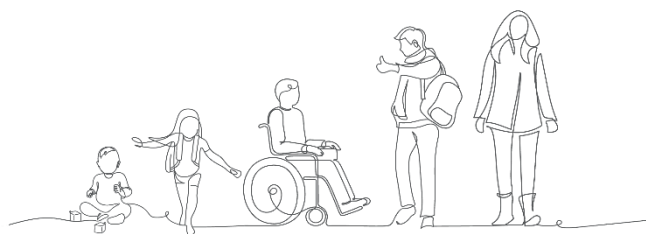


# Policy Position

Services for Children and Families



## Wellbeing in Care

*Responding to, and working to address, worries about the wellbeing of children and families in out of home care*

POLICY POSITION STATEMENT	
<b>Key Messages</b>	<p>Services for Children and Families is committed to enhancing the wellbeing of children who have entered the Out of Home Care service system, and resolving any worries about their wellbeing in care through a process that is inclusive, transparent, and relational.</p> <p>Worries about children's wellbeing in Out of Home Care might encompass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circumstances where a child has, or is likely to, experience sexual, physical and emotional abuse within the care situation.</li> <li>• Circumstances where lower-level and repeated worries about physical discipline and/or emotional harm in care are impacting the wellbeing of a child.</li> <li>• Worries about any matters of the care situation that may be impacting a child's opportunity to experience safety and stability in order to grow and develop.</li> </ul> <p>The six Domains of <a href="#">Child and Youth Wellbeing</a> are a cornerstone for identifying worries about a child in Out of Home Care, and planning for restoring and enhancing wellbeing.</p>
<b>Key policy positions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Responses to worries about a child's wellbeing in care are driven by the child's Care Team through a structured Signs of Safety Mapping process of the six Child and Youth Wellbeing Domains.</li> <li>2. If the worry is one of sexual or physical abuse, or suggestive that a crime has been committed, a referral to Tasmania Police is immediate and concurrent with communication and safety planning with the child, carer and other relevant people in the child's network as appropriate.</li> <li>3. All decisions and actions about a child's wellbeing in care, including addressing and responding to worries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strongly informed by the child's voice;</li> <li>• responded to through processes that are relational and based on unconditional positive regard;</li> <li>• holistic, not forensic or episodic;</li> <li>• timely;</li> <li>• culturally appropriate; and</li> <li>• guided by the <a href="#">Child Safety Practice Framework</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Audience</b>	Children and young people, families, Child Safety Service, Advice and Referral Line, carers, Care Team, Foster and Kinship Carers Association of Tasmania (FKAT) and other carer partners, government and non-government services, Aboriginal communities and services, schools, child advocates
<b>Responsibility</b>	Child Safety Service
<b>Date adopted</b>	15 December 2022