



Transfer and Placement of Aboriginal Children and Young People

The purpose of this paper is to give clear direction on the transfer and placement of Aboriginal children.

Statement agreed by MAG

All new entries and transfers of Aboriginal children must be placed with an Aboriginal agency or an agency that is currently in partnership with an Aboriginal agency.

There are limited situations where exceptions may be considered:

- Where an intensive foster care or residential placement is required and there is no capacity in an appropriate Aboriginal agency or partnership. Placement may be made in a non-Aboriginal agency that has cultural care processes developed in conjunction with AbSec or a local OOHCA Aboriginal agency.
- Where a carer already has both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in their care and it is in the best interest of the family to be transferred to a non-Aboriginal agency.
- Where a sibling is already placed with a non-Aboriginal agency. In such cases the carer would be encouraged to move to an Aboriginal agency.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of each Regional Implementation Group and the Community Services Regional Directors in each area to develop a plan on how they will act within this statement and request any support to do so.

Definitions (for the purpose of this policy)

Aboriginal agency: An Aboriginal agency is an independent organisation that is controlled by, operated by and provides services and programs to and for Aboriginal people and whose vision and aims are based on improving the lives of Aboriginal children, people, families and/or communities.

Aboriginal children: A child or young person who is identified as Aboriginal on the KIDS database. Clarification about the process for kin tracing, identifying a child as Aboriginal and how to deal with any disputes will be drafted shortly.

Partnership: A partnership between an Aboriginal agency that plans to provide OOHCA placement services and an agency that is already accredited to do so. Each partnership must have the aim of developing the capacity of the Aboriginal agency to become independent and accredited.