the child in your care on their cover. Before doing this, you should talk to the child's CSO and also ask about who will cover the difference between the refund and the account.

Additional health contacts

There are lots of health services for children and young people in Tasmania. As mentioned above, your child's health needs should be an open and ongoing conversation with the child's CSO. Some useful health providers you should know include the following.

Child and Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
1800 332 388.

Gateway Services 1800 171 233.

Healthdirect Australia 1800 022 222

Tasmanian Immunisation phone line 1800 671 738

Parent Line 1300 808 178

Child Health and Parenting Service
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/child_health

Oral Health Tasmania
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/oralhealth

National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (noFASD)
www.nofasd.org.au

Sexual Assault Support Service Inc.
www.sass.org.au

Find a speech pathologist
www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist.aspx



Money matters

In Tasmania we have a volunteer foster and kinship care system. This means that carers are reimbursed at a set rate that should cover the costs of raising the child in their care. As a foster or kinship carer, you will receive a fortnightly tax-free reimbursement. The reimbursement rates are based on the child's age and level of need.

How much you are reimbursed should be the topic of an open conversation between you, the child's CSO and your agency worker. No one likes to talk about money when it comes to caring for a child, but it is important you receive the appropriate support to give the child the best care possible and for you to feel supported. The payments are set by CYS.

The policy position of CYS is that the majority of carers will receive a standard board payment. However, some carers will receive higher payments to cover the costs associated with meeting the intensive and complex needs of the child in their care.

Standard board payments

The standard fortnightly board payment should cover the day-to-day costs of children in care. This payment should cover the following:

- all clothing items including school uniform and a school bag
- all footwear including school shoes, boots, sandals, slippers and thongs
- sports clothing including tracksuit, sports uniforms, bathers and goggles
- accessories including hats, belts, sunglasses, personal jewellery, a watch and a wallet
- sun protection including a sunhat, sun glasses, sunscreen and a sun protection suit
- nappies and baby hygiene products such as wipes
- education including excursions, performances, school camps, school photos and magazines
- recreational activities including DVD hire, toys, games and cinema tickets
- recreational equipment such as mouth guards, safety helmets, skateboards, skipping ropes, tennis rackets and basketballs
- participation in normal recreational activities including travel to activities, entry and club fees
- pocket money
- day trips and holidays within Tasmania
- child care, after-school care, school holiday program and babysitting

- travel to and from school, sporting and social activities, standard doctor and dental appointments and reasonable family access in line with the child's Case and Care Plan
- standard medical costs including prescriptions for medication covered by the PBS for medical conditions that are not ongoing or chronic
- dental costs including toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss
- household cleaning products including washing powder, disinfectants and shoe polish
- personal care items including soap, shampoo and conditioner, regular haircuts, deodorant and tampons
- doonas, blankets, bed linen and towels
- fair wear and tear of household items including a bed, desk and carpets etc.
- energy costs including electricity, gas, solar heating and other heating products
- water including metered water and tank water
- phone calls
- internet services
- food including eating out or take-away food, snacks, lunches from school canteen and special occasions such as Christmas and birthday parties and Easter eggs
- photographs, cards and small gifts from the child for members of the child's birth family.

Pocket money

As noted above, the standard board payment should cover pocket money. The amount of pocket money that a child is to receive is not specified by CSS, but the carer must provide pocket money to the child weekly. The level of the pocket money will depend on the age of the child, community norms and the amount of pocket money that the carer's own children receive.

If you are unsure, CSS recommends that children receive the level of pocket money equivalent to their age, therefore a 4-year-old child would receive \$4 per week, a 10-year-old child would receive \$10.



Establishment allowance

When a child enters care for the first time (not if they move placement as the child should take their belongings), carers receive a one-off payment of \$70 called an 'establishment allowance'. The purpose of this is to assist the carer get things to welcome the child and help them feel safe. It could cover items such as:

- toothbrush and toothpaste
- other toiletries
- socks and underwear
- new bedding and towelling
- something special.

Additional payment for clothing and suitcase

If a child is in care between four to eight weeks and it is expected that they will remain in care, then carers may receive an additional payment to purchase clothing and a suitcase. This additional payment will be discussed at care team meetings.

Gifts for children in care

You will receive additional payments for birthday and Christmas gifts for your child; currently \$80 on each occasion. You will not receive extra funding to purchase gifts for the child's birth family.

Additional expenses and payments

From time to time you may need to incur extra costs that are not covered in your standard board payments. If extra costs come up, it is best to pre-empt them as much as possible, discuss them in care team meetings and put them in the child's Case and Care Plan. The child's CSO will need approval from their manager for additional payments.

Health care expenses

As discussed in the Health chapter, your child is eligible for many government-funded health services. Over-the-counter medication and occasional prescriptions are covered by your standard board payments. If your child is going to need extra medical attention, this should be discussed at care team meetings and put in the Case and Care Plan.

Child care expenses

The standard board payment includes occasional child care costs and carers are eligible for the Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate. You can, however, seek to have childcare costs covered by CSS; this must first be discussed in a care team meeting and included in the Case and Care Plan.

Transport

The standard board payment covers the day-to-day transport costs for children in care. If you are required to do additional transport, then you can seek reimbursement. This should be approved in advance by the child's CSO.

Interstate and overseas travel

Costs for interstate and overseas travel must be approved in advance by a CSS manager, so this should be discussed ahead of time in the Case and Care Plan and agreed to.

Payments for care of children with intensive needs

Carers who are caring for children with intensive needs may receive higher fortnightly payments (there are two levels) to cover the additional costs associated with the higher needs. The higher payment covers all the things listed in the list above for standard board payments.

The level of payment you are on should be an ongoing discussion with your agency and CSO. Higher payments may be approved if a child in your care:

- has experienced significant disruption in their lives or while in out-of-home care resulting in difficulties in forming and maintaining attachments
- has impaired social relationships with peers and others
- has attempted suicide or is considering attempting suicide
- displays aggression towards others
- has a pattern of offending behaviour
- has significant drug and alcohol problems
- is a risk to animals
- demonstrates inappropriate sexualised behaviours
- has abnormal sleep patterns
- has a pattern of destroying property.

Payments for respite care

Carers can access respite care for up to 28 days per financial year. It generally happens over one to two days but can be arranged for longer periods. Respite should be an ongoing discussion during care team meetings and put in the Case and Care Plan. CYS sets the respite payments, but the amount you are reimbursed should be a discussion with your foster care agency.

When a child is not in your care

For a range of reasons a child may not be in your care for a period of time. The following is a list of what happens at these times.

- If the child goes to respite care, goes on camps or visits friends, your payments will continue.
- During the period of reunification, you will continue to receive payments and they will only cease when the child is in the full-time care of their parents.
- If the child is removed due to a complaint, then the Director of CYS will decide what happens with your payments.
- If the child goes between two homes on an ongoing basis (shared care) then a discussion will happen about payments.

Government benefits

All carers of children in Australia are eligible for benefits from Centrelink. However, these are means tested and dependent on each situation. When a child enters your care, the CSO should give you a letter that you can take to Centrelink and then work with them to assess what you are eligible for. Carers need patience for this as it can be confusing as to what carers are eligible and it may take time for birth parents to notify Centrelink of a change to their circumstances. While the foster and kinship reimbursement is a payment, it is not a wage for the purposes of Centrelink, and does not affect your eligibility for payments.

The Centrelink Grandparent Advisers are available for all grandparents as well as foster and kinship carers in Tasmania. This is a great service for you to phone and ask any Centrelink questions.

Centrelink Grandparents Liaison 1800 245 965

Welfare to work

Foster and kinship carers who are registered and active get an automatic exemption from Welfare to Work participation requirements. Automatic exemption is usually for 12 months. Respite carers may also be exempt. Speak to your child's CSO or agency worker if you need assistance with this.

Medical expenses

- **Medicare Safety Net:** If you and your family are out of pocket for additional medical expenses above the normal rate you may be eligible for the Medicare Safety Net. This rebate kicks in when you reach a certain level of expense over the year dependent upon your financial circumstances. Depending on your circumstances you may need to register. See the Medicare website www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/medicare-safety-net
- **PBS Safety Net:** This provides discounted prescriptions to Health Care Card holders. www.pbs.gov.au/pbs/home



Family tax benefits

- Family Tax Benefit A: As a foster or kinship carer you may be eligible for family tax benefit A. It is paid to help most families with the cost of raising children. It is income tested and paid per child in your care.
- Family Tax Benefit B: This benefit is paid to single income and sole carer families. It also provides extra assistance to families with children under 5. It is based on income and the age of the youngest child, and is paid per family.
www.dss.gov.au/families-and-children/benefits-payments/family-tax-benefit
- Newborn Upfront Payment is a one-off payment to help with the cost of a new baby. If a child comes into your care within 13 weeks of birth you may be eligible.
- Newborn Supplement – an increase in Family Tax benefit A.
www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/newborn-upfront-payment-and-newborn-supplement

Child care benefits

- Child Care Benefit: An income-tested payment that reduces the fees that you pay for child care.
- Child Care Rebate: A benefit which is not income tested and covers out of pocket expenses.
- Grandparents and childcare: If you are a grandparent raising a child you can access up to 50 hours of child care a week for each child; this is free if you receive a pension.

Both Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate are paid when the child you look after attends an approved and registered child care facility such as a child care centre, Kindergarten or a before- and after-school care program, while you study, work or attend training.
www.mychild.gov.au/childcare-information/rebate

Carer benefits

- Carer Payment (child) and Carer Allowance (child): These payments are provided to people who care for a child with a disability under the age of 16. This is assessed by Centrelink and is also dependent on your income and assets. The Carer Allowance

(Child) is a supplementary payment for those providing care at home for a child with a disability. If you are receiving either you may be eligible for the annual carer supplement and Child Disability Assistance Payment. It is neither income nor asset tested.

www.mychild.gov.au/childcare-information/rebate

- Parenting Payment: This payment may exempt you from work requirements if you are caring for young children.
www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/parenting-payment
- Double Orphan Pension can be paid if neither parent of the child in your care can provide care for them. Parents do not need to have died, they only need to be 'unable and unavailable' to provide care (for example incarcerated, in a psychiatric care institution or their whereabouts may be unknown). The child in your care must be under 16 and you must be eligible for family tax benefit. The payment is neither asset or income tested.
www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/double-orphan-pension

Benefits your child may be eligible for

- Health Care Card for the child – all children in foster or kinship care are eligible for a Health Care Card in their own name.
- Child Dental Benefits Schedule provides basic dental services to children aged between 2 and 17 years. Dental services are capped at \$1,000 over two consecutive calendar years. The two-year cap period starts when a child first gets an eligible dental service.
- Assistance for Isolated Children: This payment is for children who live in isolated areas, so they can continue their education.
www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/assistance-for-isolated-children-scheme
- Youth Allowance: Young people in care can be eligible from the age of 16. Note that your child's receipt of Youth Allowance does not affect the amount you are paid for their board.
www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/youth-allowance
- ABSTUDY: This is paid to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from 14 years of age.
www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/abstudy
- Mobility Allowance is for people with a disability who are unable to use public transport without substantial assistance.
www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/mobility-allowance
- Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) is a payment of up to \$1,500 to help young people cover some basic costs as they leave out-of-home care. As a foster or kinship carer of a young person, you can work with the young person to find out information on TILA and how it may best be used to support them.
www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/benefits-payments/transition-to-independent-living-allowance-tila

Appendix 24 Transition to Independent Living Allowance

Transitions

Children in care may go through a number of transitions, entering care, leaving an emergency placement, finding a stable placement, returning home, re-entering care and leaving care as a young person. While every effort is made to support children through these transitions, sometimes they are unplanned and have to be abrupt. As a foster and kinship carer, the best thing you can do is allow a safe and stable place for the child to talk about how they are feeling and be honest about what you know is happening and what you do not know.

Children in care may:

- return to their own families
- live with relatives
- go into residential care
- move into their own accommodation (older children), or
- move to another foster placement.

Sometimes children move on because things have not worked out well. Moves at these times may be unhappy and uncomfortable for all concerned. It is important to make the experience of moving on as positive as possible for the young person, whatever the reason for them leaving your home. All moves should be carefully planned. The move on and reasons should be understood by carers, parents and children, even if not everyone agrees with the plan. You can also celebrate the move and make it a special memory.

Foster and kinship carers may not be happy with a decision to return a child to their birth family and this can be distressing. If you do not think the decision is in the best interests of the child, you can talk to someone from FKAT.

How to support a child moving

Research shows that to support a child through a move, the following helps:

- allowing the child to be as involved in the decision-making as much as possible
- allowing the child to take their favourite personal possessions
- thinking about what services the child may need around them, for example a social worker, psychologist, school counsellor
- as a carer, being positive and encouraging the child to be positive
- being positive about the new environment, even little things like admiring a new bedroom
- letting the new carers or birth family know what the child likes and dislikes
- if appropriate, maintaining contact with the previous carer.

How to look after yourself and your family if a child is moving

A child moving on from your home, whether that is returning home or to another placement, can be really challenging and it is important that you look after yourself and your family as well as looking out for the child. Many carers feel like giving up if a child moves on from their home and this is totally understandable! Do not feel pressured to take a new placement straight away but allow yourself and your family time to grieve and reassess. Continue having a discussion with your agency worker and connect in with other carers that may have had a similar experience.

Reunification

See the chapter on Birth families for a more detailed discussion on reunification.



Leaving care

Currently in Tasmania children leave care at 18, but the government plans to extend this to 21. FKAT will provide updates on this on the website and in the newsletter. Planning to leave care should begin with the child before they turn 18. Just like any child reaching this age, discussions should happen about the next stage of life, their dreams and aspirations and what they need to reach them.

CSS starts working with children in their fifteenth year to develop a Leaving care plan, which builds on previous Case and Care Plans. CSS follows the After Care Support Program and the guide at Appendix 25 to develop a young person's Leaving care plan. The plan will cover the following topics:

- health and wellbeing including day-to-day health, preventative health, sexual health, emotional health and behaviour development
- education, which will be based on the IEP and discuss educational options for the young person
- identity and social needs which should build on life story work, knowing birth family history, photographs and personal documents, cultural information and personal files
- social presentation including skills in presentation, clothing, personal hygiene
- community supports and living skills around transition to independence
- finances including opening a bank account, managing a budget, Youth Allowance and TILA.

Appendix 25 Leaving care plan

The CREATE Your Own Way Information Kit provides a great list of things a young person should think about before leaving care

create.org.au/resources/transitioning-from-care/

After Care Support Program

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/adoption/support_for_care_leavers

Obtaining personal files

A young person may benefit from accessing information contained in their personal CSS files. Every young person that has been in out-of-home care has a right to access their personal information and can do so, by accessing the Aftercare Support Program; they are not required to lodge a Freedom of Information (FOI) application. Information about a young person's right to access this information should be part of the Leaving care plan. A young person's CSO should generally invite a young person to read their personal files as soon as possible after their fifteenth birthday, or earlier if a worker thinks this is appropriate. A young person's CSO will support the young person to read and understand the information in the file and provide answers where possible.

If your child decides to view their file, they must be informed that:

- they may bring along their support person if they wish
- the file is a state record and that they cannot take the original file from the office
- they do not have to read the file in one sitting
- they can have original personal documentation, such as photos, school reports, birth certificates and letters to them from family members
- they are unable to read confidential information pertaining to other family members
- the appropriate timing of the release of personal documentation will need to be agreed with the young person
- they cannot take or photocopy psychological or psychiatric reports.

If a young person decides not to access their personal file at this stage, this is perfectly alright and they can access it at any time into adulthood, they will just need personal identification.

Moving On Program

Kennerley runs the Moving on Program for children 15 years and over. The program takes referrals from CSS for young people who are transitioning from foster care. It is for young people who:

- are 15 years of age or above
- are ready to move from foster care into independence
- are attending school or in employment
- have a reasonable level of personal safety knowledge
- are motivated to participate in the program.

The program consists of five independent units, two role model units and caretaker units. As part of the program a unit is allocated to the young person until they are ready to move on into independence, usually in six months to three years. Alternatively, young people may choose to move into a role model unit within the complex if they are suitable for a leadership role.

Moving on Program

kennerleykids.org.au/moving-on-program

Create your future website

The CREATE organisation has developed the 'Create your future' website for young people leaving care. It is full of information on support services and 'general life stuff' that will assist young people leave and transition from care.

CREATE your future

createyourfuture.org.au

Go Your Own Way Resource Kit

create.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/GYOW-Workbook-2017-WEB.pdf

Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)

TILA is a one-off payment from the Commonwealth Government to help young people aged 15 to 25 years who are leaving out-of-home care. Funding of up to \$1,500 can be used towards the costs involved in moving to independent living. A worker at Centrelink will help a young person to understand what TILA can be used for and how they will receive it.

Access to information

Questions around a young person's background and identity may arise at any time. It can be useful to talk to them about how they can apply for access to their departmental records while in out-of-home care, or at any point after they leave care. All young people leaving care can have access to a redacted copy of their care record through CSS.





Legal information

Legal information

It is the responsibility of the organisation you are providing care through to make sure you have all the information you need to carry out your role as a carer in Tasmania in a way that complies with the laws of Australia. You do not need to have an in-depth knowledge of the legislation and regulations, however, as you play a vital role in promoting and protecting the rights of children and young people in out-of-home care, it is important you have some knowledge of the legislative environment you are operating in.

Please note that the handbook is not a Government publication and may not represent the Government's views or opinions about the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* (Tas) (the Act). The information contained in this chapter is not intended to provide legal advice and that anyone seeking legal advice or clarification should contact one of the legal support organisations listed or a relevant legal practitioner.

This section provides information only on the legislation, your rights, the rights of the children in your care, legal services available to you and the children in your care, and some specific information on legal issues which may arise. The information in this section is **not** legal advice from FKAT: for any information specific to your situation talk to your foster care agency or child's CSO, or contact one of the legal support organisations listed or a relevant legal practitioner.

Child protection nationally

In Australia, statutory child protection is the responsibility of each state and territory governments. Legislation in each State and territory governs the way the responsible government departments aid children in the child protection system.

While each Act is different they must meet the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), to which Australia is a signatory, and particularly, the 'best interests of the child' principle (reflected in Part 1 of the Act and the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–2020* (National Framework) which was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in April 2009). The National Framework is 'an ambitious, long-term approach to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children and aims to

deliver a substantial and sustained reduction in levels of child abuse and neglect over time.' Under the Framework all jurisdictions have agreed to consistent targets and outcomes and signed up to three-year action plans.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) research and report on the child protection system in Australia and have great resources if you are interested in further information.

The National Framework and Tasmania's responses
www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/publications-articles/protecting-children-is-everyones-business

AIHW
www.aihw.gov.au

AIFS
aifs.gov.au

Out-of-home care in Tasmania

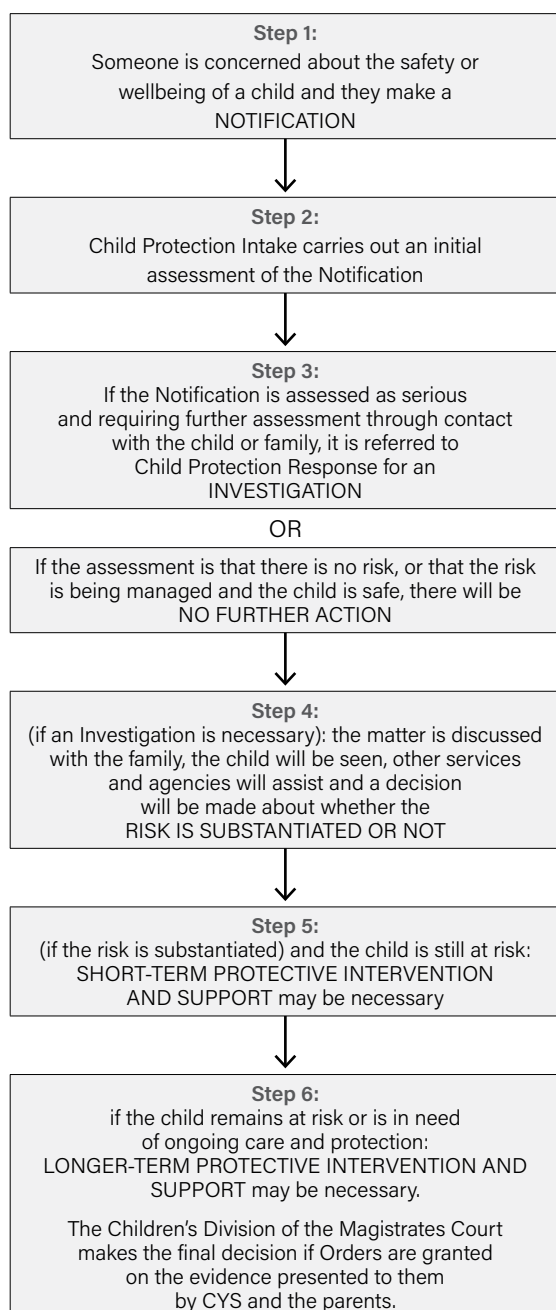
The vision for out-of-home care in Tasmania is that "... all children and young people are raise in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment with every opportunity to reach their full potential" (OOHC Reform in Tasmania)

In Tasmania, the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997 (the Act) provides the framework and authority for government and non-government services, community members, and families to respond to situations where children may have experienced abuse or neglect or where it is considered they may be at risk of suffering harm within their family. Out-of-home care is then the system that provides formal care to children and young people who are assessed as unable to live safely at home and is the responsibility of CSS. CSS operates within the CYS area within DHHS, which is the government department responsible for the out-of-home care system.

Under the Act, the Secretary of DHHS is the legal guardian of children in out-of-home-care. The Secretary then delegates responsibility to CSS to find appropriate homes for children in care and gives custody to foster and kinship carers for children in care (section 6 of the Act). Guardianship remains with the Secretary until a child turns 18 or there is a transfer of guardianship to a carer (discussed below).

How children come into care

Figure 1: How child or young person enters care in Tasmania



In Tasmania we have a system of mandatory reporting and voluntary reporting to protect children. If a professional, such as a GP, child health nurse or teacher, believes or suspects a child is at risk of neglect or abuse they are required by law to report this concern to CSS. Foster and kinship carers are also mandatory reporters for children in their care (section 14(1)(i) and (j)).

If you have any concerns for your child before or after contact you should report it to the child's CSO. Any member of the public can also make a voluntary report to CSS if they have concerns. If a CSO then has reasonable grounds to believe that a child is at risk, they must commence an assessment of the child's circumstances. This means that a CSO may contact other people around the child to obtain information that will lead to a judgement being made on whether the child is at enough risk to warrant entering out-of-home care. Out-of-home care is a last resort measure for children in need.

The Act notes that a child may enter out-of-home care when there is:

- a Voluntary Care Agreement between the child's guardians and a child protection manager for a maximum of three months; or
- where a magistrate assesses there is sufficient risk as defined by the Act that a Care and Protection Order is needed to secure the safety and stability of a child over a fixed or indefinite period (section 11) (See Table 2)

When a child is removed from their parents, CSS seeks a court application for the short-term or longer-term care of the child, works with the family and relevant parties on the assessment, and makes arrangements for the ongoing care of the child. If the child is put on a child protection Order, then the Secretary of the DHHS becomes responsible for the care and protection of that child.

What happens when a child enters out-of-home care

When a child enters out-of-home care, CSS works with the family, investigates the situation and applies to the court for the Orders it thinks are in the child's best interests. If a Court Order is granted, the state becomes the legal guardian of the child.

Guardianship refers to the person or authority having legal responsibility for the child. The guardian can make the major decisions about the child's life, for example what school they attend and where they live. For most children in out-of-home care, guardianship rests with the Secretary of DHHS. Custody, by contrast, refers to the person or authority (for young people in residential facilities) who has the day-to-day care of the child. Foster and kinship carers generally have custody of the child and can make day-to-day decisions (see *Role of foster and kinship carers*).

Under the Act, foster and kinship carers are people who have been approved by CSS to provide day-to-day care for children in the Secretary's care. It is important to know that foster and kinship carers do not have parental responsibility for the child, the Secretary does (unless there has been a transfer of Guardianship). This includes responsibility for making decisions about any medical or dental needs, education needs and travel (see *Role of foster and kinship carers*).

The object of the Act in Section 7 is to provide for the care and protection of children in such a way that priority is given to the child's best interests, recognising that a child's family is the preferred environment for their care, and recognising that the responsibility for the protection of children rests primarily with their parents and family.

As mentioned above, the Act must be based on the best-interests-of-the-child principle and this is expressed in Section 10E as including:

- protecting children from all forms of abuse and exploitation
- ensuring children's views are heard
- understanding children's families' needs and willingness to care for their children
- ensuring children maintain a stable and nurturing relationship with their parents
- children's need for stability
- allowing each child to thrive.

The Act (Section 10G) observes the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle. The goal of the Principle is 'to enhance and preserve Aboriginal children's connection to family and community and sense of identity and culture.' CSS applies this by trying to place Aboriginal children with family and kinship networks, in the child's community or with carers in another Aboriginal community. If this cannot happen, then the foster carer will need to maintain the child's connection to family, community and cultural identity (see *Aboriginal children*).

Appendix 26 Custody and guardianship

Appendix 27 Information on orders for people who come into contact with CSS



Types of Orders

Where the court determines that a child is in need of protection, a protection Order may be made. The different types of Orders under the Act are in the table below. This is a general guide to the different orders (and not legal advice from FKAT). Legislation can change and each case has its own set of circumstances. You should also be aware that the timeframes can extend as interim orders are granted by the court to allow for further investigation.

Table 2: Types of Orders

Type of order	Legislation	Length of order	Notes
Emergency care agreement	Policy	24 hours to 28 days	This agreement is for emergency situations where there is no transfer of custody from legal guardians for a temporary period.
Voluntary care agreement	Section 11	Up to three months	
Assessment Order	Section 22(4)	4 to 12 weeks	There is reasonable concern that the child is at risk, so the Secretary applies to the court for an assessment to take place.
Interim assessment Order	Section 26(3)	For the period of adjournment	An Order to cover the time a child is in care during an adjournment in court proceedings.
Care and Protection Order	Section 42		In 2018 the legislation changed so that it does not include minimum or maximum periods for Care and Protection Orders. If a child is at risk at the end of the assessment period, the court may make a Care and Protection Order for a time period based on each situation.
Extension of Care and Protection Orders	S 44(2)		Again in 2018, changes were made to allow the Court to make extensions to Care and Protection Orders for a length of time based on the case.
Supervision Order	Section 42A	For 12 months with a possible extension of another 12 months.	The Court grants Supervision Orders when children are at home to compel a family to continue engaging with CSS and allow CSS to support the family and monitor the ongoing safety of the child.
Guardianship	Section 42		Refer to the Act and see section below.

Guardianship

If the Magistrate's Court determines that a child or young person should remain in care until they are 18, then CSS may apply to the court for guardianship of the child to be transferred to the foster or kinship carer. For this to happen the child's placement has to be stable, positive and other factors may also be considered on a case by case basis.

If guardianship is transferred to the carer, the carer becomes the child's legal guardian. This allows the carer to make legal decisions about the child without CSS being involved.

Transfer of guardianship requires a conversation between the carer and CSO to ensure everyone fully understands the new arrangement. During this conversation you can discuss what ongoing support the child may need, payments, birth family contact and anything else relevant to your child's situation.

CSS will also talk to the birth parents about the arrangement, so they know what is happening. Birth parents have the right to legal advice and to attend court if they would like to.

After a transfer of guardianship, the case transfers to Adoption and Permanency Services within CYS instead of CSS.

Appendix 26 Custody and guardianship

Appendix 28 Transfer of guardianship

Appendix 29 Transfer of guardianship pamphlet for children and young people

Adoption and Permanency Services

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/adoption

Adoption

As mentioned above, if the state transfers guardianship to a foster or kinship carer, the whole case moves to Adoption and Permanency Services. Currently, adoption out of foster care is uncommon in Tasmania, although it can happen if birth parents pass away or voluntarily request the carer adopts their child.

Intercountry and interstate adoptions do happen, and these are facilitated through the Adoption and Permanency Services office.

FKAT provides support and advocacy for adoptive parents as well as foster and kinship carers.

Adoption and Permanency Services

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/adoption



Rights of the child or young person

Ultimately the Act and everything around it is to ensure a child grows up in a safe and loving environment, so they can thrive. It is therefore important that children have a voice in decision-making. As mentioned above, the best interests of the child should be the paramount consideration at all times. This may be achieved when the child:

- participates in decision-making (Section 10F of the Act)
- participates in court proceedings
- is represented by a Separate Representative (an Australian legal practitioner) who consults with the child (Section 59 of the Act)
- participates in Family Group Conferences
- participates in the development of the Case and Care Plan and in Care Team Meetings
- has the right to obtain their personal file from CSS.

The Charter of Rights for children in out-of-home care was developed by the Commissioner for Children, CREATE Foundation, FKAT and DHHS to provide children a list of things they should expect in care. The Charter can assist you in advocating for and discussing matters relating to children in care. The Charter states that children and young people have the right:

- to be safe and feel safe
- to receive health care when needed
- to be consulted and listened seriously about decisions that affect them
- to have regular meetings alone with their worker
- to be treated fairly and with respect for who they are
- to identify with their cultural and community and to observe their chosen religious beliefs
- to have safe contact with my family and people who matter to them
- to have an education and gain life skills
- to have their privacy respected.

Appendix 30 Charter of Rights for Tasmanian children and young people in out-of-home care

Rights of parents with children in care

DHHS also has a statement of rights of parents with children in care. Parents have the right to be treated with respect, fairness and integrity. They have the right to know what is happening and are expected to participate in the development of plans that affect them or their children, so long as their child's safety is not compromised.

Appendix 22 Rights of parents with children in care

Foster and kinship carers' rights

DHHS has a statement of rights for carers that is currently being updated. It states that carers are to be treated with respect, fairness and integrity. It also states that carers have the right to information, training and practical support; full details are included at Appendix 31.

Appendix 31 Rights of carers

Legal support for carers

There are a range of for-fee and free legal services available to foster and kinship carers in Tasmania. All lawyers in Tasmania are listed on the Law Society of Tasmania's website.

Law Society of Tasmania

members.lst.org.au/members/search/people

Justices of the Peace (JPs)

Justices of the Peace are civil public officers who perform non-legal civil duties. You may need a JP to provide a legal witness when you:

- make a statutory declaration or affidavit
- need certification that a copy of an original document is a true and accurate copy.

Tasmanian Society of Justices of the Peace

www.tsjpi.asn.au/find.html

Hobart Community Legal Service

The Hobart Community Legal Service (HCLS) is a community organisation whose aims are to foster community awareness of the law, to make the law more equitable and accessible to the public, and to provide free legal information, advice and referral to the general public in southern Tasmania. Foster and kinship carers can access the following services from HCLS:

- Free legal advice clinics in the Hobart office, 166 Macquarie St, on Monday and Wednesday evenings. You need to arrive at 5:50pm to fill in a form with your legal question and then you will meet one-on-one with a lawyer.
- You can phone for information or to make an appointment in one of the Hobart or a regional office on 6223 2500.
- You can access a free app for legal information and referrals in Tasmania
www.lawaccessstas.org.au/

HCLS

www.hobartlegal.org.au

Legal Aid Commission

The Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania is a statutory body set up by the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1990*. It is the largest government-funded legal assistance service in Tasmania and provides legal advice, representation, family dispute resolution services and legal education to the Tasmanian community. It has four offices, in Burnie, Devonport, Hobart and Launceston. Foster and kinship carers can free-call 1300 366 611 during business hours to speak to a lawyer or make an appointment to see a lawyer.

The Commission also has a number of fact sheets on its website including one for grandparents and one on the role of an Independent's Children's Lawyer.

Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania

www.legalaid.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service (TACLS)

The TACLS offers a range of legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It has offices in Hobart and Launceston and provides legal services, advice and representation across the state. Its services are available for foster and kinship carers. It can be contacted by phone on 1800 064 865 or by email tacls@tacls.org.au.

TACLS

tacls.org.au

Women's Legal Service Tasmania

The Women's Legal Service Tasmania is a free community legal service funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. The service is managed and staffed by women who are sensitive to the diverse needs of individual women and groups within the Tasmanian community.

The service has offices in Hobart Launceston and Burnie and delivers legal services for women throughout Tasmania through the legal advice telephone line. For safety reasons, it does not provide its address, but foster and kinship carers can access support through the legal advice line on 1800 682 468 and make administrative enquiries to 6231 9466.

Women's Legal Service

womenslegaltas.org.au

Other legal issues which may arise as a foster or kinship carer

As a foster or kinship carer other legal issues may arise for you or the children in your care. If a legal problem arises, the first thing you should do is contact your child's CSO. Here are just some that are worth being aware of.

Contact with the police for a child in your care

If the police come to your door it is good to be aware that a person cannot be forced to attend a police interview unless they are arrested. If the police ask the child to come to the station for questioning, you must contact your child's CSO immediately to receive support for the child and yourself. You should also be aware that a child (or anyone) does not need to go to the police station unless he or she is under arrest.

If a child is arrested, the police can keep them for up to four hours unless they get special permission from a court to keep them longer. If they are not under arrest, then they do not have to go to the interview.

The decision about whether a child is to attend a police interview must involve the Secretary's delegate (the child's CSO or manager). The purpose of the interview must be given some consideration. For example, is the child suspected of committing an offence, or are police attempting to obtain evidence from them to charge someone else?

Arrest and Questioning Factsheet

www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/factsheets/arrest-and-questioning/

Attending a police interview with a child in your care

If a child wants to provide a statement, the child's CSO should arrange legal advice before they do so. Regardless of the age, a child or young person can be accompanied by legal representation or an adult for police questioning.

Everyone has the right to remain silent when being interviewed by police. This means a child does not have to provide any information in an interview except for their name and address.

Arrest and Questioning Factsheet

www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/factsheets/arrest-and-questioning/

The principle of *doli incapax*

The principle of *doli incapax* is a common-law principle that presumes that a child between the ages of 10 and 14 does not have the capacity to form or possess the criminal intent to commit a criminal offence. The court will act on this presumption unless it can be clearly shown that the child knew their criminal conduct was seriously wrong and not just 'naughty'.

Age of consent laws

There are a variety of different ages of consent for different activities. If you are unsure we recommend you contacting your CSO or contacting Legal Aid.

In Tasmania, the following ages of consent apply,

- The legal age for consensual sex is 17 years of age (*Criminal Code Act 1924*, Section 124). For two people under the age of 17 participating in sexual activities there is a legal defence when the sexual interaction is between two young people close in age (*Criminal Code Act 1924*, Section 124).
- Children must go to school from the age of 5 until 16.
- Young people under the age of 16 cannot work during school hours, unless they have an exemption from school. Young people have to be 18 to work behind a bar.
- Purchasing or consuming any alcohol is illegal up the age of 18.
- Purchasing and using any tobacco product is illegal up the age of 18.
- Young people must be 18 to get a tattoo.
- Young people aged 16 years or older can have a body piercing without a guardian present.
- Young people can obtain a learner's permit for driving a car or motor bike at the age of 16.

Legal Aid

www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/factsheets/young-people-law-for-the-under-18s-fact-sheet/

Age of Consent for Sex

<http://www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/factsheets/age-of-consent-for-sex/>

Tattoos, Piercings, and Body Modifications

www.legalaid.tas.gov.au/factsheets/young-people-tattoos-piercings-and-body-modifications-fact-sheet/

Sexting

'Sexting' is using the internet to send highly suggestive or sexually explicit images. It is a growing trend with young people and a common way to flirt among some teenagers. However, it can cause public humiliation and in some cases is illegal.

As the carer of the children in your home it is important to talk to them about the potential risks of sexting and sexual predators. Give them clear rules about what they can and cannot do with their mobile phone and remind them to think before they act. Explain that they have no control over who sees their photos, where they appear or how they are used after they have been sent.

The following sites have information on sex and relationship issues for young people.

Community Legal Services Tasmania, Law Access Tasmania

www.lawaccessstas.org.au/

Lawstuff

www.lawstuff.org.au/tas_law/topics/Sexting

ReachOut

au.reachout.com/relationships

Sex, Love and Other Stuff

www.dvrcv.org.au/knowledge-centre/our-publications/booklets/sex-love-and-other-stuff

What do you expect?

www.whatdoyouexpect.com.au



Care concerns

Care concerns

Unfortunately, sometimes foster and kinship carers have a care concern raised about them, causing significant stress and anxiety. Care concerns need to be taken seriously. But just like our justice system, carers will be considered innocent unless proven otherwise. The best thing you can do if a care concern is raised is to be open, honest and transparent. FKAT can offer support for you as the carer too.

According to DHHS, the care concern process aims 'to understand and resolve the type and nature of care concerns impacting on the quality of care experienced by children ... [which helps] system change and improvements ...'. A care concern could be raised for any number of reasons – diet, health, cleanliness, school attendance, discipline, lack of engagement with CSS, abuse or others and can be regarding the immediate carer or anyone else involved in the child's care.

A care concern can be raised as a result of:

- a formal notification by a mandatory reporter or community member
- a report by a professional, family member or community member directly to the CSO
- disclosure by the child to CSO, or
- direct observation or interaction with the child.

If a care concern is raised, you will be notified and it will then be investigated by the relevant people in CSS. You can be expected to be treated fairly, honestly and with respect and be involved in the investigation with written information of the process, outcome and findings.

Protecting your family from care concerns

Bringing vulnerable children into your home is tough and no one expects you to be a perfect parent for the child all the time. However, there are several precautions you can take to protect yourself and your family from allegations being made against you. Here are some suggestions:

- Be aware of your and your family member's stress levels and factor in regular self-care and respite breaks when needed.
- Establish clear household rules about acceptable behaviour, privacy and discipline such as knocking and seeking permission before entering a closed door.

- Establish a rule where everyone wears dressing gowns when walking between the bathroom and bedrooms or gets dressed in the bathroom. Nudity of adults and young people in front of children is not appropriate.
- Establish a privacy rule for the bathroom, toilet and bedroom for the child and the foster family.
- Establish an open-door policy when children are playing in bedrooms or areas where they are not directly supervised.
- It is not advisable to allow a child in care in the carer's bed or for members of the foster family to share the child's bed.
- Ensure other people who have contact with the child are aware of these suggestions.
- Ensure other people who have regular contact with the child have WWCVP cards.
- Always let your child's CSO know if your child in care hurts themselves, discloses something, injures themselves or anything similar.
- Record these events in an email or diary, including any actions taken.

Appendix 32 Care Concerns for carers

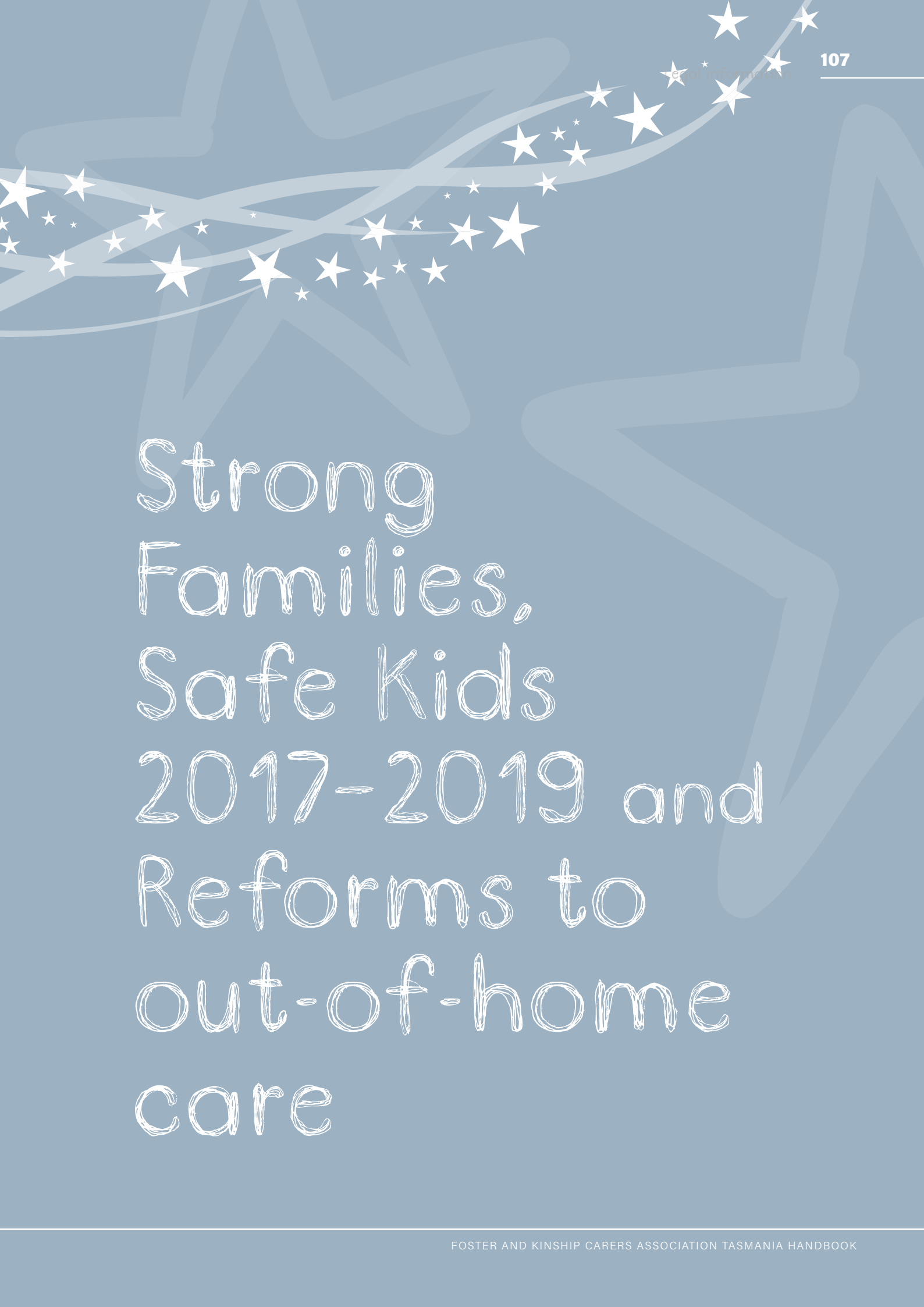
Appendix 33 Care Concerns for children and young people

Revocation of carers

Unfortunately, in some situations foster and kinship carers may no longer be deemed suitable carers. This may happen for several reasons including:

- acts of violence, child maltreatment, exploitation, deprivation of liberty, unreasonable discipline or criminal charges against the carer or significant others within the carer's family
- a WWCVP or Police Check is not approved
- any reasonable grounds to believe that the approval to be a foster carer was obtained improperly
- persistent actions that are contrary to and undermine quality care principles and case planning decisions, or
- consistently not following through with Case and Care Plan agreements.

If this does happen, the carers should be advised and then given written notice of the proposed revocation. The carer will be given 28 days to provide a written response. If the carer's approval is revoked, they will be informed in writing of the reasons why the decision was made. Revocation means the person can no longer practice as a carer in Tasmania.



Strong Families, Safe Kids 2017-2019 and Reforms to out-of-home care

Strong Families, Safe Kids 2017–2019 and Reforms to out-of-home care

Project vision: All children and young people are raised in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment with every opportunity to reach their full potential.

Tasmania is currently managing significant reform projects in CSS and out-of-home care. *Strong Families, Safe Kids* seeks to redesign CSS with a much greater emphasis upon early intervention, assistance and support to families to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children. The overriding goal of the redesign is to secure the safety of children by doing the very best we can all do to support their families and communities.

At the same time, the Tasmanian Government is working to improve out-of-home care in a separate but aligned initiative. The out-of-home care system in Tasmania has been the subject of much criticism and numerous reviews over the years. There is also a shortage of carers in Tasmania, so the system must change to attract more carers and improve the outcomes for children leaving out-of-home care. The Tasmanian Government also needs to make certain changes to adhere to the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children (National Framework).

To respond to this environment the government developed a *Strategic Plan for Out-of-home Care in Tasmania 2017–2019*. It incorporated into this plan all seven recommendations contained in the Commissioner for Children and Young People's report *Children and Young People in Out-of-home Care in Tasmania*, its obligations under the National Framework and other recommendations from previous reports. The final report of the reference group set up to develop the redesign of the out-of-home care system is called *Redesign of Child Protection Services Tasmania: Strong Families, Safe Kids*.

There are several steps and projects within the strategic plan that, taken together, are expected to make positive changes for children in care and their carers. FKAT is a part of these projects and represents carers in discussions and developments.

As part of the strategic plan, the government made a commitment to:

- reflect existing policy commitments and align with national efforts
- determine governance and oversight arrangements
- report on progress of the strategic plan through the implementation plan to facilitate effective monitoring and reporting of progress against each strategy.

The strategic plan articulates five key strategies that together form the basis of improvements to the out-of-home care system. They reflect the themes and recommendations of previous reports into out-of-home care.



They are listed in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Key strategies

Strategy 1	Leading an accountable system	Putting mechanisms in place to oversee the delivery of a coordinated, integrated and accountable system where all partners are aware of their role and contribution.
Strategy 2	Defining and delivering quality care	Defining the standard for high-quality out-of-home care services and ensuring this standard is consistently delivered.
Strategy 3	Building the out-of-home care system	Building a system which delivers the right amount and the right type of care needed by children and young people who cannot live at home.
Strategy 4	Delivering a safe out-of-home care system	Taking a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to keeping children and young people in our care safe.
Strategy 5	Improving outcomes for children and young people in out-of-home care	Improving outcomes for children and young people in out-of-home care by delivering services which meet their specific needs.

There are also several specific projects under the strategic plan of particular relevance to carers. These are summarised below.

The Out-of-home Care Foundations Project

This project is being done in collaboration with CYS, the Commissioner for Children, young people and carers, CREATE, FKAT, employees within CSS and non-government services.

It commenced in 2017 and seeks to 'build a strong foundation for the out-of-home care system' by:

- setting clear population and program outcomes for children and young people in out-of-home care
- producing a transparent Quality and Accountability Framework that defines the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the out-of-home care system and articulates how they will be both supported and accountable for delivering better outcomes to children and young people in out-of-home care
- defining a future model of foster care in Tasmania that supports a quality and sustainable out-of-home care system.

Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework

One project of the Strong Families, Safe Kids team was to develop a framework for all people working with children and young people in Tasmania to use. This would develop a common language and understanding. This project is completed and was released on 6 June 2017.

Children's Advice and Referral Alliance

Another project is the Children's Advice and Referral Alliance (CARA) which will 'provide a single point of entry for people seeking information, advice and service referral in regard to significant concerns for the safety and wellbeing of children.' On 6 June 2017 the Strong Families, Safe Kids Project Team released its final model for CARA and a trial has begun.

Further information**Appendix 34** Redesign project fact sheet

Further information about Strong Families, Safe Kids can be found on the DHHS website. These previous reports and commentary may also be useful.

- Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/250987/Child_and_Youth_Wellbeing_Framework.pdf
- Detailed description of the CARA model
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/250992/CYS_Childrens_Advice_and_Referral_Alliance_v3.pdf
- Final report of the Redesign Reference Group
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/strongfamilies-safekids
- Opinion piece by Maria Harries published in The Mercury on 1 December 2015
www.themercury.com.au/news/opinion/talking-point-bid-to-protect-vulnerable-kids-in-tassie/news-story/b75de37c8f458314e164ba7babcdcc6e
- Opinion piece by Commissioner for Children Mark Morrissey
www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Opinion-Piece-Child-Protection-04.12.2015.pdf
- Some of the background information that the Redesign Reference Group has reviewed
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/strongfamilies-safekids/cps_redesign_project_-_supporting_documentation.

You can email the redesign project team on
cpsredesignteam@dhhs.tas.gov.au





Useful documents

Useful documents

The following table presents documents, policies, procedures, legislation, pamphlets, websites and other written information mentioned in this Handbook or that may be useful to you.

Foster and kinship care

Document	Website	Description
Redesign of Child Protection Services Tasmania: Strong Families, Safe Kids	www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/214356/Redesign_of_Child_Protection_Services.pdf	Tasmanian Government Initiative to redesign the out-of-home care system in Tasmania from 2017–2019
Background on the redesign	www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/strongfamilies-safekids/cps_redesign_project_-_supporting_documentation	
Child and Youth Wellbeing Framework	www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/250987/Child_and_Youth_Wellbeing_Framework.pdf	A framework for all Tasmanians to use to care for and look out for children and young people
Children's Advice and Referral Alliance (CARA)	www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/250992/CYS_Childrens_Advice_and_Referral_Alliance_v3.pdf	CARA is a single point of entry for people seeking information, advice and service referral in regard to concerns for children and young people's safety in Tasmania
Convention on the rights of the child	www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx	United Nations convention to which all child protection systems in Australia should adhere
Final Report of the Redesign Reference Group	www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/214356/Redesign_of_Child_Protection_Services.pdf	Report that lead to the Strong Families, Safe Communities projects
FKAT Survey	www.fkat.org.au	Biannual survey hosted by FKAT to gather the views and needs of foster and kinship carers in Tasmania.
How children enter care in Tasmania	www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/62982/Child_Protection_Process_Sept_2009.pdf	Diagram showing how children enter out-of-home care in Tasmania
National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020	www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/publications-articles/protecting-children-is-everyones-business	National document that all states and territories agreed to with milestones to ensure all Australian children are cared for and protected
Out-of-home Care Foundations Project	www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/out_of_home_care_reform_in_tasmania/documents/strategic_plan_for_out_of_home_care_in_tasmania	Commencing in 2017 this is a collaborative project with CYS, the Commissioner for Children, young people, carers, CREATE, FKAT, employees within CSS and foster care agencies to redesign the out-of-home care system
After Care Support Program	stors.tas.gov.au/store/exlibris6/storage/2015/06/04/file_1/1350741.pdf	CYS document that guides leaving care
Social Care Institute for Excellence – Guide on Placements	www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide07/placement/placement/	Research into how best to support young people and carers through transitions
The Socioeconomic Case for Extending the Age of Leaving OOH	aifs.gov.au/cfca/2016/11/30/socioeconomic-case-extending-age-leaving-out-home-care	Research into the age of leaving care in Australia

Foster and kinship carer handbooks of other states and territories

Document	Website	Description
Caring for Kids, New South Wales	www.community.nsw.gov.au/parents,-carers-and-families/fostering,-guardianship-and-adoption/foster-care/are-you-a-community-services-foster-carer/foster-care-resources	
Foster and kinship care Handbook, Queensland	www.fcq.com.au/images/foster-kinship-carer-handbook-2017.pdf	
Foster and Kinship Carers, Northern Territory	www.carercommunity.nt.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/Foster%20Care%20Carers%20Handbook.pdf	
Foster Care Handbook for Families, Western Australia	www.dcp.wa.gov.au/FosteringandAdoption/CurrentFosterCarers/Documents/Foster%20Care%20Handbook.pdf	
Victorian Handbook for Foster Carers	services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-handbook-foster-carers-word	
Victorian Kinship Carer Handbook	services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/kinship-care	

Legislation

Document	Website	Description
Age of consent	aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/age-consent-laws	Australian Institute of Family Studies information on age of consent laws with additional links and information for carers
<i>Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997</i>	www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1997-028	The legislation within which out-of-home care operates in Tasmania
<i>Commissioner for Children and Young Persons Act 2016</i>	www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2016-002	The legislation within which the Commissioner for Children operates

Health

Document	Website	Description
Drugs and teenagers	www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/drugs-teenagers	Australian Institute of Family Studies information for parents and carers about teenagers and drug use
Mental illness and substance use	aifs.gov.au/cfca/bibliography/mental-illness-and-substance-abuse-young-people	Publication on mental health and substance abuse in young people

Caring for a child with a disability

Document	Website	Description
<i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>	www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A04426	Commonwealth disability legislation
Disability rights	www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights	Australian Human Rights Commission information on the rights of people with disabilities
Know me app	knowmetools.com/know-me	Application for children with a disability and their carers to share information and assist one another
National collection of data of children with a disability	www.education.gov.au/what-nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability	National standards of collecting information on how children with disabilities are progressing with their education
Students with Disability	documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/Students-with-Disability-2017-KPMG-Final-Report.pdf	KPMG 2017 report into how Tasmanian students with a disability are going
Supporting All – Students with Disability Focus FAQs	documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/Supporting-All-Disability-Focus-FAQs.pdf	Tasmanian Department of Education document on supporting students with a disability
Supporting Students with Disability – 2017 Update	documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/Supporting-Students-with-Disability-2017-Update.pdf	Tasmanian Government commitment to supporting students with a disability

Mental health

Document	Website	Description
Parenting Support	www.parentline.com.au/parenting-information/tip-sheets/suicide.php	Information for parents/carers of a young person talking about suicide

Trauma and attachment

Document	Website	Description
Child Trauma Intervention Services	www.childhoodinstitute.org.au/RichardROse#sthash.LixCLOTx.dpuf www.childtraumaintervention.com/page/33/therapeutic-life-story-work.htm	Great resources on childhood trauma
Children's Attachment Needs in out-of-home care	aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/childrens-attachment-needs-context-out-home-care	Publication by the AIFS
Responding to child's disclosure	aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/responding-children-and-young-people-s-disclosures-abu	Publication on how to respond to a child if they disclose sexual abuse
The boy who was raised by a dog	www.amazon.com/Boy-Who-Raised-Psychiatrists-Notebook-What/dp/0465094457	Book about trauma and its effects, but how a stable and loving home can change a child's life
The effects of trauma on development	aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/effect-trauma-brain-development-children	Publication describing the effects of trauma on development
Trauma-informed care	aifs.gov.au/cfca/sites/default/files/publication-documents/cfca37-trauma-informed-practice.pdf	Publication by AIFS on trauma-informed practice
Understanding the importance of attachment	fostercare.lwb.org.au/assets/Uploads/1.-Attachment-for-Children-in-Foster-Care.pdf	Information provided by LWB on attachment for foster carers

Document	Website	Description
Belonging, being and becoming	www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/early-years/belonging-being-and-becoming/	State Government strategy to support parents and carers in the early years
Department of Education Staying Safe Policy	www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/parent-fact-sheets/staying-safe/	State Government policy regarding bullying
Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS)	www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/early-years/early-childhood-intervention-service/	Education and developmental support for children before school age. The website has great resources and forms for the service
Guide to Reading and using Tasmania's Strategy for Children	documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/Guide-to-Reading-and-using-the-Tasmania-Strategy-for-Children.pdf	State Government information on reading to your preschool age children
Guide to Reading and Using, Tasmania's Strategy for Children	documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/Guide-to-Reading-and-using-the-Tasmania-Strategy-for-Children.pdf	This Strategy outlines shared purposes and practices for all Tasmanian service providers that focus on improving education, health and wellbeing outcomes for children from pregnancy to eight years
Kindergarten Development Check (KDC)	intranet.education.tas.gov.au/intranet/programs-initiatives/KDC/SitePages/About%20KDC.aspx	The KDC is designed to assist teachers in the early identification of Kindergarten students who are at risk of not achieving expected developmental outcomes and may require specific intervention program and/or specific support personnel
Tasmania's Strategy for Children – Pregnancy to Eight Years 2018–2021	documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/Tasmania-Strategy-for-Children-Pregnancy-to-Eight-Years-2018-2021.PDF	State Government's plan to support children in the early years
Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS)	documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/PIPS-Flyer-2013.pdf www.education.uwa.edu.au/pips/	PIPS assesses the numeracy and literacy of children in Prep to assist in monitoring development and target support
Where do I study?	documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Documents/Where-do-I-study-2018.xlsx&action=default	Information on college choices for young people going into Year 11
Working together for 3-year olds	www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/projects/working-together-3-year-olds/	State Government plan to support 3-year olds in Tasmania
Year 11 and 12	documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/year11-12-course-information-GENERAL-INFORMATION.pdf	Information on Years 11 and 12 in Tasmania

Safety

Document	Website	Description
Australian Child Restraint Standards	www.raa.com.au/motoring-and-road-safety/child-safety-advice-and-news/australian-standard	Australian child restraint standards
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Bicycle Helmets	www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/bicycle-helmets	Australian bicycle helmet standards
Bicycle Network of Tasmania Cycling Safety	www.biketas.org.au/cycling_safety	Information on cycling safety in Tasmania
Department of Education Travelling to School	www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/school-colleges/travelling-to-school/	Information on safety travelling to and from school
Kidsafe Child Restraints	www.kidsafetas.com.au/national-kidsafe-day/	Information on child restraints
Leaving child home alone	raisingchildren.net.au/articles/leaving_children_home_alone.html	Raising Children Network article on leaving children home alone
RACT Fitting Child Restraints	www.ract.com.au/child-restraints	Assistance and information on child restraints in Tasmania
Road rules	www.hobartlegal.org.au/handbook/community-and-environment/road-rules-for-cyclists-and-skaters/bicycle-and-cyclist-specific-laws/	Road rules for cyclists
Trampoline safety	kidsafe.com.au/sports-and-play/	Trampoline safety information and ideas
Vehicle Specifications Tasmania	www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicles/specifications	Information to ensure your vehicle is roadworthy

Newborns

Document	Website	Description
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Cot Safety Standards	www.productsafety.gov.au/standards/household-cots	Australian cot standards
Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Information	medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007313.htm	

Young people

Document	Website	Description
Sex, Love and Other Stuff	www.dvrcv.org.au/knowledge-centre/our-publications/booklets/sex-love-and-other-stuff	An online booklet for young men, developed with the help of young men, which talks about sex, relationships, power and respect
Young People and the Law	www.everyday-law.org.au/young-people	Information for young people about the law and how they interact with it

Bullying

Document	Website	Description
Bullying for children and young people	bullying.humanrights.gov.au/children-and-young-people-0	Information on bullying towards children and young people



Useful organisations

Useful organisations

The following table presents the details and contact information of all the organisations mentioned in this Handbook and others which may be useful for foster and kinship carers, children and young people. We would like to thank Carers Australia Tasmania for sharing information for this table.

Organisation	Contact	About
Emergency		
Ambulance, Fire, Police	000	For all emergencies call 000
Poisons Information Centre	13 11 26 TTY 13 14 50 www.poisonsinfo.nsw.gov.au	24/7 telephone service that provides consultation regarding poisoning



Organisation	Contact	About
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Foster and kinship care organisations

Adoption and Permanency Services	6166 0422 adoption.service@dhhs.tas.gov.au www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/adoption	Contact information if guardianship of a child is transferred to the carer
Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF)	1300 381 581 info@childhood.org.au www.childhood.org.au	ACF is an independent children's charity working to prevent child abuse and reduce the harm it causes to children, families and the community. It offers services statewide in Tasmania
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)	www.aihw.gov.au	Australian government organisation that researches child protection nationally
Backpacks for Kids	In Tasmania: FKAT 1800 149 994 ceo@fkate.org.au www.backpacks4vickids.org.au	An Australian charity providing backpacks and nappy bags to children entering foster care and emergency accommodation
Canadian Foster Family Resources	www.canadianfosterfamilyassociation.ca/category/links/	Great resources for foster and kinship carers
CatholicCare	www.catholiccarea.tas.gov.au	CatholicCare Tasmania offers a range of specialised professional services available to all. They take a family-focused, child-centred approach, recognising that whatever impacts on family, also impacts on children.
Children and Youth Services (CYS)	1800 732 522 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/fostercare	Contact information for CYS for foster and kinship carers and prospective carers
Commissioner for Children and Young People	6166 1366 www.childcomm.tas.gov.au	The Commissioner for Children and Young People is an independent statutory officer who reports to the Tasmanian Parliament
CREATE Foundation	6223 7749 tasmania@create.org.au www.create.org.au	CREATE is the peak national advocate for children and young people with an out-of-home care experience
Foster and Kinship carers Association of Tasmania	1800 149 994 www.fkat.org.au	FKAT is the peak body for foster and kinship carers in Tasmania. It is a voice for foster and kinship carers in Tasmania
Glenhaven Family Care	NW 6425 1144 temcarenw@glenhaven.org.au North 6343 7551 temcaren@glenhaven.org.au www.glenhaven.org.au	Provides foster and respite care in North and North-west Tasmania
Kennerley	6272 5900 kennerleykids.org.au	Provides foster and respite care in Southern Tasmania
Key Assets	6283 1900 info@keyassetstas.com.au www.keyassets.com.au/tasmania	Provides sibling group care statewide
Life Without Barriers	6232 8750 fostercare.lwb.org.au/contact-us/tasmania-foster-care	Provides foster and respite care services statewide
Possability	1300 067 842 possability.com.au	Statewide support for foster carers

Organisation	Contact	About
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Organisation	Contact	About
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Promoting children's safety

Australian Federal Police	www.afp.gov.au/policing/child-protection-operations/online-exploitation	Information about online exploitation and safety
Australian Swimming Pool and Spa Association	www.spasa.com.au/consumer-info/fencing-laws/	Information on swimming pool safety
Kidsafe	0417 381 721 tas@kidsafe.com.au kidsafe.com.au	Resources on keeping your child and home safe
Office of the eSafety Commissioner	www.esafety.gov.au	Online safety advice and tips
Royal Lifesaving Society	6243 7558 tas@rlssa.org.au www.royallifesaving.com.au	Offers programs and resource for keeping safe around water.
Safeguarding Children	www.safeguardingchildren.com.au/	Program to support organisations be 'child-safe'
Stay Smart Online	www.staysmartonline.gov.au	Online safety advice for everyone
Think u know	www.thinkuknow.org.au	Online safety advice and tips

Sexual health and sexual assault

1800 RESPECT	1800 737 732 www.1800respect.org.au	Free 24/7 phone line for support with family violence and sexual assault
Bravehearts	bravehearts.org.au	Information on sexual health and safety
Family Planning Tasmania	6273 9117 www.fpt.asn.au	Sexual health advice and support
Sexual Assault Support Service Inc.	1800 697 877 6231 1811 admin@sass.org.au www.sass.org.au	SASS is a free and confidential service for people of all ages who have been affected by any form of sexual violence, and children and young people who are displaying problem sexual behaviour or sexually abusive behaviour
Sexual Health Service Tasmania	1800 675 859 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/sexualhealth/sexual_health_service_tasmania	Statewide sexual health information and support
What do you expect?	www.whatdoyouexpect.com.au	This is an online campaign against sexual violence that provides young people with practical information about consent, sexual negotiations, sexting and safety strategies

Organisation	Contact	About
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Alcohol and other drugs

Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)	1800 811 994 www.nmsupport.org.au/accessing-support/find-a-service/alcohol-drug-information-service-adis-tas	A 24 hour alcohol and other drug information service for Tasmanians affected by alcohol and drug use
Alcohol and Drug Services	1300 139 641 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/mentalhealth/alcohol_and_drug	Treatment, information, education and community-based supports for individuals, families and communities
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council Tasmania (ATDC)	6231 5002 reception@atdc.org.au www.atdc.org.au	Information about alcohol and other drugs
Better Health Victoria	www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/drugs-teenagers	Information for parents and carers about teenagers and drug use
Drug Education Network (DEN)	1300 369 319 www.den.org.au	DEN delivers a range of health promotion, prevention and early intervention programs associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug use
Family Drug Line	1300 660 068 www.fds.org.au	Specialist service supporting family members and friends affected by a loved one's use of drugs and/or alcohol. The aim is to strengthen physical and mental health of clients, assisting them with their coping ability in a difficult situation

Aboriginal organisations and services

Indigenous Advancement Support	www.pmc.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/employment/tailored-assistance-employment-grants	Information on financial assistance available to indigenous young people continuing their education
Magabala Books	(08) 9192 1991 info@magabala.com www.magabala.com	This is Australia's leading Indigenous publisher and produces great books and resources
Reconciliation Council of Tasmania	rectas.com.au	The Reconciliation Council of Tasmania works towards reconciliation in Tasmania
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC)	feedback@tacinc.com.au 6231 3527 www.tacinc.com.au	The TAC is an Aboriginal community organisation which advocates and has programs for the political and community development aspirations of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. Incorporates the Aboriginal Health Service based in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie offering consultations with doctors, Aboriginal health worker, specialist paediatricians and general physician, and other health professionals



Organisation	Contact	About
Tasmanian Aboriginal Community Legal Service (TACLS)	1800 064 865 tacls@tacls.org.au tacls.org.au	TACLS offers a range of legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It has offices in Hobart and Launceston and provides legal services, advice and representation across the state
Victorian Aboriginal Childcare Agency	9287 8800 9287 8999 vacca@vacca.org www.vacca.org/product/life-books	Provides great resources on developing life story books
Yarn Strong Sista	9338 3492 www.yarnstrongsista.com	Promotes indigenous culture through education. It has some great resources for children and young people as well as their carers

Multicultural organisations

FECCA	(02) 6282 5755 admin@fecca.org.au www.fecca.org.au	FECCA is the peak national body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. FECCA's role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of its constituency to government, business and the broader community
Migrant Resource Centre Tas	South 6221 0999 North 6724 2820 reception@mrctas.org.au www.mrctas.org.au	MRC Tas is a not-for-profit organisation that supports people from migrant backgrounds to settle in Tasmania
Multicultural Council of Tasmania	6285 9907 office@mcot.org.au mcot.org.au	MCoT works with and advocates for migrant communities in Tasmania
North-west Multicultural and Health Diversity Liaison Officer	6478 5318 0409 762 030 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/tho/nw/multicultural	The Multicultural and Health Diversity Liaison Officer is part of the Social Work Service and can assist culturally and linguistically diverse people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and people with disabilities
Phoenix Centre	South 6234 9138 North 6724 2820 mrctas.org.au/phoenix-centre	The Phoenix Centre assists migrants who have fled persecution, torture and war related trauma
Translating and Interpreting Service	13 14 50 www.tisnational.gov.au	TIS is the national translating and interpreting phone service

Organisation	Contact	About
Disability services		
Association for children with a disability	9880 7000 1800 654 013 (rural callers) mail@acd.org.au acdsupport@acd.org.au acd.org.au/	ACD empowers families of children with a disability to access the support needed to live a fulfilling life and to uphold children's rights to reach their full potential
Auslan Interpreter Services	1300 287 562 admin@auslanservices.com www.auslanservices.com	Auslan Interpreter Service is a national service that provides interpreters for hearing-impaired patients and carers
Better Start	1800 242 636 www.betterstart.net.au	Better Start is an initiative for children with a disability. It provides funds to assist with access to education
Devonfield Enterprises	6324 6133 www.devonfield.com.au	Devonfield Enterprises provides training employment and accommodation for people with a disability; they offer accommodation for recipients and their families at Somerset and Hawley at a minimal cost
Disability and Education	www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005	Standards published by the Australian Department of Education and Training to guide providers of education and training.
Disability Programs, Department of Education	6165 5464 disabilityprograms@education.tas.gov.au	Contact person for a family with a child with a disability wishing to enrol in a state school
Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS)	Burnie 6430 4200 Devonport 6478 4322 Launceston 6344 1729 Hobart 6231 1625 www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/early-years/early-childhood-intervention-service/	ECIS support children with a disability or development delay from birth to school entry, and their families or carers. The service builds on opportunities for learning and development that are provided at home or through birth to 4-year-old programs
FASD Tasmania	0429 044 746 Adelle.rist@patches-paediatrics.com.au www.fasdtasmania.com	Tasmanian organisation advocating for children and young people with FASD.
Home and Community Care (HACC)	1300 769 699 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/hacc	HACC provides assistances with activities for people with a disability still living at home
Know Me App	knowmetools.com/know-me/	This app allows young people and their carers to share information and support one another
National Relay Service	13 36 77 1300 555 727 0423 677 767 relayservice.gov.au	This is a 24 hour service for children or young people who are hearing-impaired
NDIS	1800 800 110 www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/TAS	The NDIS is the national disability insurer and can provide services for people aged 4 to 34 in Tasmania
Richmond Fellowship Tasmania (RFT)	Hobart 6236 9287 Launceston 6331 7366 Ulverstone 6425 2640 rft.org.au	RFT offers an opportunity to connect to the community, explore personal interests, socialise and build friendships through a range of activities
St Giles	1300 278 445 society@stgiles.org.au www.stgiles.org.au	Statewide, multifaceted organisation that supports children and young people with developmental and disabilities

Organisation	Contact	About
Tascare Society for Children	6272 8256 admin@tascare.org.au tascare.org.au	Tascare offers support and information to families with children and young people with disability
TasEquip	6166 7393 6336 5036 6426 2429 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/RHH/treatments_and_services/tasequip	TasEquip provides a set range of assistive technology (equipment) to eligible Tasmanians to safely engage in basic, everyday tasks and thereby support their ongoing independence or care within our community and also to transition home from acute care or to access required education settings. Access to TasEquip resources is by therapist prescription only.

LGBTI organisations

Qlife	1800 184 527 qlife.org.au	Qlife is a counselling and referral service for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex
Working it Out	6231 1200 info@workingitout.org.au www.workingitout.org.au	Gender, sexuality and intersex status support and education service in Tasmania

Education

Homeschooling	6165 6135 registrar@oer.tas.gov.au	If you would like to find out about homeschooling your child
It's a Great Start	greatstart.tas.gov.au	This website provides information on all the preschool education programs available including Launch into Learning, the B4 Coalition, Child and Family Centres, LINC's, Kindergarten, LIFT and Education and Care
My Schools	www.myschool.edu.au	The <i>My School</i> website allows you to compare schools with similar students
National Assessment Program and NAPLAN	www.nap.edu.au	The NAP provides the measure through which governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes. On this website you will find information about NAPLAN
Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS)	documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/PIPS-Flyer-2013.pdf www.education.uwa.edu.au/pips	PIPS assesses the numeracy and literacy of children in Prep to assist in monitoring development and target support
Working Together for 3-year olds	www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/projects/working-together-3-year-olds/	This program is a government-subsidised participation in quality and accredited preschool programs for eligible 3-year-old children, for 10 hours a week (400 hours a year). The program is delivered by accredited services in the Early Childhood Education and Care sector or by some government schools
Year 13	Contact an extension high school offering senior secondary years or a college.	Support for students who need an additional year of secondary school

Organisation	Contact	About
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Post-secondary options

Australian School-based Apprenticeship (ASbA)	6165 6097 asba.admin@education.tas.gov.au www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/programs-and-initiatives/australian-school-based-apprenticeships-asba/	ASbA are paid, employment-based training arrangement available for students in Year 10, 11 or 12. It enables students to combine work, training and education to gain a nationally recognised qualification, usually at Certificate II or III level
MyFuture website	www.myfuture.edu.au	Lots of information to assist your young person deciding what to do after school
MySkills	pssfw.myskills.gov.au	Information for young people preparing to leave Year 12
Open Universities Australia	www.open.edu.au	Online university courses in Australia
TasTAFE	www.tastafe.tas.edu.au	Tasmania's largest training institute
University of Tasmania	www.utas.edu.au	

Health services and information - general

All Round Health and Community Care – Counselling Services	1800 225 584 www.roundhealth.org.au	All Round Health and Community Care is focused on providing preventative services as well as early intervention to enhance wellness of the whole person. In addition to GPs and Nurse Practitioners, they engage a range of Allied Health Professionals to provide comprehensive care
Asthma Foundation Tasmania	1800 278 462 www.asthmatas.org.au	
Call the Doctor	1800 225 584 call-the-doctor.com.au	After-hours GP support
Child Health Centres	North 6777 1322 North-west 6477 7056 South 1300 064 544 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/child_health_centres	Child Health Centres are located statewide and support a carer with a newborn with regular check-ups and advice
Connections Health, Heather Pearson	6234 4886	Osteopath who provides specialist support for young children and children
Find a speech pathologist	www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist/Find_a_Speech_Pathologist.aspx	Register of speech pathologists in Australia
Health Direct	1800 022 222 www.healthdirect.gov.au/	24/7 health information and advice service
Hobart Pathology, Sandy Bay	6223 1933 www.hobartpath.com.au	This blood, urine and drug testing centre that specialises in baby's and children's blood collection
Independent Kids	6234 5333 www.independentkids.com.au/	Group of occupational therapists in Hobart that provides specialist services to children
Launceston Pathology	www.launcestonpath.com.au/	Provides collection services for children
National Immunisation Record	www.immunise.health.gov.au/	With your child or young person's Medicare number you should be able to access their Immunisation Record

Organisation	Contact	About
North west Pathology	www.northwestpath.com.au/	Provides collection services for children
NPS Medicinewise	1300 633 424 www.nps.org.au	NPS is an independent, not-for-profit organisation funded by the Australian Government, providing useful tools and information about medicines, conditions and medical tests to help Australians make better health choices
Oral Health Tasmania	www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/oralhealth	All children and young people in care can access free oral health services through the state government
p.a.n.d.a	6278 8600 www.pandatherapy.com.au	Physiotherapy – Paediatric and Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Therapy provides specialist services to children in Tasmania and has a range of information on its website for carers and others
Paediatric Outpatient Clinic	6166 8308 outpatients.tas.gov.au/clinics/paediatrics	All children and young people in care in Southern Tasmania will have their health assessments done at the Paediatric Outpatient clinic located at the RHH
Tas After Hours	1800 022 222 www.tasafterhours.com	After-hours GP support
Tasmanian Immunisation Phonenumber	1800 671 738	Information on required immunisations in Tasmania and how you can access them
Total Health and Rehabilitation	6227 1161 www.threhab.com.au	A centre that specialises in holistic diagnosis and support. It has occupational therapists, exercise physiologists, physiotherapist, speech pathologists and nutritionists. It also can diagnose autism and several other disorders

Support for teenage parents – pregnancy and beyond

Brave Foundation	info@bravefoundation.org.au 1800 827 441 bravefoundation.org.au	Support for teenage parents
C U @ Home	North 1300 064 544 North-west 6434 6201 South 6233 2700 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/c_u_@_home	Child Health and Parenting Service for young first-time parents 15 to 19 years of age. If the young woman accepts the offer, nurses commence home visiting in the antenatal period with visits at regular intervals until the child's second birthday. The program will ensure children born to young parents have equal opportunity for optimal development to become creative, competent, caring and resilient young people and adults
Esther's House	0479 055 777 www.estershhouse-pps.com	Support for new mums
Karinya (Launceston)	6334 8403 youngmums@kyws.org.au www.kyws.org.au/young-mums-program	Provides intensive case management and accommodation to young pregnant women, young mums and dads in Launceston, Tasmania aged between 15 and 19 years of age. Priority will be given to those who have limited family support and are homeless or at risk of homelessness

Organisation	Contact	About
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Organisation	Contact	About
Lifelink Samaritans Tasmania	1300 364 566 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/lifelink_samaritans_tasmania_inc	Lifelink Samaritans provides a 24-hour crisis helpline. People who are experiencing loneliness, distress or suicidal thoughts are encouraged to call the helpline
Mental Health Carers Tasmania	1800 985 944 mentalhealthcarerstas.org.au/	Mental Health Carers Tasmania aims to improve the quality of life for the one in five Tasmanian families, friends, carers and people living with mental health issues and mental illness
Mental Health Services Helpline	1800 332 288 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/mental_health_services/mental_health_service_helpline	You can call the helpline for mental health advice, assessment and referral
Reachout	au.reachout.com	Mental health information and support for young people and their carers
R U OK?	www.ruok.org.au	Suicide prevention and information website
Suicide Call Back Service	1300 659 467 www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au	A 24 hour service that provides free phone, video and online counselling for anyone affected by suicide
Youth Beyond Blue	www.youthbeyondblue.com	Mental health website for young people

Hospitals

Calvary St John's Hospital	6223 7444 www.calvarycare.org.au/st-johns-private-hospital-hobart	Calvary Hospital also runs St Luke's and St Vincent's in Launceston and Calvary in Lenah Valley in the South.
Hobart Private Hospital	6214 3000 www.hobartprivatehospital.com.au	
Launceston General Hospital	6777 6777 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/launceston_general_hospital	
Mersey Hospital	6478 5500 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/hospital/mersey-community-hospital	
North-west Regional Hospital	6493 6000 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/thn/nw/north_west_regional_hospital	
Royal Hobart Hospital	6166 8308 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/hospital/royal-hobart-hospital	
St Helen's Private Hospital	6221 6444 www.sthelensprivatehospital.com.au	

Organisation	Contact	About
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Financial support

ABSTUDY	www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/abstudy	Financial support for young people of Aboriginal descent to continue their education
Centrelink	13 61 50 www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/centrelink	Federal Government Agency that provides financial assistance to eligible families and young people
Centrelink Grandparents Adviser Line	1800 245 965 www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/grandparent-advisers	Provide advice to grandparents and other carers on what financial support is available from Centrelink
Medicare	13 20 11 www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/dhs/medicare	To access financial support for medical services
Study Assist	www.studyassist.gov.au	Information on financial supports available to young people wanting to continue their education
Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)	1300 653 227 TILA@DSS.gov.au www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/benefits-payments/transition-to-independent-living-allowance-tila	A Commonwealth Government allowance to support young people transitioning to independence

Legal information and support

Advocacy Tasmania	1800 005 131 intake@advocacytasmania.org.au www.advocacytasmania.org.au	Advocacy Tasmania provides services to older people, people with mental health issues, people with disabilities, people with drug and/or alcohol related problems and their carers
Births Deaths and Marriages	Service Tasmania www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/how_to_apply_for_a_certificate	Where to go to apply for legal documents
Hobart Community Legal Service (HCLS)	6223 2500 www.hobartlegal.org.au/	HCLS is a community organisation whose aims are to foster community awareness of the law, to make the law more equitable and accessible to the public, and to provide free legal information, advice and referral to the general public in southern Tasmania
Law Society of Tasmania	6234 4133 members.lst.org.au/members/search/people/	List of registered lawyers in Tasmania
Lawstuff	www.lawstuff.org.au/tas_law/topics	Useful legal information for children and young people
Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania	1300 366 611 www.legalaid.tas.gov.au	Provides free and confidential legal advice
Tasmanian Society of Justices of the Peace	6261 1444 jpregistrar@intas.net.au www.tsjpi.asn.au/find.html	List of Justices of the Peace in Tasmania
Women's Legal Service Tasmania	1800 682 468 6231 9466 womenslegaltas.org.au	The Women's Legal Service Tasmania is a free community legal service funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. The service is managed and staffed by women who are sensitive to the diverse needs of individual women and groups within the Tasmanian community

Organisation	Contact	About
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Organisation	Contact	About
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Accommodation

Housing Connect	1800 808 340 www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/housing	State housing for Tasmanians on low incomes or with special needs
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Complaints and compliments

CYS complaints	CYS South Complaints complaints.cys.south@dhhs.tas.gov.au CYS North Complaints complaints.cys.north@dhhs.tas.gov.au CYS Northwest Complaints complaints.cys.nw@dhhs.tas.gov.au	Contact details for complaints against CSS
Minister for Human Services	The Hon. Jacqui Petrusa www.parliament.tas.gov.au/HA/Cabinet.htm	If you are not happy with the response you get from a complaint against CSS you can go to the Minister
Ombudsman Tasmania	1800 001 170 ombudsman@ombudsman.tas.gov.au www.ombudsman.tas.gov.au	The Ombudsman investigates complaints about Tasmanian state or local government authorities

Other organisations

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)	1300 687 327	All foster and kinship carers are eligible to access CSS's EAP. The EAP is a 24-hour phone line with trained counsellors who can listen and support you through a difficult time in your caring journey. As a carer you and your family are eligible for up to four confidential sessions a year
Passports Office Tasmania	6238 4099 dfat.tasmania@dfat.gov.au dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/australian-offices/Pages/tasmania-state-office.aspx	The office to contact to apply for a passport
Red Cross Service	6235 6077 6326 0400 6431 1848 www.redcross.org.au	The Red Cross provides a variety of services in Tasmanian communities
Support Help and Empowerment Inc. (SHE)	6278 9090 www.she.org.au	Counselling and support service for people affected by domestic violence or abuse from an intimate partner, past or present
WWCVP card	Department of Justice www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children/application	Information on who needs a WWCVP card and how to apply





Foster and kinship- friendly services

Foster and kinship-friendly services

The following tables list child-friendly services in Tasmania. We hope in future Handbooks that this chapter will dramatically increase in size! If you know of any service in your area that has been particularly helpful or understanding for your family, please ask them if they would like to be included in future editions.

Playgroups

Service	Contact	Extra information
Mainly Music	www.mainlymusic.org	A playgroup run out of churches that is based on children and carers singing/playing music together and then finding support. Churches around the state run mainly music programs
Playgroup Tasmania	playgrouptas.org.au	Playgroups are hosted around Tasmania where carers and children can socialise and find support
Police Citizens and Youth Club (PCYC) Tasmania	www.pcyt.org.au	PCYCs offer great, affordable, active preschool programs for young children
Clarence Pool Playgroup	6244 2294 hobart.ymca.org.au/pool-locations/clarence-aquatic-centre	A great aquatic playgroup to allow children to play in the water

Play centres, pools and gyms

Service	Contact	Extra information
Kids paradise, Riverside	6327 4538 www.kidsparadise.net.au	Playcentre in Launceston
Launceston Entertainment Complex	6312 5550 www.launcestonentertainment.com.au	Centre full of child-friendly activities including air time, adventure planet, mini golf, trampolining and laser tag
Splash Aquatic Centre	6423 3007 www.splashdevonport.com.au	Aquatic Centre in Devonport
Launceston Leisure and Aquatic Centre	6323 3636 www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Launceston-Leisure-and-Aquatic-Centre	Aquatic Centre in Launceston
Hobart Aquatic Centre	6222 6999 www.hobartcity.com.au/Community/Doone-Kennedy-Hobart-Aquatic-Centre	Offers childcare from 9:00-11:00am weekdays for \$5 per child
YMCA Pools	hobart.ymca.org.au	Statewide pools
YMCA Glenorchy	hobart.ymca.org.au	Offers childcare for \$2 at set times on weekdays
Burnie Aquatic Centre	6430 5733 www.burnie.net/Community/Facilities-and-Recreation/Burnie-Aquatic-Centre	Pool located in Burnie
Ulverstone Learn to Swim Centre	6429 8900 www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au/ulv-learn-to-swim-centre/	Swimming centre in Ulverstone
Kingsborough Sports Centre	6211 8266 kscfitness.com.au/about	Provides free childcare at set times
The HIIT Fix	www.thehiitfix.com.au	Run by mums and has a space for children to play in the studio

Sports

Service	Contact	Extra information
Dance fit Tasmania	www.facebook.com/dancefittasmania/	Dance classes from toddlers through to adults
Tapestry Dance Studio	www.facebook.com/tapestrydancestudio/	Dance studio in Launceston
Palmer's Dance Studio	palmersds.com.au/pds/	Dance studio in Launceston.
Launceston Youth Theatre Ensemble (LYTE)	www.facebook.com/Launceston-Youth-Theatre-Ensemble-327318073976352/	Launceston youth theatre ensemble
Encore Dance Studio	www.encoredance.com.au	Dance studio in Hobart that accommodates for all needs and abilities
Flanagan and Chugg Taekwondo	fctaekwondo.com.au	Statewide taekwondo for children and young people.
Little Athletics Tasmania	taslittleathletics.com.au	Local clubs that provide athletics training and competition for children and young people.

Youth groups

Service	Contact	Extra information
Tailrace Centre	www.tailracecentre.com.au/2016/07/06/youth-group	Friday night Christian youth group in Launceston
Door of Hope Youth Group	www.facebook.com/hope.yth	
Crosseyed Youth Group	www.wellspring.org.au/youth	Friday night Christian youth group in Sandy Bay
PCYC statewide	www.pcyctas.org	Range of active, positive and affordable activities for children, young people and their carers
YMCA stateside	hobart.ymca.org.au	Range of active, positive and affordable activities for children, young people and their carers
Girl Guides Tasmania	www.guidestas.org.au	Clubs and events to inspire girls in Tasmania
Scouts Tasmania	www.tas.scouts.com.au	Statewide clubs for girls and boys to enjoy being outside and supporting one another

Camps

Service	Contact	Extra information
Door of Hope Superhero camps	www.churchesofchrist.org.au/communities/neighbourhood-engagement/careworks-partners/careworks-partners/door-of-hope	Camps for underprivileged/disadvantaged children run by the Churches of Christ
Anglican Camping	anglicantas.org.au/anglican-camping-tasmania	Camps for children run by the Anglican Church over the summer holidays
Scripture Union Camps	sutas.org.au/camps-and-holiday-clubs/	Year-round camps and clubs for children and young people run by the Scripture Union

Music teachers

Service	Contact	Extra information
The Music Tree	0407 344 107 themusictree.com.au	Great music lessons for children in the Launceston area

Tutors

Service	Contact	Extra information
Kip McGrath	www.kipmcgrath.com.au/	Tutors in a range of subjects

Health professionals

Service	Contact	Extra information
Hobart Pathology, Sandy Bay	6223 1955 www.hobartpath.com.au/locations/collection-centres/sandy-bay.aspx	Specialises in collecting blood and urine samples for babies and young children
Launceston Pathology	www.launcestonpath.com.au/	Provides collection services for children
North west Pathology	www.northwestpath.com.au/	Provides collection services for children

Restaurants

Service	Contact	Extra information
The Pantry (Launceston)	6331 6984 charlesstpantry.com.au	Has a separate kids play space
The Cube, Seaport (Launceston)	6331 0333 www.cubecoffee.com.au/seaport	Has a separate kids play space

Hairdressers and beautician services

Service	Contact	Extra information
Salon Red	6231 1757 or 0419 309 699 www.facebook.com/SalonRedHobart/	A hairdresser in Hobart with a child-friendly space so carers can bring their children along when getting their haircut
LivV Hair and Blowdry Bar	0407 293 958 www.livvhair.com	Child-friendly hair salon in Hobart
Just Cuts	Statewide	Provide a tablet for a child to watch a DVD while getting their haircut



Appendices

Appendix 1

Membership Form

Membership Form 2017/18

All membership will expire 30th June each year

Name (1) Mrs. Mr. Ms.	
Address	postcode
Email	
Telephone	Mobile
Name (2) Mrs. Mr. Ms	
Address	postcode
Email	
Telephone	Mobile

Registration forms must be signed by all members

Signature (1)	Date / /	Signature (1)	Date / /
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Please tick appropriate box

- ☐ South - Telephone area code 62
 ☐ North - Telephone area code 63
 ☐ North West - Telephone area code 64
☐ Foster Carer
 ☐ Kinship Carer
 ☐ Associate Member
 ☐ Grandparent caring for grandchildren
☐ Couple \$10.00
 ☐ Single \$5.00

Please make direct debit deposit and name in reference box:
ANZ BSB: 017539 Account No: 440174952

Please post registration form to:
G.P.O. Box 241, Hobart 7001

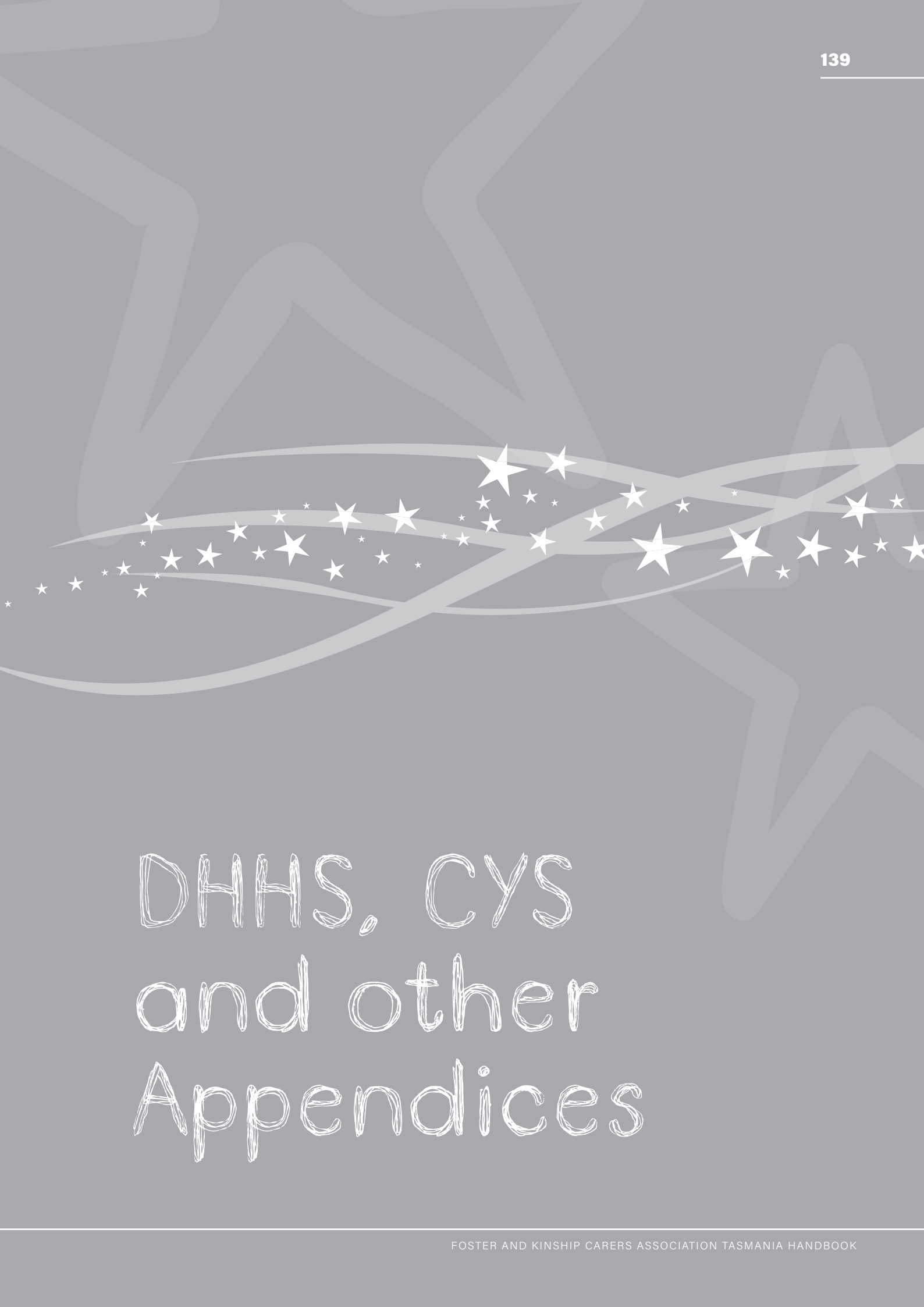
Please tick one box
☐ New Member
☐ Renewing Your Membership

ASSOCIATE ORGANISATIONS

Organisation	
Name of Spokesperson:	Phone:
Address:	
Email:	

Associate members have no entitlement to vote or serve on the committee, however can support and pass on knowledge and skills and work alongside committee members. Membership Fee: \$60.00 Direct Deposit Bank: ANZ BSB: 017539 Account No 440174952 name of organisation in reference box, please post registration form to P.O. Box 241 Hobart 7001.





DHHS, CYS and other Appendices

DHHS, CYs and other Appendices

The following list of appendices are live links on the FKAT website. This means as legislation, policies, guidelines or procedures change, they are automatically updated.

Appendix 2	Case and Care Plans
Appendix 3	Case and Care Planning Flowchart
Appendix 4	Contact visits: Information for families
Appendix 5	Information on Family Group Conferences
Appendix 6	Children and Youth Services Compliments and Complaints
Appendix 7	Signs of Safety Family Meeting Factsheet
Appendix 8	Signs of Safety Family Meeting Pamphlet
Appendix 9	What is abuse? Information sheet for the public.
Appendix 10	Indicators of abuse
Appendix 11	Foster care induction checklist
Appendix 12	Home Safety Checklist
Appendix 13	What if I become a kinship carer?
Appendix 14	What is kinship care
Appendix 15	Smoke alarms
Appendix 16	Bunk bed safety
Appendix 17	Backyard swimming pools
Appendix 18	Mobile phone ownership and use by children and young people in out-of-home-care
Appendix 19	Safe sleeping
Appendix 20	Safe sleeping and SIDS
Appendix 21	Information sharing
Appendix 22	Right of parents with children in care
Appendix 23	National Immunisation Schedule
Appendix 24	Transition to Independent Living Allowance
Appendix 25	Leaving care plan
Appendix 26	Custody and guardianship
Appendix 27	Information on orders for people who come into contact with CSS
Appendix 28	Transfer of guardianship
Appendix 29	Transfer of guardianship for children and young people
Appendix 30	Charter of rights for Tasmanian children and young people in out-of-home-care
Appendix 31	Rights of carers
Appendix 32	Care concerns for carers
Appendix 33	Care concerns for children and young people
Appendix 34	Redesign project fact sheet





