



Office of the Children's Guardian



Accreditation Re-imagined:

Trialling a risk-based approach to the regulation of statutory out-of-home care and adoption services in NSW

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Acknowledgement of Country



I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands that we are meeting here today. I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

I also acknowledge and pay my respects to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people/colleagues joining us today.

The Office of the Children's Guardian





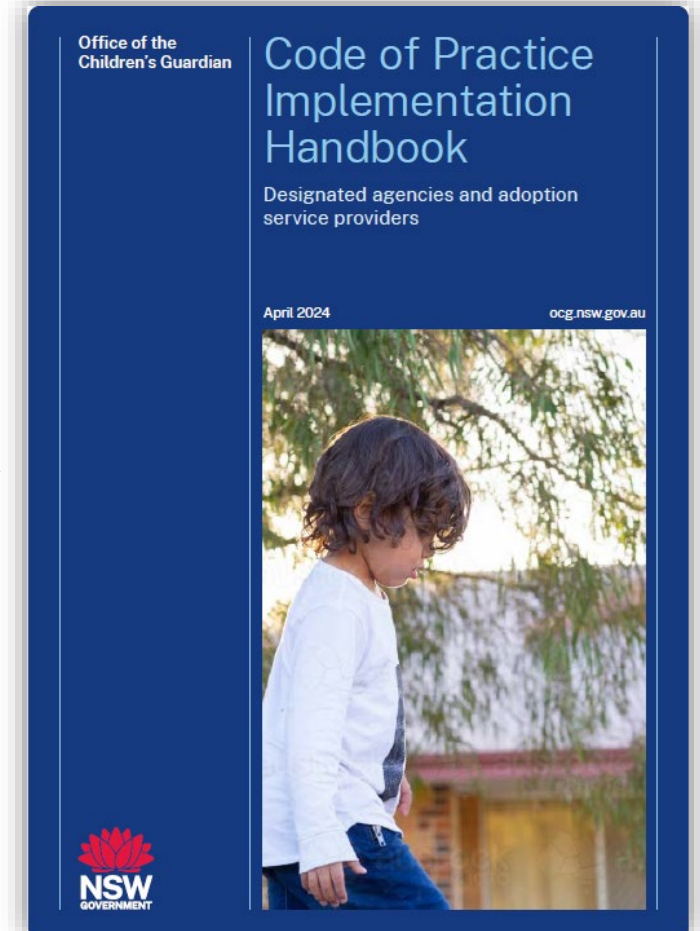
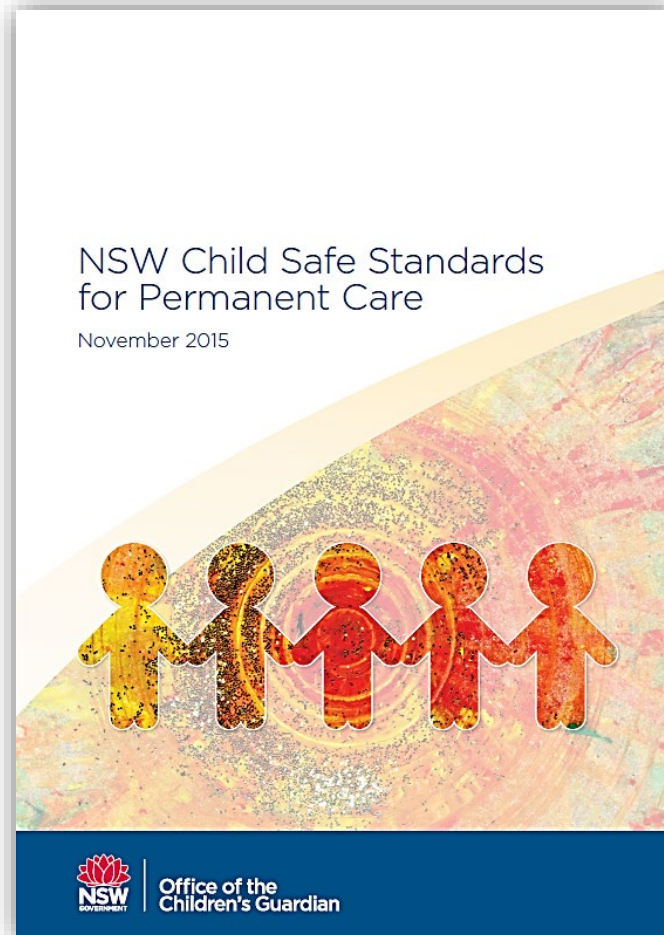
OOHC Systems and Regulation Directorate



Oversee statutory out-of-home care and adoption services in NSW, helping to keep children safe when they're unable to live at home

Accreditation to provide OOHC and adoption services

Children's Guardian Act 2019



Moving from the Standards to the Code of Practice

Regulation under the 23 Standards

- ✓ Principle based
- ✓ Not prescriptive which allows:
 - flexibility
 - compliance monitored via onsite assessments
- ✓ Accreditation renewal assessment method – every agency undergoes a full renewal assessment regardless of history of compliance

Regulation under the Code of Practice

- ✓ Principle based
- ✓ Not prescriptive which allows:
 - flexibility
 - compliance monitored via a mix of onsite assessment and agency updates.
- ✓ Accreditation renewal assessment method – agency assessment based on history of compliance and the effectiveness of their QA and CI systems

Activity – ‘Put a finger up if...’



What are the potential risks in the sector?

Poor child
safe culture

Lack of quality
continuous
improvement
systems to mitigate
risks and improve
practice

Ongoing
regulatory
activities

Poorly
supported
or trained
workforce

Lack of
sound
governance

Inadequate
incident
management
systems

Background to the new approach



Consultation
feedback
from the
sector



Point in time
assessments do
not promote
continuous
improvement



Focus should be on
agency systems



Monitoring should
focus on systems
that support
quality assurance
and continuous
improvement

Purpose of our changing approach



Risk based regulation



Assessments focus on QA
and CI systems and processes

What we want to achieve

Reduce administrative burden

Agencies have effective QA and CI systems

Clearer picture of agency compliance over time

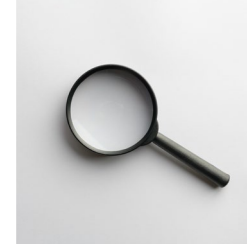
Recognise compliance with streamlined accreditation

Effective regulatory responses for non-compliance

Better use of information we have access to

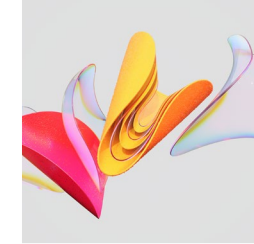
Why this work is important

Regulatory
framework
that is fit for
purpose



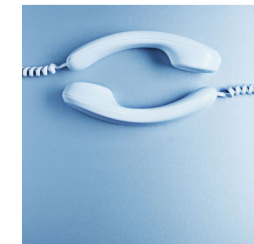
Refocus resources
and effort

Risk based regulation
= agility



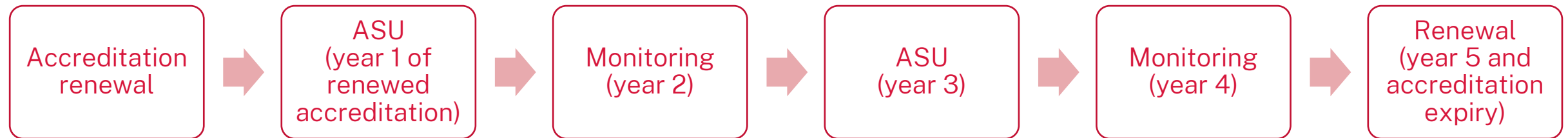
Focus on quality
assurance and
continuous
improvement systems

Regular contact but
briefer engagement



Monitoring to renewal framework

Five year accreditation cycle example



Types of renewal assessment

Direct

Abridged

Full

Example of direct renewal in practice

Renewal assessment

Monitoring assessment

- stable governance structure
- sound QA and CI systems
- limited areas for improvement
- responsive to OCG feedback

Agency Status Update

- responded to feedback from monitoring visit
- examples of CI activities
- evidence of critical reflection

Recommending a direct renewal

- OCG gathered information internally and from external stakeholders
- evidence gathered confirmed agency was 'low risk'

Children's Guardian renewed accreditation for a period of 5 years

Key messages

- Different accreditation renewal process
- Risk based approach determines level of contact
- Agency updates will be part of monitoring
- Focus on agencies quality assurance and continuous improvement systems

Questions?

Comments?





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