

# Looking After Children framework

## Information for parents and guardians

### What is the Looking After Children framework?

Looking After Children is a planning framework that is used for children and young people who are living away from their families in a supported care arrangement. It focuses on making sure that a child or young person's day-to-day needs are met while they are in the care of a service provider.

### What does it involve?

Looking After Children is designed to capture and respond to a child's changing needs as they grow and develop. The framework includes a set of planning tools that cover the things that are important to consider for children such as their development and well-being, education, family and happiness.

Looking After Children uses a team approach to facilitate good care, shared responsibility and better communication between the service provider supporting the arrangement, case manager, your child's carers and you

Planning occurs at the beginning of your child's placement and then at least every six months while your child remains in care. The framework includes ways to gather and share information, check on your child's progress and regular planning and review to identify your child's needs and how they can be best met.

### How will I be involved in planning for my child's care?

The Looking After Children framework recognises the importance of parents and guardians continuing to be involved in the day to day care arrangements for their child while in care. In most circumstances, parents will have an important role in their child's care team. The Care Manager overseeing your child's placement will be responsible for leading the care team and coordinating the planning processes, such as the care and assessment plans. This will include sharing information about your child that will be important for others caring for your child to know, and participating in planning and review of your child's care plan.

### Where can I find out more?

For more information about the Looking After Children framework contact the service provider that supports your child's care arrangement visit <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ds>

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please phone 1300 336 731 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required.

This document is also available as a Word file and a PDF file on the internet at [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability)

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