



Transitioning to an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)

October 2024

Information for parents

This document is for parents and families of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, who are in care in New South Wales.

What is happening?

The NSW Government is committed to transferring the case management of Aboriginal children to from Non-Government Organisations to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) by June 2026.

Why is this happening?

It's vital that all Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care maintain and strengthen their connections to culture, belonging and identity. ACCOs are community organisations led by mob, for mob. ACCOs are best placed to ensure each child and their family receives culturally strong support and care.

Do my family and I have a choice in transitioning?

All the changes will be discussed with you, your child, and their carer prior to the transition to ensure the move to an ACCO is managed in a supportive way.

It is in the best interests of the child and supports their right to cultural connection and safety. We strongly believe that ACCOs are best placed to foster the development of a positive sense of identity and wellbeing for Aboriginal children.

If you have any questions or concerns, talk to your child's current case worker.

How are ACCOs different from my child's current out-of-home care agency?

ACCOs are Aboriginal-led and operated on all levels. ACCO's do things with and for community, rather than to community. Overall, they work to improve the connections, health, safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

What does this change for my child's care arrangements?

The biggest change for you and your child will be having a new caseworker and a new team for family time. Nothing will change regarding your child's carer or living arrangements. When the move takes place, you'll need to have a meeting with your child's new care team so they can get to know you and your family better.



Communities and Justice

When is this going to happen?

The NSW Government is committed to transferring all Aboriginal children to ACCOs by June 2026.

If your child lives along the coast of NSW or close to a city or big town, there's likely to be an ACCO ready to go. You can ask your child's caseworker if they're already chatting with an ACCO.

If your child lives where there isn't an ACCO close enough, or there isn't one ready to go yet, it may take a little longer. Please click [here](#) to view the list of ACCOs currently providing OOHC services in NSW.

Every child and young person, family and carer household is unique, so it will take time and consideration to ensure that all transitions are as smooth as possible and suited to everyone's needs.

What if my child already has an Aboriginal caseworker?

Getting a new caseworker will be the biggest change for you and your child. We know this might be a little confusing if your child already has Aboriginal support people in their current care team. Your new caseworker will be part of an organisation that is Aboriginal-led and controlled. This means they will be able to give your child, their family and their carer the best possible support and training suited to your child's needs.

What if I know people or have family at the ACCO my child is going to?

If you have any family, friends or relatives at the ACCO in your child's area and have any concerns around privacy, please make sure you speak to your child's current caseworker to let them know.

Where can I find out more?

Please chat to your child's carer or current caseworker about moving to an ACCO. You can also check out the webpages below which include useful information and resources.

- [ACWA Aboriginal OOHC Transition Hub and Resources](#)
- [DCJ Transition to Aboriginal out-of-home-care agencies](#)
- [AbSec Aboriginal Transition Project Web App](#)
- Office of the Children's Guardian – [Aboriginal Transition Webpage](#)

What if our mob isn't from the area my child lives in?

Your child's ACCO knows how important trips back home are to your child, family and local community. If your child lives off Country or hasn't visited Country in a while, make sure you tell your child's new caseworker, so they can work with your child, their family and their carers to make plans.

My children are managed by different agencies, what does this all mean for them?

In many cases, this move is a great opportunity to unite the case-management of siblings who currently have different out-of-home care agencies. The exception here would be sibling groups that live in different areas of the state, which would mean they would have different local ACCO's.