

Interim Service Solutions Sub-Group – Contract variations for Existing OOHC Service Providers

The table below details the six proposed changes and is the outcome of the collaborative effort of the Interim Service Solution Sub-group.

Contract area	Contract wording
<p>Healing and cultural support offered to all children, particularly those who are placed with carers who are not from their culture.</p>	<p>The Service Provider will work with and support the child or young person to offer cultural healing and support, particularly for those who are placed with carers who are not from their culture or on country. This will occur within 7 days of the commencement of the care arrangement.</p> <p>Through the provision of an appropriate therapeutic environment and accessing additional support services. The scope of these services provided may vary from time to time depending on the complexity of the needs of the child or young person living in the care arrangement.</p> <p>The service must inform the Department of Communities case worker in writing what activities are being offered to the child through the service.</p>
<p>Cultural mentoring for all carers including ways of speaking, child rearing, working with family.</p>	<p>Staff and carers engage in opportunities for cultural support and mentoring such as Aboriginal playgroups, Aboriginal health centres, participation in yarning circles. Where Aboriginal children are placed with non-Aboriginal Carers, within (6) months carers are to participate in cultural awareness training. During the annual review process, carers are required to demonstrate evidence of attendance at cultural awareness training or availing themselves to engage in cultural awareness learning activities.</p> <p>The Department of Communities and CSOs are to prioritise child rearing practices in the context of cultural appropriateness, carers capacity and carers competency in line with the best interests of the child understanding the importance of identity and family history especially when leaving care.</p> <p>All care decisions need to be linked to family and individual cultural plans.</p>
<p>CSO commitment to reconciliation including Aboriginal workforce development and normalising Aboriginal culture.</p>	<p>Demonstrate cultural consultation with Elders or an Aboriginal community reference group to embed culturally appropriate practices and provide a level of cultural understanding throughout the organisation. This may include working towards developing a Reconciliation Action Plan.</p>
<p>More flexibility in utilising care arrangements - shifting regional placements to Perth metropolitan and visa versa as required.</p>	<p>Where agencies have contracts to deliver General Foster Care in metro and regional, contracts to be merged to allow flexible approaches to provide</p>

	<p>placement options where there are suitably matched and available carers. CSO's still need to meet minimum % of occupancy across contract and minimum placement numbers in the regions; adjustments will occur where they cannot maintain occupancy as per contract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPIs for regions to still continue to source carers regionally • This will be made available by one Master Agreement rather than two separate Agreements for metropolitan and regional areas general for foster care services. • This will provide the benefit of one Progress Report to capture regional and metro. • Eight (8) regional general foster care contracts, of which six (6) also have metro contracts. • 'Suitably matched' refers to maintaining Aboriginal Placement Principles and Department of Communities matching guidelines to ensure children remain connected to families and culture.
<p>Connecting cultural support services to expedite cultural connection and reunification</p>	<p>CSO's and ACCOs may identify and provide details of family members of children in care to the Department of Communities for their response and follow-up.</p>
<p>Extending emergency care arrangements timeframes – Placement meetings within first seven days (entry) and then again at 21 days (exit/transition)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide each emergency foster care placement for a minimum period of seven days and for a maximum period of up to 21 days; • ensure adequate numbers of suitably trained emergency carers are available to provide the allocated number of emergency foster care placements at all times; and • accept emergency foster care placement referrals and admit children and young people into the service within two hours of a receipt of a referral, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.