

# Checklist: Permanency Case Planning

## ***Information informed and evidence based***

Permanency case planning has a strong focus on gathering and sharing **relevant information**.

Check that your case planning includes:

- conversations with a child, their parents, family/kin and carers, and other people significant to them
- the history of reports made and all types of assessments conducted by FACS, funded service providers and external practitioners including safety, risk and risk re-assessments and parenting capacity assessments
- health, education, disability (National Disability Insurance Scheme) and other records about a child's development
- discussion between casework and other practitioners and
- consultation with legal officers, casework specialists, psychologists and any other relevant specialist.

Permanency case planning relies on casework practitioners to use professional judgement and make decisions supported by **evidence-based service models**.

Check that your case planning includes:

- Family Group Conferencing with a child (where age and developmentally appropriate), their parents, family/kin, carers and funded service providers
- Family Finding to explore and build a child's lifelong support network
- Purposeful supervision between leaders, supervisors and casework practitioners including group supervision that supports child-centred decision making.

## ***Task centred***

Casework practitioners ensure the case plan includes objectives and tasks using the [SMART framework](#).

Check that your objectives and tasks are:

- Specific** – we identify objectives and tasks most likely to provide a child with a permanent home
- Measurable and motivational** – we review objectives and tasks to make sure we are making progress in achieving the case plan goal and acknowledging the parents and family/kin successes
- Achievable** – we ensure the objectives or tasks are achievable for the child, their parents, family/kin and carers
- Resourced and relevant** – we know objectives or tasks are easier to achieve if they are seen as relevant and important and resources are made available to help them

- Time bound** – we make sure objectives and tasks are achieved within a set period of time, to allow a child to focus on the developmental, educational and social challenges of growing up.

### ***Provides safety***

Permanency case planning has a strong focus on helping parents, family/kin and carers make meaningful change to meet a child's **safety needs**.

Check that your case planning includes objectives and tasks that identify:

- how parental behaviour impacts on the child (worries, concerns and risks) and the willingness and capacity of parents to make and sustain meaningful change
- what actions need to occur for the child to be and feel safe and who in a child's support network can be involved in keeping the child safe
- who will take the actions and by when,
- the expectations of parents, family/kin and the role of carers
- the skills parents, family/kin and carers need to help them to safely care for their child and
- what professional support and practical assistance is to be provided.

### ***Meets permanency needs***

Permanency case planning has a strong focus on helping parents and family/kin meet their child's **permanency needs**.

Check that your case planning:

- is in line with **permanent placement principles** noting 'the best interests' of a child (section [10A](#) of the Care Act) may mean you consider permanency options such as guardianship and adoption at the same time to determine which is best suited to the child and
- identifies a **case plan goal** along the care continuum, that will provide permanent care arrangements for the child while growing up:
  - for most children (over time), this will be family preservation, restoration, guardianship or open adoption and
  - for a small number of children (over time), this will be foster or intensive therapeutic care (in the parental responsibility of the Minister) when preservation, restoration, guardianship or adoption are not possible.

### ***Responds to the impact of trauma***

Permanency case planning has a strong focus on recovering from **the impact of trauma**. In developing the case plan, casework practitioners have conversations with the child, their parents, family/kin and carers about the impact of trauma.

Check that the case plan includes objectives and tasks that will:

- help the child to recover from physical, psychological or emotional harm caused by the trauma they have experienced
- help parents and family/kin identify what they can do to recover from the impact of trauma they have experienced and
- supports parents, family/kin and carers to develop skills, access services and build a support network to help their child recover from trauma.

### ***Builds family strengths and resilience***

Permanency case planning has a strong focus on ***family strengths and resilience***.

In developing the case plan, casework practitioners partner with the child, their parents, family/kin and carers.

Check that the case planning *process*:

- acknowledges things that worry the child, parents or family/kin about partnering with FACS, or the funded service provider, such as experiences they may have had with services in the past
- explores the parents and family's needs and goals for family relationships, physical and psychological health, community support and connections with community
- recognises and builds on the strengths of the child, their parents and family, including:
  - things they have done in the past that have helped improve their safety
  - things they can do now to identify, manage and reduce factors that cause vulnerability
- considers what FACS or funded service providers can do to help the parents and family/kin overcome other barriers that cause vulnerability such as having enough income, having adequate housing, being able to access treatment services
- strengthens the parents' readiness to make and sustain the changes needed to safely parent their child; to seek help, to build their self esteem and improve communication skills.