

Frequently Asked Questions for NSW Carers

2018

LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS PART 3

This document goes alongside FAQs Part 1 sent to you in May 2018

Evolving NSW

What is Evolving NSW?

Evolving NSW is LWB's long-term plan for how we will adapt our services and advance our practice in NSW. The first step is to change the structure of the NSW Client Services team by creating two specialist portfolios:

- Disability/Aged Care Portfolio
- Child, Youth and Family Portfolio

Each portfolio will include specialist staff who are able to focus on either providing Disability Services, or services for Children Youth and Families (including foster and kinship care).

Our new Child, Youth and Family structure in NSW will make it easier for our staff to focus on direct client services, supported by a Practice Hub in partnership with our National Practice and Quality team. It will also allow staff to concentrate on the quality and nature of service delivery in a way that is more specific to each child or young person.

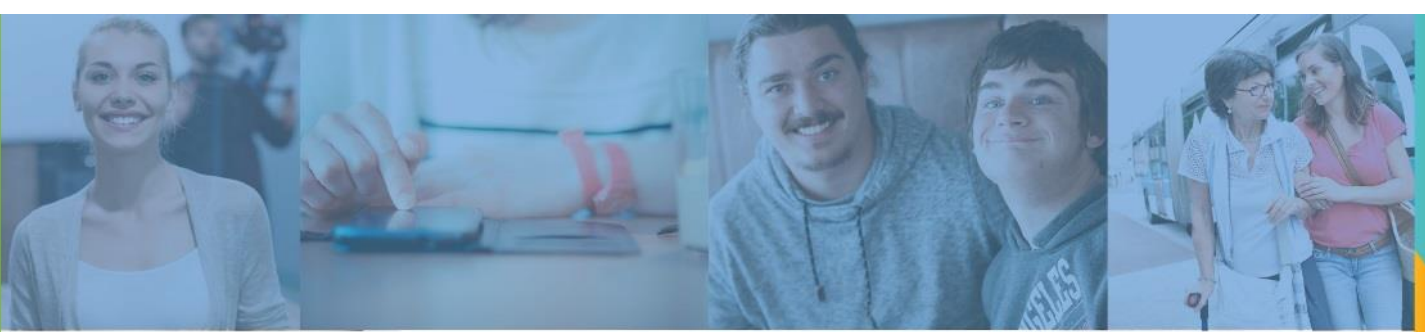
Why is Evolving NSW happening?

Evolving NSW is in response to three major changes we currently face at LWB:

- The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and National Disability Reform
- The NSW Government's reforms in child protection and out-of-home care (OOHC) via the Permanency Support Program (PSP)
- The introduction of LWB's refreshed world class, evidence-based foster and kinship care program

Who will support me and the children in my care?

Your Case Manager will continue to be the primary support person for you and the young person in your care. The Supporter of Carer role (SOC) will no longer be part of the local out-of-home care team however, the new roles of Permanency Practitioner and Specialist Assessor will form part of the team working with Case Managers to provide support to



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placements through assessments, behaviour support plans and collaborative work with you to ensure the best outcomes for all.

What does this mean for staff in NSW?

The new structure in the LWB NSW Client Services team means there will be changes to staff and staff roles. These are designed so that more people will work directly with the Casework Manager to support the placement with you, as well as focussing the carer support positions on more clearly-defined roles. LWB is committed to making sure that foster carers and children and young people are continually supported as our team changes. We will make sure you are informed of what these are and you are clear about which members of the LWB team will provide you support as things change.

How will this affect my work as a foster carer?

As a foster carer, you play an important role in ensuring vulnerable children and young people have access to permanent, safe and loving homes. You will continue to play an essential role in supporting children and young people in immediate need, helping a child through the process of restoring them with their family if appropriate and providing vulnerable families with some time out to strengthen their parenting.

What is LWB's refreshed foster and kinship care program?

LWB's refreshed foster and kinship care program (also known as Foster Care Design) aims to further develop our delivery of foster and kinship care from what is already a quality program to something even better. It involves partnering with children and families to transform lives by operating a world class, evidence-based foster and kinship care program.

Under the new national program, children and young people will be more active decision makers in their foster or kinship care, maintaining connections to family and their community. Carers will have greater inclusion as part of the care team and you will receive support to develop their skills and knowledge through a defined learning pathway, regular opportunities for reciprocal feedback and enhanced peer support.



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Where can I find more information?

LWB will continue to communicate with foster carers as we evolve our services in NSW. We have a page on our website where we will be adding information about the changes which you can access at any time. Visit: www.lwb.org.au/nswcarers

Access more information about the Permanency Support Program:
<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/permanency-support-program>

Who do I contact to find out more?

If you have questions, please speak with your LWB Case Manager.