



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 43% 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.

In New South Wales, <Agency name> will be progressively transferring service delivery to accredited Aboriginal out-of-home care agencies from <date>. In your area, we will partner with <Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation>.

<Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation> is an accredited statutory out-of-home care service provider in New South Wales, which has been confirmed by the NSW Children's Guardian to meet the *Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care* (2015). I have enclosed information about <Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation> and the services it offers, for your information.

We greatly value the support and care you provide for <child name>. We appreciate you will no doubt have a lot of questions, and we would like to speak with you about what the transition process will involve, the support for the child in your care and answer any questions you may have.

<Child name>'s Case Manager will be in contact shortly to arrange a time to meet with you. With your agreement, we would also like to bring a <Role Title> from <Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation> to this meeting, so you can get to know them and ask any questions you may have about their service directly.

Please find enclosed a fact sheet with some frequently asked questions about the transition process.

If you would like further information or have any immediate questions, please contact <child name>'s Case Manager, <Case Manager Name> on <mobile> or at <email>, or Area Manager, <Area Manager Name> on <mobile> or at <email> in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

<Name>

<Role>

<Agency>