

POLICY STATEMENT

Title: Foster care training
Policy No: CPD383-4

Policy Statement:

The Department of Communities (Child Safety Services) will provide foster carers with appropriate levels of training to ensure that out-of-home care provided to children and young people subject to statutory intervention under the *Child Protection Act 1999* (the Act) meets the standards of care set out in the Statement of Standards in Chapter 4 of this Act.

It is a legislative requirement that the department must only grant approval or renewal of approval as a foster carer to an applicant who is a "suitable person" as defined by Schedule 3 of the Act and Part 4 of the *Child Protection Regulation 2000*. Completion of training required by the department is one aspect of assessment of suitability for foster carers.

Kinship carers will be encouraged to participate in training where appropriate however the completion of training is not a requirement for approval as a kinship carer.

Long-term guardians who continue to hold a certificate of approval as an approved foster carer will be subject to ongoing requirements regarding the completion of training.

Any long-term guardian may choose to participate in training as a support to the care arrangement but it is not a requirement.

Principles:

Principles underpinning the implementation of this policy include:

- The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount.
- By providing foster carers with an appropriate level of support and training, there is an increased likelihood of providing out-of-home care consistent with the principles of the Act, and ensuring quality care and positive outcomes for children and young people.
- The department has a responsibility to provide, or ensure the provision of, training and support to enable foster carers to develop the knowledge and skills required to fulfil their legislative responsibilities under the Act.
- All carers have the right to access quality training that is provided in a timely, consistent way and that is responsive to different adult learning styles.
- Foster and kinship carers granted the long-term guardianship of a child under the Act will be supported to the extent appropriate in the circumstance, in accordance with departmental policy and procedures, with a view to promoting the ongoing stability of the long-term guardianship care arrangement for the child.

Objectives:

This policy aims to ensure that approved foster carers participate in appropriate training, with a view to meeting the legislative requirements associated with their approval under the Act, and where requested, kinship carers and long-term guardians have their training needs responded to in relation to the child in their care.

Scope:

This policy relates to approved foster carers under the Act, including foster carers who have provisional approval.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Direct support to approved carers is provided by Child Safety Services staff, and where applicable, the staff of foster and kinship care services.

The Child Safety Officer for a child is responsible for responding to requests for support by a long-term guardian.

Authority:

Child Protection Act 1999, Section 133

Child Protection Regulation 2000, Section 9 (1 & 2)

Delegations:

Regional Director, Child Safety, Youth and Families
Manager, Child Safety Service Centre

Records File No.: CHS/01171
Date of approval: September 2011
Date of operation: 12 October 2011
Date to be reviewed: 12 October 2014

Office: Communities, Child Safety, Youth and Families
Help Contact: Child Protection Development – 3235 9411

Links:

Procedure

Procedure details to give effect to this policy are set out in 'Procedures and Guidelines for *Quality Care: Foster Care Training*' and the Child Safety Practice Manual, chapter 8.

Related Legislation or Standards

Statement of Commitment between the Department of Child Safety, foster care services and the carers of Queensland

Rescinded Policy

383-3 Foster Care Training

28-1 Conducting 'Sharing the Care: Pre-Service Foster Carer Training'

Linda A Apelt
Director-General