

Notice of Conditions of Accreditation as a Designated Agency and Adoption Service Provider

Issued under clause 65 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012
and clause 10 of the Adoption Regulation 2015

Wesley Community Services Ltd

ABN: 42 164 655 145

Effective date: 18 March 2022

This notice supersedes the Notice of Conditions of Accreditation as a Designated Agency, issued on 12 November 2021. The Children's Guardian has varied the conditions on the accreditation of Wesley Community Services Ltd.

In addition to the general conditions of accreditation in Schedule 3 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012 and Schedule 1 of the Adoption Regulation 2015, the Children's Guardian has imposed the following conditions on the agency's accreditation as a designated agency and adoption service provider.

Condition 1

This agency may provide:

- statutory out-of-home care (foster care and residential care)
- supported out-of-home care (home based care and residential care)
- domestic adoption services (statutory out-of-home care to adoption)

Condition 2

This agency must verify online the Working with Children Check clearance, or in the absence of a clearance, an application for:

- each staff member in child-related work or in a child-related role
- each volunteer in child-related work or in a child-related role
- each authorised carer
- each adult residing with an authorised carer
- each prospective adoptive parent
- each adult residing with a prospective adoptive parent
- the agency's Principal Officer and
- each member of the agency's governing body

before commencing employment or engagement.

Condition 3

This agency must notify the Children's Guardian in writing when it first provides domestic adoption services. The notice must be given by the next working day after the adoption services are first provided.

Condition 4

This agency must provide to the Children's Guardian direct evidence for assessment in accordance with the *Program to meet Accreditation Criteria – Direct Evidence* (domestic adoption), issued by the Children's Guardian. The direct evidence should include information relating to all subsequent services for children and young people in statutory out-of-home care to adoption.

Condition 5

This agency must comply with the guidelines for the emergency authorisation of staff and contractors, issued by the Children's Guardian.

Condition 6

This agency must maintain records of practice relevant to the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young persons placed with it. These records must be made available to the Children's Guardian for inspection upon request, in written form or an electronic format approved by the Children's Guardian.

Condition 7

This agency must undertake a National Police Check for all employees, contractors and volunteers in child-related work in residential care.

Condition 8

This agency must notify the Children's Guardian in writing each time a child under 12 years of age is placed in residential statutory out-of-home care with the agency. This agency must also notify the Children's Guardian in writing when such placements cease.

Giving false or misleading information to the Children's Guardian is a serious offence.

The Children's Guardian may suspend, shorten or cancel the agency's accreditation if it fails to comply with any of these conditions.

The Children's Guardian may publish details of failure to comply with conditions of accreditation in the Children's Guardian's Annual Report to Parliament.

A decision of the Children's Guardian to impose, not impose, vary or revoke a condition of accreditation is reviewable by the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT), under clause 7 of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Regulation 2012, and clause 125 of the Adoption Regulation 2015, following an internal review by the Children's Guardian. Further information about NCAT and internal reviews may be obtained from NCAT (ph: 1300 006 228).

The Children's Guardian has provided a copy of this notice to the NSW Department of Communities and Justice.

**Janet Schorer PSM
Children's Guardian**