

What you need to know...

About the changes from 1 October 2017



Information to guide conversations with children and young people

A permanency goal for every child or young person

The Permanency Support Program recognises that wherever possible, children do best with their family, or when living with people who can care for them permanently.

- You deserve to have a permanent home where you can feel safe, loved and secure.
- We want to work with you and your family to make sure you have a bright future and certainty about who you live with long term.
- We think setting a goal with you for a permanent home early on in your case plan is the best way to give you the chance to experience a loving home for life.
- We'll aim to have a safe and permanent home for you within two years. Permanency means different things to different people. Some children and young people have told us that permanency means:
 - 'being accepted for who you are and knowing that you're wanted'
 - 'being loved and happy'
 - 'being a part of something'
 - 'siblings staying together'
 - 'one social worker for one period of time'
 - 'staying in one place'
 - 'family and being able to see biological family and have other people in my life who care for me'
 - 'being somewhere safe, secure and reliable for as long as you want to be there'
 - 'real love, not a facade'.



Some background about the Permanency Support Program

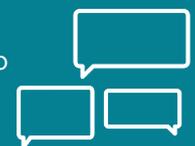
You might have heard about the Permanency Support Program. This is the name for changes the NSW Government is making to how FACS and NGOs work with children, young people, and their families and kin.

We're making changes because, despite our best intentions, we know some children and young people are missing out on the safety, stability and opportunities that come with a loving, permanent home.



Giving you more flexibility and more of a say

- The Permanency Support Program offers flexibility to help you get the right services.
- Your voice is important. You can have a say in decisions about your future.
- You and what you want matter.
- We hear you and we see you.
- We know it can sometimes be confusing and difficult to make big decisions.
- Your FACS or NGO caseworker is here to help and support you so that you don't feel alone.



More support for families

Our first priority is to work with a family to keep a child or young person safely at home.

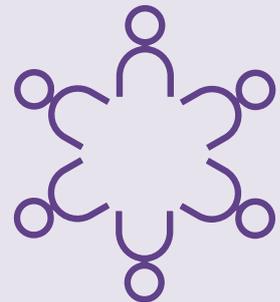
- We want to support families with the services they need to improve their parenting skills, so that you can stay safely at home, or return home after a break.
- We'll also work hard to keep siblings together, and locate extended family, relatives or kin who might help you stay at home safely.
- If this isn't possible, your extended family can still provide you with love and care that helps you feel good about yourself.
- But every family is different and we know some of you might not want to have a relationship with your family. We will always consider your views when making any decision about your future and the people you want in your life.
- Your caseworker will work with you to find out what's best for you.



Information for children and young people in foster, kinship or relative care

If you're currently happy living with a foster, kinship or relative carer, you don't need to worry about anything changing right away.

- Over time, FACS or the NGO that looks after you will see if returning back to your family might be an option (if you want to).
- Your caseworker might even identify another caring family member who would like to be your guardian or adoptive parent.
- If so, your foster family might still be part of your life, if you want them to be.
- If it's not safe for you to live with your parents we're making it easier for your carers to become your guardians or adoptive parents.
- You don't need to feel worried. Our aim is to find the right home to give you more stability in life, not less.
- You'll always have a say in where you live and who lives there with you.



More information

Talk to your FACS or NGO caseworker for more information about how the changes might affect you. They can answer any questions you're unsure about.

