



NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care

Transition arrangements

About the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG)

The OCG is an independent, statutory authority committed to delivering better outcomes for children and young people living in statutory out-of-home care (SOOHC). The OCG is a regulator – not a provider of care services.

We accredit and monitor the performance of agencies that arrange statutory and supported OOHC and adoption services. The OCG also administers the Carer's Register for the purpose of authorising individuals to provide statutory and supported OOHC. We also register and monitor agencies that provide, arrange, or supervise voluntary OOHC.

The NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care 2015 replace the Statutory Out-of-Home Care Standards and the Adoption Standards and are effective from 1 December 2015

Agencies accredited to provide statutory out-of-home care or adoption, or applying for accreditation to provide statutory out-of-home care or adoption, are required to comply with the *NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care 2015* (2015 Standards) as follows:

1. **Currently accredited agencies** (as at 1 December 2015), must comply with the 2015 Standards by **1 December 2016**.

2. **Accredited agencies due for accreditation renewal**, the following applies:

(a) If the accreditation expiry date is prior to 1 December 2016, the agency will be assessed against the *Adoption Standards* or the *Statutory-Out-of-Home Care Standards 2010* (2010 Standards), and the agency must then comply with the 2015 Standards by 1 December 2016. An agency in this category may also choose to be assessed for accreditation against the 2015 Standards instead of the 2010 Standards by arrangement with the OCG.

(b) If the accreditation expiry date is 1 December 2016 or after, the agency will be assessed against the 2015 Standards.

3. **Agencies accredited after 1 December 2015**: Must comply with the 2015 Standards when the agency receives the first placement of a child or young person in statutory out-of-home care.

4. Applicants applying for accreditation:

(a) Applicants who have applied for accreditation prior to 1 December 2015 and have provided at least one submission of evidence for assessment in the 6 months prior to 1 December 2015, assessments will continue against the 2010 Standards, until 1 December 2016 when the 2015 Standards will apply.

(b) Applicants who have applied for accreditation prior to 1 December 2015 and have not provided any submissions of evidence for assessment, or not provided any submissions of evidence for assessment in the 6 months prior to 1 December 2015; any assessments from 1 December 2015 will be against the 2015 Standards.

(c) Applicants applying for accreditation on or after 1 December 2015, the 2015 standards will apply and all assessments will be conducted against the 2015 Standards.

5. Currently accredited agencies applying to add adoption or another service type to the existing accreditation after 1 December 2015.

The 2015 Standards apply for all assessments for the added service type from 1 December 2015.

Agencies with circumstances not described above should contact the Accreditation Team at the OCG for further clarification. Contact details below.

Where to get the 2010 and 2015 Standards

Copies of the *NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care 2015* are available on the Office of the Children's Guardian's website www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

Copies of the previous standards, the *Statutory Out-of-Home Care Standards 2010* and the *Adoption Standards* are available by emailing the Accreditation Team on accreditation@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

More information

If you have a question, please call the OCG's Accreditation team on (02) 8219 3600 or email accreditation@kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au.

Disclaimer: The material provided in this fact sheet is for guidance only. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate, current and not misleading. However, this cannot always be guaranteed and no warranty is given that the information is free from error or omission. Users should exercise their own skill and care with respect to the use of the material. The information is also not a substitute for independent legal or other professional advice and users should obtain appropriate professional advice relevant to their particular circumstances.

The Office of the Children's Guardian does not guarantee, and accepts no legal liability whatsoever for any act done, omission made, loss, damage, cost or inconvenience arising from, connected to, or as a consequence of, using or relying on the material contained in this fact sheet.