

Information for Parents, Guardians and Carers

The NSW Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) would like to hear from children and young people in Out-of-Home Care (OOHC).

The Advocate's functions under the *Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014*, include advocating for and promoting the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people [Section 15(1)(a)]; and in making recommendations to government and non-government agencies on legislation, reports, policies, practices, procedures and services affecting children and young people [Section 15(1)(d)].

Who is the Advocate for Children and Young People?

Zoë Robinson is the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People. The Advocate is independent from government and her role is to listen to children and young people and make sure their ideas are heard by government decision makers.

What is the Advocate doing?

The Advocate and her team conduct regular consultations with children and young people in NSW OOHC. The consultations are an opportunity for children and young people to have their voices heard by decision makers and to speak openly about what services and supports they think should be available to young people in OOHC. This information is collated and used to inform the work the Office does with different NSW government agencies to help them make decisions that best meet the needs of children and young people in OOHC.

Can children or young people be identified?

No, they will not be identified in any reports or information discussed with decision-makers. The only exception is safety, ACYP are subject to Child Safety protocols and procedures.

What will happen during the interview?

ACYP staff will ask questions about children and young people's experience in OOHC, what services and supports they think are helpful and suggestions or ideas they may have to improve the system.

How do Children and Young People take part in this?

Young people aged 14 years or over are able to consent for themselves. Children under the age of 14 will require consent from their legal Guardian.

Once consent has been finalised, ACYP will arrange an interview, which should take about 45 minutes. ACYP staff will travel to the most suitable location to interview the child or young person.

Do they have to take part in this?

No, they don't. The consultation is voluntary.

Where can I get more information?

You can call or email Rhys Morris or Evette Hanna at ACYP on 02 9248 0970 or 02 9248 0997 Rhys.Morris@acyp.nsw.gov.au, Evette.Hanna@acyp.nsw.gov.au

ACYP regularly consults with young people across NSW about many different topics. You can also look on our website for more information about the work of the Office.

www.acyp.nsw.gov.au