

# Information for Children and Young People in Out-of-Home Care

The NSW Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) would like to hear from you:

**Why:** So you can have an opportunity to give your thoughts and ideas about what services and supports you think children and young people need. To let policy and decision makers know your suggestions and ideas. To know your rights and be heard.

## 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 Out of Home Care (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.

## What will happen during the interview?

ACYP staff will ask questions about your experience in OOHC, what services and supports you think are helpful and suggestions or ideas you have to improve the system.

Staff will take notes to keep a record of the views, ideas and suggestions you make. Sometimes we record the interview to make sure we get your

words exactly right, we'll always ask you for permission first.

## Can I be identified?

No, you will not be identified in any reports or information discussed with decision-makers. The only exception is your safety, if you are in danger in anyway, then we are obliged to tell the appropriate people, we will always discuss this with you first, where possible.

## How do I take part in this?

If you are aged 14 or older you can consent to participate yourself using the bottom half of the consent form below. If you are age under 14, you'll need the consent of your Carer or Guardian.

Once consent is finalised, ACYP will arrange an interview with you, which should take about 45 minutes. We'll come and speak to you wherever you feel most comfortable.

## Do you have to take part in this?

No, you 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](mailto:Rhys.Morris@acyp.nsw.gov.au), [Evette.Hanna@acyp.nsw.gov.au](mailto: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](http://www.acyp.nsw.gov.au)

