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MEDIA RELEASE

Life Without Barriers supports proposed child protection Bill aiming to improve permanency options for children in out-of-home-care

Leading social purpose organisation and out of home care provider Life Without Barriers (LWB) welcomes the NSW Government's proposed legislation to improve the current practices for guardianship and open adoption in order to increase the availability of permanency options for children in out-of-home-care.

LWB NSW State Director Roderick Best said that LWB welcomes all attempts, especially in Children's Week, to help children in out-of-home care secure safe and permanent homes. The Bill tabled in Parliament by Minister Goward this week attempts to address some of the big legislative issues currently faced by children in out-of-home-care.

"It is really important to see the emphasis in this Bill on involving families through alternative dispute resolution as well as removing court processes that impede reaching orders to help a child have a long term forever home," Mr Best said.

"What we want is to ensure vulnerable children can be settled into a long term, loving, nurturing home. These things have been critical to our work in Life Without Barriers and what we continue to strive for."

"For a number of years now we have been seeking to drive an evidence based, trauma informed practice and are fully supportive of changes to achieve this. The underlying principles, as they drive these changes, should be applauded as absolutely the right way to go."

Life Without Barriers is a leading social purpose, not-for-profit organisation working in more than 440 communities across Australia, with a solid reputation in NSW for working with vulnerable children in out-of-home-care. LWB works with each child, their carers and others in the community to ensure the best care and support are developed for each child or young person's needs.

Access the official Departmental Media Release [here](#)

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About Life Without Barriers: Life Without Barriers (LWB) is one of Australia's largest not-for-profit social purpose organisations, delivering innovative, community-based programs to more than 18,000 people from diverse community groups across the country. LWB works in more than 440 communities delivering services in family support, disability, out-of-home care, aged care, mental health, youth justice, homelessness, substance abuse, and provides support for refugees and asylum seekers