

Memorandum of understanding between Family and Community Services and Juvenile Justice about children and young people who are shared clients

An overview for non-government organisations

The memorandum of understanding (MOU), effective from August 2014, between the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) and the Department of Justice (Juvenile Justice) outlines the joint services provided for the needs of children and/or young people who are shared clients.

The MOU commits both departments to **work together to provide a seamless service to clients** and to work collaboratively to meet their complex needs.

Who is considered a shared client?

A shared client is any child or young person aged between 10 and 17 years who is:

- a subject in a current risk of significant harm (ROSH) report
- under the parental responsibility of (or the shared parental responsibility with residency to) the Minister or the Secretary for Family and Community Services
- eligible for any Juvenile Justice service.

Key principles of the MOU

The MOU:

- recognises that in addition to FACS, many non government out-of-home care (OOHC) designated agencies are funded to provide case management for children and young people who are under the parental responsibility of the Minister for Family and Community Services and that the MOU extends to these agencies
- establishes agreed processes ensuring the lawful exchange of information where relevant. This includes the need to urgently provide information which may be required to ensure the court is fully informed when making determinations
- recognises that children and young people who are leaving statutory care, released from custody or seeking bail in order to avoid a period on remand, need a co-ordinated multi-agency response to plan and manage the transition from care or custody to prevent homelessness
- sets out that where case management of a shared client rests with a non-government OOHC designated agency, Juvenile Justice will negotiate with that agency to secure services required to meet the needs of the child or young person



- dictates that any disputes about procedures or actions should be resolved between parties as soon as possible but may be escalated when required, ensuring that the dispute is resolved within five working days.

Read the full MOU at www.community.nsw.gov.au → parents, carers & families → out-of-home care transition → non-government agencies → interagency MOUs