



Insert agency logo

<Date>

<Carer Name>

<Address Line 1>

<Address Line 2>

Dear <Carer Name>,

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Transition of out-of-home care services

I am writing to provide information about an important commitment <Agency name> is making for <child name> and what it will mean for you as an authorised <foster/relative/kinship> carer.

<Agency name> values our carers and the amazing work that you do every day to support, care for and protect vulnerable children. We are incredibly grateful to have you as a member of the <Agency name> family and appreciate you are a pivotal member of our caring team.

As you may know, the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has announced that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people being looked after by agencies like <Agency name> will be transitioned to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO's).

This decision is in response to the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care (currently 45% of the total OOHC population in NSW and increasing) as well as to the growing research that shows that outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are greater when they are supported by culturally informed services and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people themselves. Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations are best placed to deliver out-of-home care services that understand the unique rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and will enable them to to reconnect to kin, culture and community where those connections have been disrupted by coming into statutory care.

This commitment is supported by SNAICC – National Voice for our Children, the peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Australia, by AbSec, the NSW Aboriginal Child, Family and Community peak organisation, and by the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA).

Following the reforms announced by DCJ, we are committed to working in partnership with our ACCO colleagues. On <date>, <Agency name> made a commitment to transfer out-of-home care services we provide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to ACCO's.

<Agency name> is in the process of having high-level discussions with relevant ACCO's and we have started developing our transition plan. This is the start of the conversation with you about what transitioning to an ACCO looks like and we are keen to work with you in answering the questions you will no doubt have.

<Agency name> will work with DCJ and our ACCO colleagues to support transitioning at a pace that works for our kids, carers and colleagues. It will take time to have conversations, develop individual plans and draft our organisational roadmap.

We are in initial stages, and are eagerly awaiting advice from the Department so we can move forward. Once more information becomes available, we will share this with you. In the meantime, please direct any questions to your case manager. Whatever they cannot answer – they will come back to you with a response.

Yours sincerely,

<Name>

<Role>

<Agency>