Referral Needs Assessments (RNA) – NGO Info Sheet

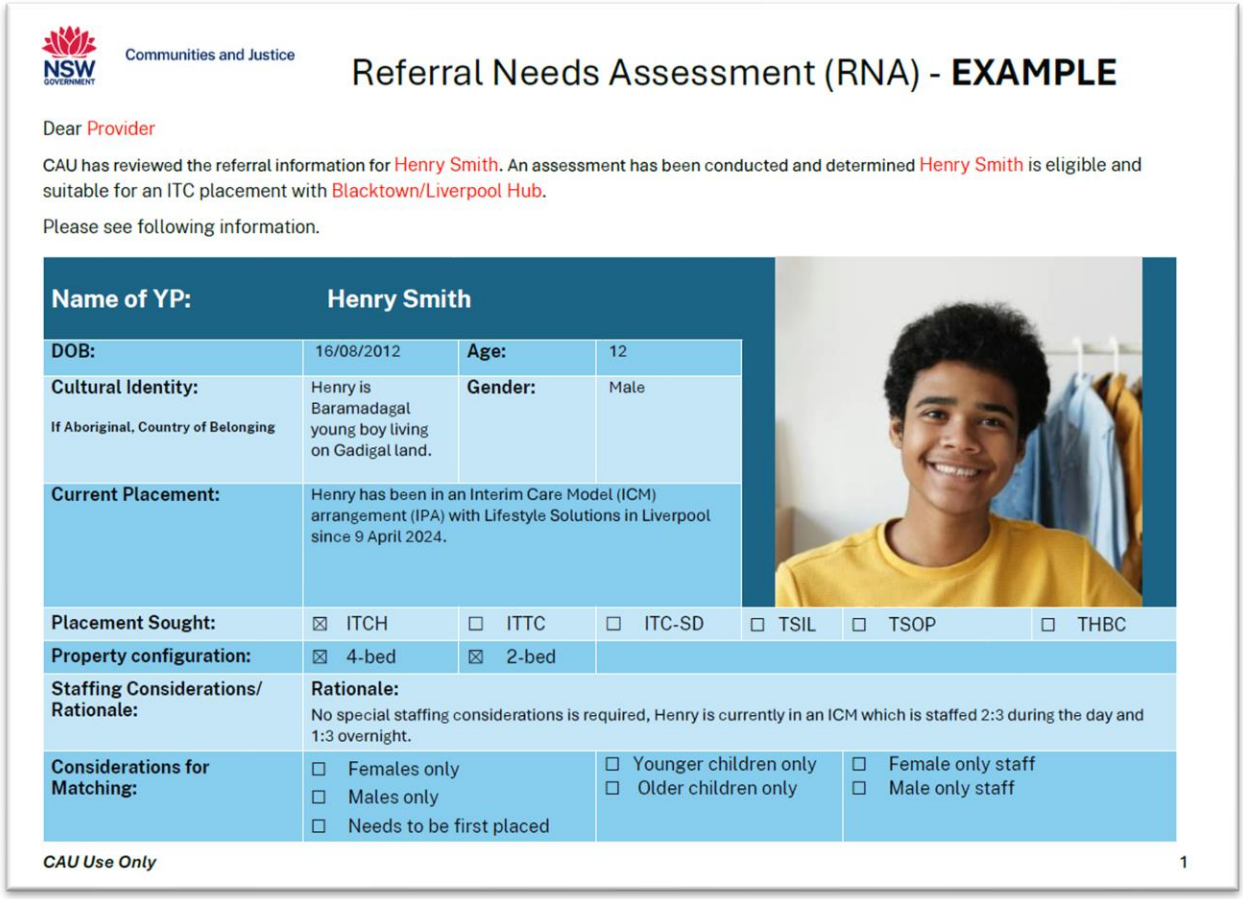
Information on CAU needs assessments for PSP NGO's providing ITC.

ITC Needs Assessment

DCJ are required as outlined in *Schedule 1 of the Program Level Agreement (PLA) to provide a 'needs assessment' as per section 7.1: Decision making for referrals into ITC will be informed by a needs assessment of the Child or Young Person to assess most suitable placement type options.*

The previous assessment structure was reviewed by CAU as a commitment to continual improvement; it was found that it did not provide any additional vital information about the child when other documentation i.e. the CAT and CIFs had been completed with quality information.

The CAU, responsible for completing the needs assessments for referrals into ITC, remains committed to adhering to best practice guidelines, therefore the CAU will now complete a ***Referral Needs Assessment (RNA)*** for all ITC Referrals.



Communities and Justice

Referral Needs Assessment (RNA) - **EXAMPLE**

Dear Provider

CAU has reviewed the referral information for Henry Smith. An assessment has been conducted and determined Henry Smith is eligible and suitable for an ITC placement with Blacktown/Liverpool Hub.

Please see following information.

Name of YP:	**Henry Smith**					
DOB:	16/08/2012	**Age:**	12			
Cultural Identity: If Aboriginal, Country of Belonging	Henry is Baramadagal young boy living on Gadigal land.	**Gender:**	Male			
Current Placement:	Henry has been in an Interim Care Model (ICM) arrangement (IPA) with Lifestyle Solutions in Liverpool since 9 April 2024.					
Placement Sought:	☒ ITCH	☐ ITTC	☐ ITC-SD	☐ TSIL	☐ TSOP	☐ THBC
Property configuration:	☒ 4-bed	☒ 2-bed				
Staffing Considerations/ Rationale:	**Rationale:** No special staffing considerations is required, Henry is currently in an ICM which is staffed 2:3 during the day and 1:3 overnight.					
Considerations for Matching:	☐ Females only ☐ Males only ☐ Needs to be first placed	☐ Younger children only ☐ Older children only		☐ Female only staff ☐ Male only staff		

CAU Use Only 1

Referral Needs Assessment (RNA) – NGO Info Sheet

Information for PSP NGO's providing ITC on CAU needs assessments.

In certain circumstances the Referral Needs Assessment (RNA) will be accompanied by a Psych Services *Suitability Assessment (SA)*. These circumstances include children or young people:

- Under 12 yrs
- With a significant disability
- With complex MH issues
- When deemed appropriate by CAU

Receiving an RNA

As an ITC Provider, you will receive the RNA along with key referral documentation such as the CIFs with a placement request.

The RNA will detail the needs, views and experiences of the child or young person that have informed the CAU recommendation of placement type, staffing, house configuration, location and any other placement considerations.

This assessment supports transparency and information sharing with agencies to enable informed decision making for the best outcomes for children and young people in placement matching.

Placement Matching

Placement matching relies on the placement needs assessment (PNA), client information forms (CIF) Part A & B, and the referral needs assessment (RNA). These do not replace professional judgement regarding placement matching, rather, they help PSP providers make informed decisions based on a structured assessment of the child's needs.

To maximise the opportunities for all children and young people to benefit from the therapeutic approach, ITC providers must consider all measures that can be put in place to mitigate risk and meet the needs of the child or young person to support placement request ***acceptance***.

Support

For support contact the CAU team that provided feedback:

TECA: CAU-TriageandEmergencyCareArrangements@dcj.nsw.gov.au

Placements Team: centralaccessunit@dcj.nsw.gov.au