February 2018

Permanency Support Program

Transition of case managed children and young people to PSP service packages

Fact sheet for FACS-funded service providers

Following the introduction of new contracts for Foster Care and Aboriginal Foster Care, and the upcoming rollout of ChildStory, FACS is changing funding arrangements and the way it provides payments to NGOs. To enable automatic payments through ChildStory, FACS requires up to date and accurate information about the proposed permanency outcome for all children and young people that are case managed by NGOs.

What's changing

New contracts for Foster Care and Aboriginal Foster Care commenced on 1 October 2017. The contracts have an interim period from 1 October 2017 to 30 June 2018, and a full service delivery period starting from 1 July 2018.

From 1 July 2018, FACS will use the ChildStory system to make automatic payments to service providers who case manage children under the Permanency Support Program (PSP). Payment will be made based on each child's case plan goal, placement type, CAT score and individual factors such as the child's cultural background.

To enable accurate payment, service providers will need to advise FACS of the proposed PSP service packages for each child in their care by 1 April 2018.

Managing the transition of children to PSP service packages

Service providers and FACS will work collaboratively during this transition process to collect and verify data required to update ChildStory and enable the transition of children to new service packages under the PSP.

Service providers will receive a spread sheet from Statewide Program Contracting seeking them to confirm or update individual details about each child they case manage by 1 April 2018. Service providers will work with their FACS contract managers to develop a process that ensures both parties support any changes to case plan goals.

FACS Contract Managers will then verify the information provided by service providers before submitting to Statewide Program Contracting by COB 10 April 2018. A centralised quality assurance process will be undertaken by FACS Commissioning before final approval and endorsement by the relevant District. This update and confirmation process does not require a full case review for each child, ongoing case planning is expected to be undertaken as per the minimum timeframes under PSP.

The FACS contract manager will be the central contact point for NGOs throughout this confirmation and transition process and will liaise with relevant district staff (CFDU, Permanency Coordinator, Regional Adoption Caseworker or CSC) as required.

Every effort is being made to ensure that the transition process is not onerous for FACS districts or for service providers, and focuses on verifying information so that accurate child and payment information is entered into ChildStory.

Completing the verification spread sheet

Service providers will have until 1 April 2018 to return the verified spreadsheet to the FACS Contract Manager.

Attached is a fact sheet with the eligibility criteria for PSP service packages to support this transition. Please refer to this document as you complete the verification spreadsheet to ensure all children meet the relevant criteria for each package.

For each child you case manage, please select the following packages on the verification spreadsheet:

1. **case plan goal package** - select **restoration**, **guardianship**, **adoption** or **long term care**
2. **child needs package** - select **low**, **medium** or **high** (the child needs package is applied based on the child's current CAT score)

   There are a small number of children that do not have a CAT score in ChildStory. Where a child does not have a CAT score recorded in ChildStory the needs package will default to low.

   - Where the CAT has been done but has not been entered into ChildStory, please liaise with your FACS District contact to ensure this is entered. On the verification spreadsheet select **CAT completed – to be recorded in ChildStory by FACS**.
   - Where FACS and the service provider agree a CAT needs to be completed for a child, arrangements for the assessment need to be made either through the child's next case planning meeting or sooner. On the verification spreadsheet select **CAT not completed – to be completed at next review or sooner**.

3. **specialist packages:**
   - ***Cultural plan (Aboriginal)*** - select **yes** or **no**
   - ***CALD*** - select **yes** or **no**
   - ***15+ reconnect*** - select **yes** or **no** (where the young person will be over 15 years and under 18 years as at 1 July 2018)
   - ***Leaving care*** - select **yes** or **no** (where the young person will be over 15 years and under 18 years as at 1 July 2018)
   - ***4+ sibling placement option*** - select **yes** or **no** where the child is in a sibling placement of 4+ and is considered the household head ie. the payment is only paid against one child in the sibling placement.

Service providers will not need to report on the Baseline Package as this will be applied depending on the placement/service provider and the child's Indigenous status (Foster Care or Aboriginal Foster Care provider).

Commencing 1 July 2018, service providers will apply for the below packages on a case by case basis:

- Case coordination (post permanency casework support)
- Legal adoption payment
- Complex needs package.

Information will be provided in the coming months about the application and approval process for case coordination (post permanency support) and complex needs packages.

Changing a child's case plan goal

Changes to a child's case plan goal during this confirmation process need to be agreed by FACS and as per current process, approval is generally given by the FACS Manager Casework. This may be the CFDU or CSC Manager Casework depending on your district structure. A practice resource has been developed to assist service providers, however this is a guide rather than a decision tool. FACS will not require service providers to use a particular tool.

Transition of children to the PSP needs to align with any outcomes of the Review of Aboriginal Children in Care. FACS Commissioning are working closely with the Aboriginal Care Review Team to ensure that any

children included in the Aboriginal Review are identified for the purpose of this transition process. Attached is a fact sheet with more information about the Aboriginal Review.

Where there is a recommendation to change a child's case plan goal between 1 April and 1 July 2018 service providers will continue the current process of seeking approval from FACS through the FACS Contract Manager and relevant District. FACS Contract Managers will liaise with Commissioning, as the central unit managing the transition process to ensure ChildStory is accurate.

Implementation of the Permanency Support Program and relationship to other funded programs

The implementation of the PSP is occurring alongside business as usual for other funded programs. Referrals to other FACS funded programs need to be considered through case planning to ensure families are supported by the program which best meets their needs. These may include NEWPIN, IFP, IFBS, MST-CAN and FFT-CW.

FACS should not fund a service provider for a PSP package when a child/family are accessing another funded program.

Negotiated volumes during transition period

Prior to the 1 October 2017 commencement of new contracts for Foster Care and Aboriginal Care, service providers negotiated and nominated case plan goal directions (including restoration, guardianship and adoption) and case coordination payments for the **existing children in their care**. FACS is using these negotiated figures to provide case plan goal and case coordination payments to service providers during the transition period through the Interim Payment System. PSP service packages from 1 July 2018 will replace these contracted negotiated volumes from the transition period.

Service providers and FACS should be guided by what is in the child's best interest in determining whether there should be any change to a nominated case plan goal.

Children entering care after 1 April 2018

Where a child enters a placement with a service provider between 1 April and 1 July 2018 the relevant FACS staff member records this in ChildStory. The default case plan goal for all children is restoration until such time as the case plan goal has been determined (by the service provider and FACS). Service providers will receive the Restoration Case Plan goal package in addition to the relevant Baseline and Child Needs packages commencing 1 July 2018.

More information

To find out more information about the transition of case managed children to PSP service packages, contact:

- Permanency Support Program: permanency.support@facs.nsw.gov.au
- Statewide Program Contracting: StatewideProgramContracting@facs.nsw.gov.au