

## **Checklist: Assessment - OOHC respite carer**

***For a child in out of home care (OOHC), potential respite carers are assessed considering these factors:***

- in the case of relative/kin respite carers, the history and nature of their relationship with the child, and their attitude towards the child's parents and other family/kin
- the carers' wishes and expectations about the type of child to be placed with them
- the respite carer's understanding of the purpose and duration of respite
- the capacity of the respite carer to be a repeated carer over time
- the ages and number of other children living in the respite carer's home
- in the case of intensive therapeutic care (ITC), an understanding of the values and program orientation being offered, the skill level of care staff and the ages and profiles of the other children in the home.

***Also consider:***

- No more than six children are placed with an authorised carer (at any one time), including the carer's own children, noting:
  - children in OOHC often have complex needs due to their exposure to trauma and
  - the physical, psychological, emotional (nurturing) resources of carers are finite.FACS may approve an exemption to secure an otherwise appropriate placement for a larger sibling group of three or more children, provided:
  - the carer's capacity to adequately care for all children has been assessed
  - the carer is authorised to care for the number of children
  - the home meets the basic housing and privacy needs of all children and
  - a plan has been developed how the carer is going to be supported by the authorising service provider.

***For Aboriginal children and families:***

- Respite is provided by Aboriginal relatives/kin or Aboriginal person or an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO).
- Where respite is not available from these sources, non Aboriginal respite carers receive cultural awareness training and support, prior to placement.

***For children & families with a cultural & linguistically diverse (CALD) background:***

- Children and families from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds are matched with respite carers of the same background.
- When this is not possible, respite carers receive cultural awareness training and support, prior to placement.
- Consider how respite with a CALD-matched carer can enhance a child's cultural connection and identity (where possible).

***For children with a disability:***

- Consider the supports accessible from National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), to enable carers sustain their caring role, including additional respite.
- Further information is obtained from the [NDIS website](#).

***For siblings:***

- Consider how respite could provide an opportunity for sibling contact times (between siblings living in separate placements).