



Permanency Support Program

Emergency and Temporary OOHC Arrangements

The following arrangements may only be used in emergency or temporary situations where a preferred foster or relative/kin care, Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) placement is not yet available.

	Interim Care Model (ICM)	Short Term Emergency Placement (STEP)	Individual Placement Arrangement (IPA)
Quick Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grouped, 3 or 4 bed model shared with other children/young people Home-like accommodation (e.g. house, unit, serviced apartment) House manager and direct care staff provided by staff from a residential care accredited agency Up to 3 months duration (extension possible if required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:1 (child to care worker) placement Home-like accommodation (e.g. house, unit, serviced apartment) Direct care is predominantly provided by staff from a residential care accredited agency contracted for STEP Up to 12 weeks duration (extension possible in exceptional circumstances) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home-like accommodation (e.g. house, unit, serviced apartment) Direct care is predominantly provided by staff from an agency accredited to provide residential OOHC
Definition	<p>Short term group-home placement (up to 3 months) for children and young people with low and medium needs that are in or at risk of imminent entry into an IPA.</p> <p>ICM should be considered when every effort has been made to place them with relatives/kin, a foster carer, or contracted OOHC placement (e.g. accredited PSP provider).</p> <p><i>NB: ICM forms part of the PSP contract. Only ICM agencies can deliver an ICM placement.</i></p>	<p>1:1 emergency accommodation and support model for children and young people with high and complex needs that are in, or at risk of, imminent entry into an IPA.</p> <p>STEP is an emergency option when every effort has been made to place the child with relatives/kin, a foster carer, or contracted OOHC placement (e.g. accredited PSP provider).</p> <p>Referral to occur when less-intensive placement options have been exhausted.</p> <p><i>NB: STEP providers are managed by a Panel Deed and have been assessed through a tender process. Only STEP providers can deliver a STEP placement.</i></p>	<p>Temporary fee-for-service emergency accommodation arrangements based on the individual needs of the child or young person. It should only be used after every effort has been made to place the child or young person in a contracted OOHC placement (e.g. accredited PSP provider).</p> <p>An IPA is an emergency arrangement where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the accommodation is stable and 'home-like' (i.e. not in a hotel/motel, caravan park, etc) AND direct care of the child or young person is predominantly provided by residential care accredited agencies (more than 50% of the time). <p>An arrangement is not considered IPA if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child is in temporary accommodation for respite for less than 21 days and has a primary placement to return to The child is in temporary accommodation, away from their ITC placement, for 14 days or less.



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Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low/medium needs Aged 9-14 years All less-intensive placement options exhausted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High and complex needs Aged 12-17 years are in, or would otherwise be at imminent risk of, entering an IPA; and have been assessed as suitable by DCJ are in either statutory OOHC or a Temporary Care Arrangement. 	All children on Interim Orders, a TCA or in Statutory OOHC are eligible for IPA.
Accommodation	Home-like environments with adequate living space for up to 3 or 4 residents, such as long term rental properties or properties owned by the service provider.	Home-like environments, such as long term serviced apartments, rental properties or properties owned by the service provider.	Home-like environments, such as long term serviced apartments, rental properties or properties owned by the service provider.
Agency accreditation and authorisation of Staff	<p>Agency providing direct care must be accredited by the OCG to provide residential care.</p> <p>The ICM provider is responsible for completing probity checks, authorisation and adding workers to the Residential Care Workers Register.</p>	<p>Agency providing direct care must be accredited by the OCG to provide residential care.</p> <p>The STEP provider is responsible for completing probity checks, authorisation and adding workers to the Residential Care Workers Register.</p>	<p>Agency providing direct care must be accredited by the OCG to provide residential care.</p> <p>Direct care of a child or young person in an IPA must be provided by employees of a residential care accredited agency. Where this is unable to occur, at least 50% of the rostered hours in a 7-day period must be provided by staff from the residential care accredited agency.</p> <p>The IPA provider is responsible for completing probity checks, authorisation and adding workers to the Residential Care Workers Register.</p>
Level of Approval Required	<p>Principal Officer (first 3 months)</p> <p>Deputy Secretary, Child Protection and Permanency (extensions past 12 weeks)</p> <p>Referral via Central Access Unit (CAU)</p>	<p>Approval from the Executive District Director and HCEA Executive Lead must be sought prior to the STEP commencing.</p> <p>Referral via Central Access Unit, Triage and Emergency Care Arrangements Team</p>	<p>Approval from the Principal Officer, Executive District Director and HCEA Executive Lead must be sought prior to the IPA commencing.</p> <p>Approval to extend the IPA is sought via district processes.</p>



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		Approval for extensions and additional funding must be granted by the appropriate delegate ¹ .	Funding approvals for the IPA must be granted by the appropriate delegate. ¹
Office of the Children's Guardian notification requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification to the OCG is required within 24hrs if a child under 12 years of age is placed in any residential arrangement. Exit notification is also required. <p>Notification to the OCG is not required if the child is 12 years and over.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification to the OCG is required within 24hrs if a child under 12 years of age is placed in any residential arrangement. Exit notification is also required. <p>Notification to the OCG is not required where the agency providing STEP is residential care accredited and the placement is in a home like environment (if 12 years and over).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification to the OCG is required within 24hrs if a child under 12 years of age is placed in any residential arrangement. Exit notification is also required. <p>Notification to the OCG is not required where the agency providing the placement is residential care accredited, the placement is in a home like environment and the child/young person is 12 years and over.</p>
Case responsibility	DCJ or PSP service provider	DCJ or PSP service provider	DCJ or PSP service provider
Payment Arrangements	<p>ICM has contracted rates.</p> <p>Payment is made direct to the ICM service provider via the PSP contract</p>	<p>STEP has contracted rates.</p> <p>Payment is made direct to the STEP provider via invoice, monthly in arrears.</p> <p>Paid against contingency 'STEP – NGO' in ChildStory.</p>	<p>Service provider IPA costs incurred over and above the PSP package payment (less the foster care allowance day rate) are paid against the 'Individual Placement Arrangement – NGO' payment type.</p> <p>Payment is made to the PSP provider via invoice, monthly in arrears.</p>
NB: Projected annualised placement costs \$250k-\$499k must be escalated to the Deputy Secretary Child Protection and Permanency for approval. Projected annualised placement costs over \$500k must be endorsed by the Secretary.			

¹ In accordance with financial delegations, projected annualised placement costs over \$250-\$499k must be escalated to the Deputy Secretary Child Protection and Permanency for approval. Projected annualised placement costs over \$500k must be endorsed by the Secretary.