



Office of the
Children's Guardian

NSW AbSec Conference 2019

OCG WWCC and Carers Register Compliance Projects

19-21 November 2019

Acknowledgment of Country

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we meet on today.

I would also like to pay my respects to all Elders past and present, and to the children of today who are the Elders of the future.



OCG's Indigenous Cadetship Program

Provides an opportunity to Indigenous university students to work in government and improve the participation of Indigenous people in government decision-making.

Aboriginal Cadet acknowledgment

Nakita and Natasha supported the development of this workshop

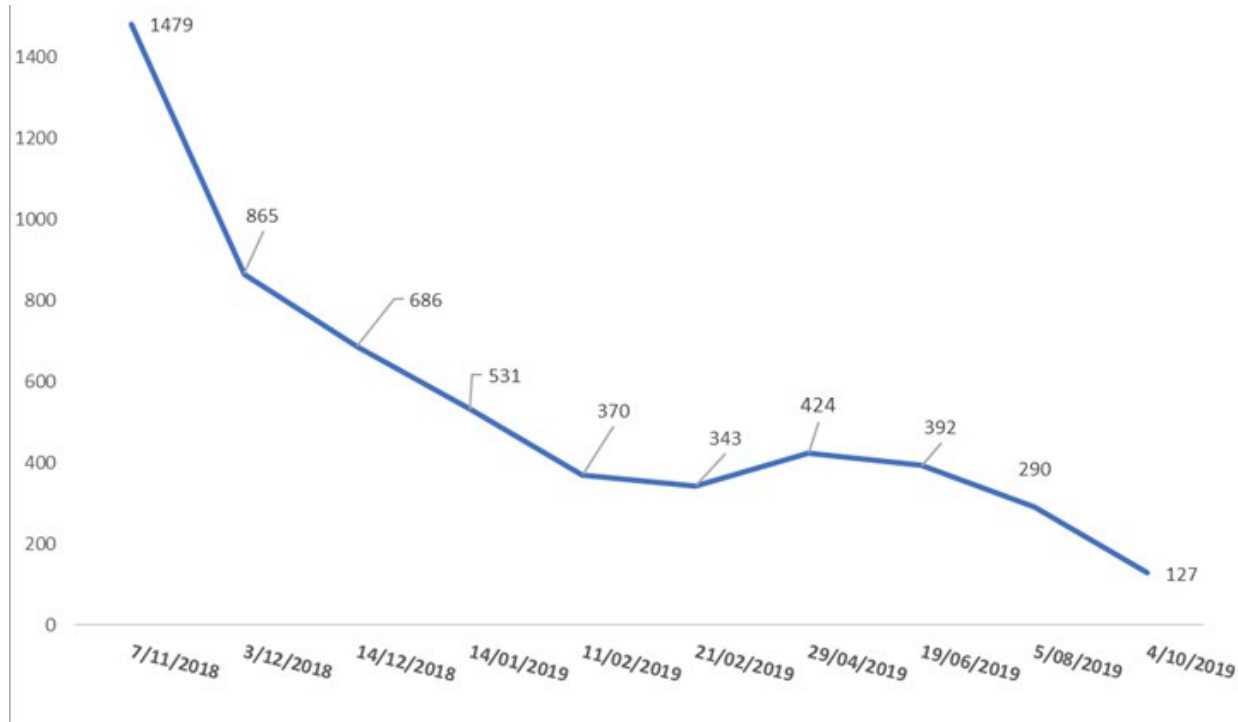
- **Nikita Kearney** from Darwin, Nakita is a proud Gurindji and Wiradjuri woman. Currently studying a double degree of B/Social Work (honours) and B/Criminology and Criminal Justice.
- **Natasha Janif** from Sydney, a proud Kamilaroi and Yuin woman. Currently studying a Bachelor in Community Welfare.

Workshop Objectives

1. WWCC compliance
 - What the compliance statistics tell us
 - Steps to maintain compliance

2. Carers Register compliance
 - Self-assessment tool – coming soon
 - Provisional authorisation

WWCC Non-compliance statistics



What the statistics tells us

- **EXPIRED WWCC** –no application for a WWCC renewal
- **NO WWCC** – household member turned 18 years
- **RENEWED WWCC** –but not entered onto the Carers Register

NON-COMPLIANCE RISK

Agencies must have robust processes in place to ensure:

- WWCC's are renewed before the expiry date
- household members turning 18 years - WWCC before their birthday
- Updated information is recorded on the Carers Register

Maintaining WWCC compliance

Existing WWCC tools and templates published on OCG website:

- Employer Guide
- WWCC checklist
- WWCC record keeping template
- Fact sheets

Maintaining WWCC compliance *cont.*

Existing tools, flags and reports

- NSW Standards for permanent care (the Standards)
- Carers Register WWCC expiry flags (*6 weeks prior to expiry*)
- Carers Register WWCC Compliance Report
- WWCC Compliance Self-Assessment tool (all accredited agencies) -



Maintaining WWCC compliance *cont.*

WWCC Compliance Self-Assessment tool (all accredited agencies)

6 Compliance Areas

Area 1. WWCC registration and administration

Area 2. Determining child related roles and exemptions

Area 3. WWCC verification

Area 4. Managing WWCC bars and interim bars

Area 5. Carers Register requirements

Area 6. Agency self-monitoring

Due date to submit to OCG 14 November – 19 agencies pending as of Friday 15 Nov

Workshop – 10 minutes

Sector practice

- Internal audits
- Carers Register flags go to the appropriate person for action
- XXX
- XXX
- XXX
- XXX

Workshop

Sector practice

- XXX
- XXX
- XXX
- XXX
- XXX

Carers Register Compliance Program

The Carers Register Self-Assessment tool will be similar to the WWCC self-assessment tool, and will:

1. provide a concise snapshot of the Carers Register requirements
2. guide agency policy assessment and review
3. detail outcomes of OCG Carers Register monitoring (desktop / onsite)
4. identify gaps in agency practice

Carers Register Self – Assessment Tool

Self – Assessment Tool overview

- Options to complete may include:
 - Support policy & procedure development
 - Support internal audit processes
 - As directed by the OCG



Maintaining Carers Register compliance

CR Compliance Self-Assessment tool (all accredited agencies)

7 Compliance Areas

- Area 1:** Carers Register Administration
- Area 2:** Record an OOHC Application
- Area 3:** Probity and Suitability Checks
- Area 4:** Decision Making (application/Authorisation)
- Area 5:** Provisional Authorisations
- Area 6:** Managing individuals, authorisations and households
- Area 7:** Agency Self Monitoring

Due date - TBD

Provisional authorisation compliance

To date:

- 25 of 48 agencies have received a Carers Register review
- 500 provisional authorisations have been reviewed
- 25% have been assessed as compliant

Provisional authorisation

48 agency accredited to provide foster care

5101 Provisional Authorisation commenced

3451 Provisional Authorisation progressed through to full authorisation

- DCJ 2614
- NGOs 837

178 Provisional authorised households - by an Aboriginal agency

1341 Provisional authorised households where at least 1 carer identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Provisional authorisation compliance

25% of 500 reviewed provisional authorisation assessed as compliant

Non-compliance possibilities:

- Is an emergency and rel/kin known to C/YP - but details not documented
- Not an emergency and rel/kin known to C/YP – NOT PROVISIONAL

What the legislation says

A designated agency may provisionally authorise an individual:

- in an **emergency**, *and*
- if the individual is a **relative, kin or person known to the child or young person**, *and*
- the individual has the intent to apply for full carer authorisation

Children and Young Person (Care and Protection) Regulation clauses 31 and 86F; and
section 6 of the Carers Register Guidance Notes

The legislation and practice

Provisional authorisation commencement date

- Is the date the child is placed
- At the time the child is placed, the agency must:
 - assess the placement suitability/risk (*provisional basis*)
 - complete a home inspection, with satisfactory outcome (*provisional basis*)

The legislation and practice

As soon as practicable (*after the provisional authorisation start date*):

- Complete a provisional authorisation assessment detailing:
 - the emergency situation
 - the relative, kinship or person known to the C/YP relationship
 - detail the outcome of a home inspection

The legislation and practice

WWCC Requirements

- Provisionally authorised carers (and their adult household members) must apply for WWCC within 5 working days from the provisional authorisation start date (the child was placed); the agency is required to verify the WWCC as soon as practicable.

The legislation and practice

Carers Register

- The application/provisional authorisation must be recorded on to the Carers Register within 14 days of the provisional authorisation start date

The legislation and practice

Provisional Authorisation letter

- Provisional Authorisation letter is sent to Carer applicant signed by Principal Officer, detailing the terms of Provisional Authorisation

The legislation and practice

Full authorisation

- The full authorisation must be completed within 3 months of the provisional authorisation start date
- A full authorisation letter is sent to Carer signed by Principal Officer



Workshop – 10 minutes

Template checklist and report

Where to from here

- Publish the workshop outcomes on the OCG website for the use of all designated agencies
- Any other suggestions



Office of the Children's Guardian

CONTACT

(02) 8219 3600

Email: kids@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au



@nswkidsguardian



NSWkidsguardian