

Permanency Support Program

Service Provider OOHC 'Other Placement Type' Terminology



The following placement types may only be used in emergency or temporary situations where a preferred foster or relative/kin care, residential care, Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) or Interim Care Model (ICM) placement is not yet available.

Emergency authorisation of staff or contractors to provide short-term care

In an emergency, an agency may authorise a staff member or a contractor to provide care to a child under clause 31B of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012. Regardless of the type of accommodation, arrangements where care and supervision for children and young people is provided by staff authorised under clause 31B are considered to be ACAs and must be notified to DCJ and the OCG.

	Service Provider Alternative Care Arrangements	Service Provider Individual Placement Arrangement
Definition	<p>The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and the Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG) consider an ACA as an emergency and temporary arrangement for a child in, or entering, statutory or supported out-of-home care (OOHC) after every effort has been made to place them with an accredited OOHC provider and are either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cared for in a hotel, motel or other temporary accommodation that can be terminated at short notice and/or • directly cared for and supervised solely by sub-contracted staff from an ACA service provider who are authorised under clause 31B of the Care Regulation. 	<p>An emergency and temporary arrangement for a child in, or entering, statutory or supported out-of-home care (OOHC) after every effort has been made to place them in a contracted OOHC placement (e.g. accredited PSP provider) where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • direct care is predominately provided by internal staff of an agency accredited by the OCG to provide residential care which can include staff from the agency with case management or staff sub-contracted from a residential care accredited agency (consultation must be undertaken with DCJ if some sub-contracted staff from a non-accredited ACA service provider are engaged) and • the accommodation is stable and 'home-like' – such as a long-term serviced apartment or rental property.
Accommodation	<p>Hotel/motel, serviced apartment (short term), caravan or holiday park.</p> <p>These arrangements can be terminated at short notice.</p>	<p>Home-like environments, such as long term serviced apartments, rental properties or properties owned by the service provider.</p>
Agency accreditation and authorisation of Staff	<p>Placements in a Hotel/motel, caravan or holiday park are considered to be ACAs regardless of whether the direct care is provided by employees of a residential care accredited agency or by staff contracted from non-accredited ACA service providers.</p> <p>Staff or contractors must be authorised in accordance with the OCG Guidelines for the emergency authorisation of staff or contractors from external agencies as per clause 31B of the Regulations¹. The requirement for authorisation applies to all staff, whether they are direct employees of the accredited agency or not.</p>	<p>Accredited agency with case management responsibility uses internal staff or sub-contracts to a designated external agency. These staff do not require authorisation under clause 31B of the Regulations.</p> <p>Consultation must be undertaken with the Placements Management team if some sub-contracted staff from a non-accredited ACA service provider are engaged.</p>
Level of Approval Required	Deputy Secretary, Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services	Deputy Secretary, Child Protection and Permanency, District and Youth Justice Services
Office of the Children's Guardian notification requirements	<p>Notification Requires OCG notification within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hrs of placement • 7 days of entry to an ACA • 7 days of ACA ending 	<p>Notification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification is required if a child under 12 years of age is placed in a residential placement.
Case responsibility	Service Provider	Service Provider
Payment Arrangements	ACA costs incurred over and above the PSP package payment (less the foster care allowance day rate) are paid to the case managing agency via the 'Alternative Care Arrangement –NGO' contingency.	<p>Service Provider IPA costs incurred over and above the PSP package payment (less the foster care allowance day rate).</p> <p>Invoices to be paid against 'Individual Placement Arrangement – NGO' contingency in ChildStory.</p>

Note: Guidance for DCJ practitioners can be found on Casework Practice

¹ Clause 31B of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012 allows for a designated agency to authorise an employee of the designated agency or a contractor from an external agency to provide emergency care to children and young people in statutory out of home care. This includes staff or contractors employed by external agencies such as non-designated agencies, agencies providing non-placement support services or casual staff employed by staffing agencies.