



Aboriginal Family Support Services

Together with the community

Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project

Fact Sheet 5 - Reunification Timeframes

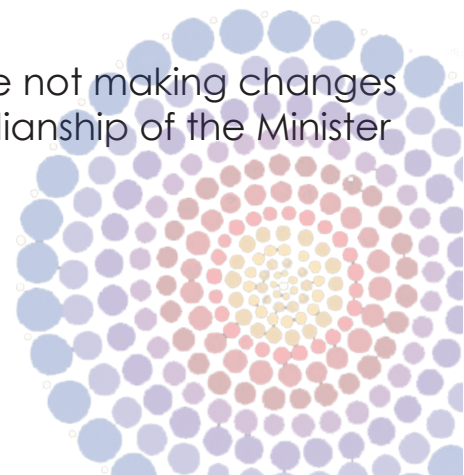
DCP is committed to ensuring that children and young people have stable and consistent care. This means that children need to know early where and who they are going to live with. The Child Protection Royal Commission recommended that the amount of time for a parent to make positive changes to their parenting should be reduced so that children know sooner where they are going to live (this is called permanency). The Royal Commission was a major public inquiry that provided recommendations to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The Department has not put these recommendations in the new law, but they will use these timelines to inform their practice as the timeframes are consistent with the developmental needs of a child, such as having a strong attachment to positive adults.

For babies 0 to 3, as a parent you have up to 6 months to show welfare that you have started making the necessary changes otherwise your child or children may not come home to you. For children 3 and above, this time frame is 12 months – which is not very long at all!

Child Protection wants to make sure that children get security and stability so that they know what is happening for them sooner.

If the Department can show that you are not making changes the child will be placed under the guardianship of the Minister until the age of 18 years.



What can you do?

- Talk to AFSS and get involved with our Aboriginal Community Engagement Project. You can also think about becoming an AFSS foster carer, ensuring we have a large pool of Aboriginal foster carers to care for children who are removed from their families. The more carers we have, the better the options of Aboriginal children being placed with Aboriginal families.
- Contact AFSS in your local area and speak with an AFSS worker.
- You can also contact the AFSS Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project:

Brigitte Goepfert (Project Officer – Child Protection Reform)

Address: 134 Waymouth Street Adelaide SA 5000

Phone: 8205 1500

Mobile: 0499 889 720

Email: brigitte.goepfert@afss.com.au

Other useful contacts:

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM)

Phone: 1800 643 222 Website: www.alrm.org.au

Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

Phone: 8226 3355 Email: CommissionerCYP@sa.gov.au

Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement

Phone: 8226 3500 Email: DPC.CommissionerforAboriginalEngagement@sa.gov.au

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Phone: 8226 3355 Email: CommissionerCYP@sa.gov.au

DPC Central Complaints Unit

Phone: 1800 003 305 Website: www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/department/contact-department/making-complaint

Family Matters

Phone: 8305 4213 Email: joanne@childandfamily-sa.org.au

Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People

Phone: 8226 8570 Email: GCYP@GCYP.sa.gov.au Website: www.gcyp.sa.gov.au

SA Ombudsman

Phone: 1800 182 150 Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.sa.gov.au



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