



declared care teams

Declared Care Teams

Children and Young People Act 2008

A guide for team members and staff

Under the *The Children and Young People Act 2008*, the Chief Executive or delegate of the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services can declare a Care Team.

What is a Declared Care Team?

A Declared Care Team facilitates information sharing among individuals and entities working for the child, young person, young adult or family.

Who

Senior staff of Care and Protection Services, Community Youth Justice and Quamby/Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, are delegated to declare a Care Team. Other sections of the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support (OCYFS) involved with the child, young person, young adult or family may join a declared Care Team.

A person or entity may be a member of a Care Team if the Chief Executive or delegate is satisfied that the person or entity is responsible for coordinating or delivering a service or care to the child or young person (or a young adult for youth justice matters) OR a member of the child or young person's family under the Act OR for a criminal proceeding under another Territory law (including proceedings and young offenders subject to good behaviour orders under the *Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005*).

When is a Care Team declared?

A Care Team may be declared for an individual child or young person. in many situations including:

- Emergency situations – up to 2 weekday working days - to facilitate information sharing among involved professionals/people;
- Single event situations – where for a single event, declaring a Care Team would facilitate information sharing;
- Ongoing situations – where there is an ongoing need for people working for a child or young person to work together and share information.





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Responsibilities of Care Team coordinator/members

Children, young people and parents should be advised by the Care Team Coordinator that there is a declared Care Team concerning a child, young person or young adult that shares information about their safety and well being.

Views expressed by a child, young person or young adult should be considered in line with the principles of the Act. The exceptions to this requirement are when it is not considered in the child or young person's best interests or the person is a young adult (youth justice).

When a Care Team is declared, members are provided with information about the Care Team membership by the Care Team Coordinator – and if possible – a copy of the Care Team Declaration Form.

Information identifying details of carers (foster carers and kinship carers) must remain confidential to ensure the safety of the children and young people concerned.

Members of the Care Team may receive different levels of information from staff from OCYFS, in accordance with the need to have the information, and in the best interests of the children or young people.

Care Team members must keep the Care Team Coordinator abreast of relevant information shared between members. This will enable informed decisions to be made by the Care Team Coordinator.

Care Team members are 'information holders' under the Act. Information holders have a legal responsibility to protect the information they have received about children and young people under the Act.

This responsibility extends to people who have had a past involvement with a child or young person under the Act or prior legislations. For more detailed information please refer to www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocyfs/legislation .

Members of the Care Team may share 'safety and well being information' with Care Team members and this information is protected (and may be sensitive) information under the Act.

Members of the Care Team are required to record information shared as a member of the Care Team and must ensure the records identify this information as protected information under the Act.





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Leaving a care team

A person may cease to be a member of a Care Team by personal request or by a decision made by the Care Team Coordinator (approved by the authorised delegate). The Care Team Coordinator is to advise members of the Care Team of membership changes.

When does a Care Team stop operating?

A Care Team automatically ceases its functions when CPS/YJ involvement with the child or young person has been finalised or if the authorised delegate decides a declared Care Team is no longer appropriate and/or necessary.

Find out more

More information about Declared Care Teams can be found at:

www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocyfs/legislation or contact the Care Team Coordinator.

Care Team Coordinator

Tel:

Team Leader/Assistant Manager

Tel:

Care Team members _____