



# Children & Young People Act 2008

**The new *Children and Young People Act 2008*: Helping children and young people be safe, supported and valued by the community. Information from the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.**

Thank you for participating in this information initiative about the *Children and Young People Act 2008*.

February is here and the final provisions of the *Children and Young People Act 2008* are about to commence. Here is some more information about what is happening.

## **Implementation of Stage 3**

**The 3rd stage of implementation of the *Act* will commence on 27 February 2009, and will include:**

- Childcare Services provisions (chapter 20);
- Research involving children and young people (chapter 22);
- Community Youth Justice provisions relating to the amendment of other relevant legislation;
- Children and Youth Services Council (chapter 2); and
- Miscellaneous provisions (chapter 26).

## **Changes to the Childcare Services provisions (ch 20)**

- *ACT Childcare Services Standards* replace the Conditions for Approval in Principle and Licences (s 748 & s 886);
- Removal of the Approval in Principle period before a full childcare licence is issued;
- A formal assessment of compliance to be conducted each licence period (s 774) will be introduced;
- *Temporary Standards Exemptions* replace Condition Variations to enable services to continue operating if they are unable to comply, but are able to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children (s 748);
- Increased information will be made available to the public regarding compliance with the standards:
  - An annual *Childcare Standards Report* (s 775) published on the ACT Government Legislation Register;
  - *Temporary Standards Exemptions* published on the ACT Government Legislation Register; and
  - Notification to parent/guardians of confirmed or amended *Compliance Notices* (s 760).





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## **Research Involving Children and Young People (ch 22)**

The inclusion of these provisions in the *Act* highlights the importance of evidence based research relating to children and young people. It formalises the following practices:

- approving research projects (s 807 & s 809);
- assessing researchers as suitable entities (as per Part 2.4);
- setting research standards (s 808);
- approving an ethics committee (s 810); and
- sharing information about children and young people (s 854).

## **Children and Youth Services Council**

A new Children and Youth Services Council, which replaces the existing Children's Services Council will be established under the *Act* (Part 2.2).

The Children and Youth Services Council has the following functions:

1. to report to the Minister for Children and Youth, at the Minister's request, on anything relating to the operation or administration of the *Act*; and
2. to make recommendations to the Minister about services for children and young people in the ACT.

A process is underway to appoint the new council members.

## **Reminders**

We welcome any feedback you may wish to provide us. If, at any point you decide that you do not wish to be provided with this information, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will ensure that you are removed from the distribution list.

Remember that primary sources are always a good start, so try checking out the *Act* directly at [www.dhcs.act.gov.au/OCYFS/legislation](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/OCYFS/legislation).

If you have any questions please contact:

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