

Will the new caseworker want to visit my home?

The agency caseworker will meet with you and the child or young person in your care. As part of joining the agency, they will need to find out what support you and the child in your care need, and will tell you about their service.

Contact and visits from the new caseworker will vary, so it's best to discuss this with the agency that you are interested in moving to.

"We want all kids and carers to know that we will look after them really well if they come to Burrun Dalai."

Dana Clarke, Executive Officer, Burrun Dalai, Northern Region

My current caseworker organised services for my child with a disability – will that change?

The child's needs remain a priority for everyone. It's important to talk through the child's case plan and health plan with the new caseworker and discuss any early intervention and disability services in place. Children with a disability will be supported through the move and you will be able to talk to the new caseworker about any other supports the Agency may offer.

Remember to ask questions if you are worried about anything.

Find out more

- Talk to your caseworker or contact your local Community Services office and ask about moving to a new agency and about what agencies are in your area.
- Attend a Carer Information Event in your area.
- Talk to the carer support team at Aboriginal Statewide Carer Support on **1800 888 698** or Connecting Carers NSW on **1300 794 653**.
- Find out about agencies at www.fosteringnsw.com.au.
- Read updates in *Fostering Our Future*.
- Talk to other carers who have made the move.



FOSTERING NSW
Growing together

www.absec.org.au
www.connectingcarersnsw.com.au

Illustrations: Denise Freeman, Kevin May, Warren Mason.
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Moving to an Aboriginal agency

Our carers for our kids.
What you need to know about moving from Community Services to an Aboriginal agency.

Moving to a new agency

We've always known our kids do best with Aboriginal agencies – keeping them connected to their culture and community.

The NSW Government is expanding the role of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to take on foster and kinship care services.

This means moving kids in kinship and foster care placements (and their carers) to accredited Aboriginal agencies over the next few years.

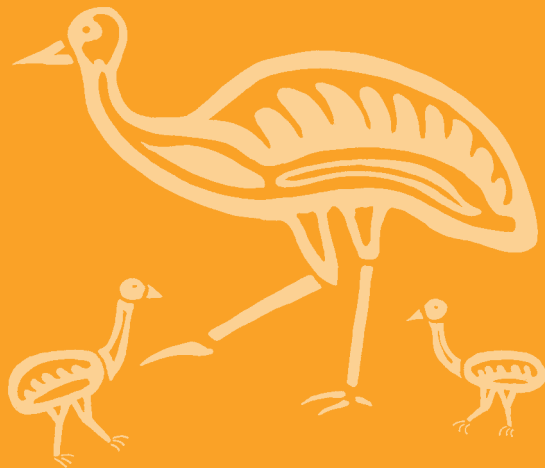
Accredited means these agencies have to meet standards that protect and support kids in care.

Already some kids and carers have moved from Community Services to Aboriginal agencies.

If you care for Aboriginal kids in statutory relative, kinship or foster care with "parental responsibility" to the Minister for Family and Community Services – then it's a good time to think about moving to an agency in your region.

If you're not sure if the care arrangement you have is "statutory" you can talk to the Community Services caseworker or the Aboriginal Carer Support team at AbSec.

Aboriginal kids are better off with Aboriginal carers, supported by Aboriginal agencies. It's important to work together to help kids grow up strong and get through things.



When will the transition happen?

In some regions where there is already an Aboriginal agency, carers can look at moving to a new agency. Over the next few years, Aboriginal agencies (in each region) will grow and take on more kids and carers.

There will be carer information sessions to help you learn more about the agencies in your area (see the contacts on the back of this brochure).



"We were a bit sceptical at first because we had been with Community Services for many years, but in the long term this is the best thing for the kids."

Lee, Aboriginal foster carer

How do I make the move?

The first step is to talk to your Community Services caseworker. When you transfer to an agency, so does the case management of the child in your care. It all happens together. The Community Services caseworker and the agency caseworker work together and meet with you to help make the transfer happen smoothly. Your choices will vary, depending on where you live, the agencies in your area and the services they offer. If you don't have a caseworker then contact your local Community Services Centre (DoCS office) and ask to speak to the out-of-home care team. You can also speak to Aboriginal Carer Support for support.

Will I need to be authorised with the new agency?

Yes, but you will not need to start from scratch.

You will need to give the agency information about your family, home and current circumstances. The process depends on your history as a carer, who lives in your home and whether Community Services has up-to-date information on file.

The information on file assists your new agency to understand the needs of the child and you, and what support you both need, such as training or special services.

A caseworker from the new agency will also meet with you. Once the process is complete, then you will be authorised as a carer for your new agency.



Will my allowances change or be affected?

For most carers the amount you receive will not be affected. However, it's important to talk about the allowances and services offered by the Aboriginal agencies to help you make a decision. The child's needs will be assessed as part of the move and this may result in a change to the allowance or expenses paid for some children.

