



Safety in Care Briefing

Office of the Senior Practitioner





Agenda

What children need from us collectively

Setting the scene: Strengthening out partnered approach to children's safety

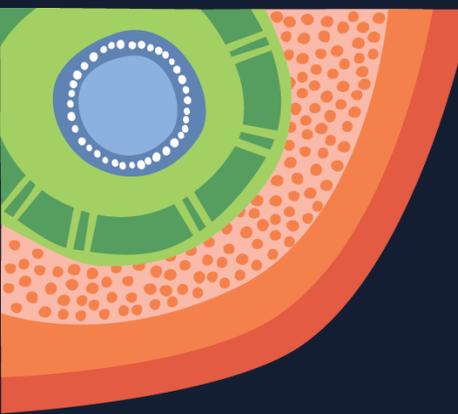
Safety in Care Mandate: key changes for DCJ and what this means for NGOs

Questions and Answers

Office of the Senior Practitioner



Children's safety – our greatest collective responsibility



NSW Child Safe Standards for Permanent Care – Standard Three

- Children and young people have the right to be safe, to live a full and healthy life and to reach their developmental potential.
- Child protection is the responsibility of all people who work with and care for children and young people.
- Children and young people must be provided with the care and protection necessary for their safety, welfare and wellbeing.
- In making decisions regarding children and young people organisations must always consider the need to protect children and young people from harm.
- The appropriate use and exchange of information is an important tool in protecting children and young people.



Safety in Care reports

- Alleged harm by a carer / household member / ACA staff member
 - Reportable allegations
 - Not reportable allegations
- Alleged harm by someone outside of the household
- Reports arising from child's pain-based behaviour

Legislative frameworks

- ❑ Care and Protection Act
- ❑ Reportable Conduct Scheme





OCG feedback

- Care and protection of child is paramount
- Carers rights
- Investigation vs assessment
- Reporting Reportable allegations
 - Allegation based scheme
 - Allegations addressed during casework



What does DCJs accreditation experience mean for NGOs?

Responding to safety & risk issues in a coordinated way



Safety in Care Mandate enhancements

- Allocation decisions (ROSH/non-ROSH)
- Strengthening DCJ partnering:
 - Pre-assessment consultations
 - Safety planning
 - Assessment closure



Safety planning

- DCS approval & approval of NGO delegate if harm is caused by carer
- A safety plan cannot be used to change a child's placement / carer leaving their home
- Write the safety plan in partnership with the child, carer and a safe person the child chooses.
- DCJ review safety plan within first 72 hours
- If safety plan must remain in place, this is to be actively monitored

Strengthening post-assessment partnering



'Safety in Care Meeting' to:

- Discuss assessment outcome
- Support planning to sustain safety and manage risk



Questions and Discussion



