

Child Guardian key outcome indicators for the child safety system

ASSESSMENT

Effective assessment

An effective assessment will involve an evidence based decision about the future risk of harm to a child and the need for any ongoing intervention to address a child's safety and wellbeing. An effective assessment will also be timely, comprehensive, identify a range of intervention options when needed and ultimately, lead to the best outcome for that child.

Appropriate interventions

The child safety system should provide interventions that address the risk factors present in a family that can be detrimental to a child's safety and wellbeing, such as drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence. Coordinated, multi-agency, intervention services will often be required to cater for the child and family's individual needs and will, in the best case scenario, act as a safety net to prevent the child from progressing further into the child safety system.

INTERVENTIONS

OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Safe out-of-home care

Out-of-home care should provide children an environment that is free from harm from all people in the home, including visitors, and the use of appropriate behaviour management techniques by all care providers, enabling the child to feel and be safe 100% of the time. In addition, a safe environment will also ensure that every child has access to information and support people to enable them to make decisions or to act on their behalf to keep them safe.

Best health possible

The child safety system should provide every child in out-of-home care with preventative health services and, if any needs arise, health services are provided promptly.

Best education possible

The child safety system should provide every child in out-of-home care the opportunity, services and support necessary to reach their educational potential and achieve their career goals.

Stable out-of-home care

Stable out-of-home care is care that will involve minimal placement changes and provide the child with a chance to develop secure attachments. Stability is not simply about staying in the same placement, it is about continuity in the child's relationships with their community, school and significant support people in their lives, like their Child Safety Officer and Community Visitor.

Special needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are met

The child safety system respects that each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child is entitled to have their own set of values, ideals and principles which have been shaped since birth by their culture and that the child safety system provides these children an opportunity to preserve and enhance their connection with family, community, culture and spiritual home.

Individual needs met

The child safety system should recognise and respond to the individual needs of children and young people in out-of-home care. Children and young people should participate in discussions and decisions about their needs and feel that they are listened to, that their views are valued and that they have an appropriate level of control over matters of importance to them.

LEAVING OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Successful reunifications

A successful reunification process will result in improved family functioning such that a child will not need to return to care.

Successful transitions to independence

The child safety system should prepare, as far as possible, each young person in out-of-home care for adulthood and independent living, including by planning appropriately.