

Attachment 19

- c. **What does your agency do to support children who have been sexually abused in out-of-home care including providing counseling, support services, specialist services, financial assistance or recompense while in care and after exiting care?**

Youth Care Policies & Procedures Manual Section 6.2: Page 443-445 [Attachment 19]

6.2 AFTER CARE SUPPORT

Youth Care UPA Policy No: 6.2

Regulations:

- *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 No 157, s.140, s.161, s.165, s.167, s.168, s.169, s.170*
- NSW Out-of-Home Care Standards, Standard No: 6.2

Policy

Youth Care UPA provides tangible support as identified by the young person after they have formally left Youth Care UPA out-of-home care program and are learning to live independently and take control of their life.

Objective

Is for young persons to have control of their lives and use their acquired knowledge to maintain a positive and enjoyable lifestyle including education & training, employment and leisure activities.

Principles of Youth Care UPA Policy No: 6.2

It is acknowledged, that there will most likely be gaps in a young person's ability to live independently. The young person will be informed that Youth Care UPA will continue to support them to bridge these gaps. The young person will also be provided with details of who to contact and contact telephone numbers.

There is, in fact, provision in the legislation, for the Minister to provide assistance for young persons of 15 years or older who leave care, to be assisted until they attain the age of 25 years in recognition that a young person who have been in out-of-home-care is highly likely to carry the legacy of his or her past.

Tangible supports are provided to enable young persons to live independently with adequate resources directed towards the provision of After Care Support services. The transition to independence will be well balanced; assessment processes will determine skill and confidence levels.

Links with all relevant organisations will be established and young persons will be informed of Youth Care UPA responsibility to provide ongoing services/supports for the following six (6) months.

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Youth Care UPA is committed to all young persons who have been in their out-of-home care program and will provide ongoing support for six (6) months which includes:

- A Case Worker meets with the young person on a weekly basis initially, or as identified in the young person's After Care Plan.
- The young person is provided with the name of the Case Worker and also emergency contact details

The types of support that Youth Care UPA will provide during the aftercare period may relate to any of the living skills in the above list or social, medical or emotional crises, or issues they may have with their biological family.

The support Youth Care UPA may provide includes but is not limited to the following:

- Casework
- Advocacy
- Counselling
- Financial assistance
- Provide names of organisations which provide accommodation for children and young persons
- Provide names of organisations which provide emergency/crisis accommodation for young persons; &
- Organising referrals as identified in the young person's After Care Plan.

If a longer follow-up period is identified, the time required will be negotiated with Community Services and identified in the young person's After Care Plan

Young persons who have transitioned to independence are provided with information in regards to accessing personal information kept on records, which relate directly to them. Young persons are informed by letter to contact the Program Manager of Youth Care UPA with their request to access personal information relating to them.

Youth Care UPA will comply with the request as soon as practicable and will provide support to the young person when they access their information or if the young person wishes, he or she may nominate a support person of their choice.

Young persons are informed verbally and by letter of the support Youth Care UPA will provide after the young person leave the out-of-home programme.

The support includes but is not limited to:

- advocacy,
- casework
- Supporting the young person to attend counselling which will be provided, preferably by a professional the young person has built a rapport with, to enable them to address any unresolved issues in relation to having been placed in out-of-home care or other issues.

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Pregnancy Support

If a young woman becomes pregnant after she has left Youth Care UPA out-of-home care program she will be offered support and referred to specific agencies, which provide information on pregnancy and parenting. Young women will also be provided with the names and contact details of relevant health and community organisations within her local community.

Responsibility

- Program Manager/Team Leader
- Case Workers
- Young person
- Young Person's family
- Carer/s
- Community Services
- Other relevant professionals

Documents Relating To Policy No: 6.2

- Leaving Care Plan
- Youth Care UPA, Leaving Care Planner
- Review of Arrangements
- EIR
- Consultation Papers
- After Care Plan
- Young person's original birth certificate
- Medical records
- School reports
- Photographs or any other relevant documentation requested by the young person.
- After Care Plan
- Letter to the Young Person: View Personal File
- Letter to the Young Person: After-Care Support
- Policy 6.1 Planning for Leaving Care to Live Independently