

## Transition of Children and Young People to ITC Significant Disability Placements

FACS is committed to ensuring a safe and well-planned transition of children and young people from existing placements into ITC Significant Disability placements over a 12 to 24 month period in line with the best interest of individual children and young people.

The transition of eligible children and young people to new ITC Significant Disability placements includes transition from any provider who is not a preferred respondent in this tender. This includes eligible children currently placed with:

- Mainstream ITC providers;
- Residential Care providers;
- Special Care placements; and
- Alternative Care Arrangements

Across NSW, there are around 80 children and young people currently identified as eligible for ITC Significant Disability including:

- Around 35 that are currently placed with preferred respondents;
- Around 25 that will transition from other placements during the transition period;
- Around 20 that are likely to either remain in current placements which are not with preferred respondents or have other identified pathways such as foster care.

The transition of individual children and young people to ITC Significant Disability will be smaller in number than for mainstream ITC, though the needs of children in ITC Significant Disability are more complex.

Both preferred and unsuccessful respondents will need to work closely with FACS and its advisors to participate in a safe and well-planned transition that achieves the best outcomes for children and young people with significant disabilities.

To guide the transition, the following principles and likely priorities for this period have been developed.

### Overarching Transition Principles

- Transition placements and grouping recommendations are made to ensure minimal impact to the lives of children and young people, and maximise achievement of their longer-term outcomes.
- Ideally a child or young person will not move more than once due to the transition, and only to a location which is most appropriate to supporting their care.
- Establishment of new ITC Significant Disability Homes will be agreed to with the provider within an agreed notification period, once grouping and transition recommendations have been considered.
- The transition of individual children and young people should maximise opportunities for permanency placements and/or access to mainstream supports and services.

- The transition should build capacity in the Permanency Support Program to facilitate stable placements with accredited and contracted service providers.

## Priorities for the Transition Period

The following transition priorities have been developed in line with meeting the key objectives of ITC Significant Disability.

In particular, stability of placement is an important outcome for eligible children and young people in ITC Significant Disability.

In many cases, the supports these children and young people receive will continue into adulthood and require adult disability services, including adult disability accommodation.

<b>Scenario for eligible child or young person</b>	<b>Likely level of priority for transition</b>
Currently in an Alternative Care Arrangement	Highest Priority
Currently in a long-term special care placement	Very High Priority
Child or young person under 17 and currently with a provider that is not delivering ITC SD	High Priority
Young person over 17 and is currently with a provider that is not delivering ITC SD	Likely to remain in their existing placement, unless it is in the best interest of the young person. For example, a transition could include where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The young person is part of a transitioning household</li> <li>- The current provider is unable to retain the placement.</li> </ul>
Child or young person currently with a provider who will be delivering ITC SD in the same location	Does not transition unless it is in the best interest of the child or young person

There is a transition team in Child and Family which will work closely with the CAU to lead on advising on the transition of eligible children and young people. Please contact [FACSITCTransition@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:FACSITCTransition@facs.nsw.gov.au).

## Unsuccessful Respondents to the ITC Significant Disability Tender

FACS recognises that transition to the full ITC Significant Disability services will take time and unsuccessful respondents have responsibilities to the children and young people in their care, their staff and leasing arrangements on residential homes. FACS will work with unsuccessful respondents to gradually reduce placements over the next 12 to 24 months in line with the principles and priorities outlined in this document.

FACS expects all providers will work in collaboratively with FACS and its advisors throughout

the transition period to achieve the best possible transition outcomes for all children and young people.

The ITC Significant Disability tender introduced the Independent Support Needs Assessment (ISNA) concept. As the ISNA is trailed and implemented, it will also be a key advisor to FACS during the transition period.

A separate factsheet on the ISNA concept is available.

## More information

For more information, contact the FACS OOHC Recontracting team at [OOHCRecontracting@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:OOHCRecontracting@facs.nsw.gov.au).