

# Who can say OK?

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A quick guide to  
decision making for  
family based carers



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Child Protection

The **Who can say OK?** quick guide has been developed to support you in your important role as a family based carer. Here you'll find basic information about which decisions you can make on your own, and those that will require support from DCP. These are everyday decisions all families make about children and young people, such as what to do when there's a medical issue, getting a new hair cut or going on a holiday.

This quick guide does not cover every decision you need to make. For more comprehensive information, see the full **Who can say OK? booklet**, available on the DCP website at [childprotection.sa.gov.au](http://childprotection.sa.gov.au). Carers should discuss decision making with the DCP case worker or the carer support worker in situations where they are uncertain about who can provide consent.

This quick guide does not cover specific details regarding financial aspects of decisions. Carers should refer to the **Carer Support Payments handbook** and the **Carer Reference - Who pays for what?** for up-to-date payment information. These resources are available on the DCP website at [childprotection.sa.gov.au](http://childprotection.sa.gov.au).



## Education

Education is essential for the development and wellbeing of all children and young people. All children and young people between 6 and 16 years must by law be enrolled in school and fully participate in their school's education program.

|  | Carer | DCP |
|--|-------|-----|
| Enrolment at pre-school or school                              |       | ✓   |
| Enrolment and transfer to a new school                         |       | ✓   |
| Supporting day to day attendance at pre-school or school       | ✓     |     |
| Consent for low-risk school activities and excursions (in SA)  | ✓     |     |
| Consent for camps (in SA for up to two nights)                 | ✓     |     |
| Consent for camps (interstate or for longer than two nights)   |       | ✓   |
| Out-of-school-hours care (unplanned or infrequent arrangement) | ✓     |     |
| Out-of-school-hours care (planned or frequent arrangement)     |       | ✓   |



## Health

It is essential that all children and young people have access to quality health care to address their medical needs and support their healthy development. Who can make health decisions on behalf of a child or young person in care depends on the seriousness of the medical intervention.

|  | Carer | DCP |
|--|-------|-----|
| Applying for Medicare cards for children under 15 years (young people aged 15 years and over can apply for a Medicare card themselves)                                     |       | ✓   |
| Applying for Health Care Cards   | ✓     |     |
| Calling an ambulance   | ✓     |     |
| Immunisation where a child or young person is subject to a guardianship order (consent of birth family required where child or young person is subject to a custody order) |       | ✓   |
| Routine medical and dental treatment   | ✓     |     |
| The administration of routine or prescribed medications in accordance with medical advice  | ✓     |     |
| Urgent medical treatment (where the procedure is not high risk or an end-of-life decision)   | ✓*    |     |
| General anaesthetic and surgical procedures  |       | ✓   |

\*In consultation with a medical practitioner and, where possible, the DCP supervisor.



# National Disability Insurance Scheme

When a child or young person who is identified as having a disability or developmental delay enters care, or is diagnosed after they enter care, they may be eligible to become a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participant. While the DCP case worker is the parental representative and is responsible for decisions related to the NDIS, where appropriate and possible, the child or young person and the carer should be involved in the access request, planning and review processes to achieve best outcomes.

|   | Carer | DCP |
|---|-------|-----|
| Connection with NDIS partner for NDIS   |       | ✓   |
| Management of the NDIS plan (and any review)  |       | ✓   |
| Selecting NDIS plan funded service providers (in consultation with carers where possible) |       | ✓   |
| Taking the child or young person to appointments  | ✓     |     |



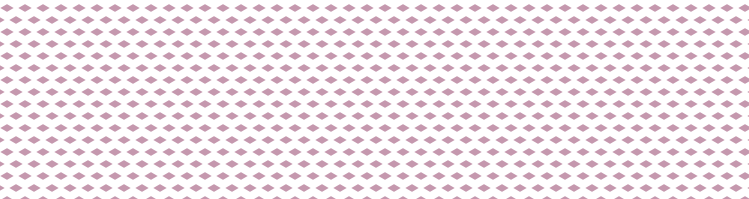
# Identity and connection with family

Carers should actively support all children and young people in their care to engage in activities that promote a connection to family, community, language, religion and culture. This should occur in consultation with the DCP case worker as part of a child or young person's Aboriginal Cultural Identity Support Tool, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Identity Support Tool, or as part of their case plan.

Maintaining contact with family or kin will enhance a child or young person's psychological wellbeing and identity. Contact can be arranged with a parent, sibling, or extended family members, including cultural family members.

|   | Carer | DCP |
|---|-------|-----|
| Arranging contact with family members   |       | ✓   |
| Attendance at cultural events and activities  | ✓     |     |
| Recognising a significant event in a child or young person's life (birthday, Christmas, religious festival) | ✓     |     |
| Registering a change of name for a child or young person  |       | ✓   |
| Media publication or broadcasts about a child or young person   |       | ✓   |
| Haircuts or hair braiding (in consultation with child or young person)                                      | ✓*    |     |
| Payment of pocket money   | ✓     |     |

\*In consultation with birth family where a hairstyle is culturally significant.





## Legal matters

There will be times when the child or young person in your care can legally make their own decisions, and times when you will need to consult with DCP. As a carer you are expected to guide and support the child or young person when decisions of a legal nature are needed.

|   | Carer | DCP |
|---|-------|-----|
| Opening a bank account for a child or young person  |       | ✓   |
| Holding money on behalf of a child or young person  |       | ✓   |
| Applying for victims of crime compensation on behalf of a child or young person   |       | ✓   |
| Attending police interviews with a child or young person as an appropriate adult (DCP should arrange legal representation for a child or young person, as required) | ✓     | ✓   |
| Payment of bail and fines incurred by a child or young person   |       | ✓   |
| Obtaining a child or young person's birth certificate   |       | ✓   |



## Missing or absent children and young people

Carers should follow the guidance provided for in the [Family based carers: Missing or absent from placement fact sheet](#) when a child or young person in care is missing or absent. The fact sheet is available on the DCP website at [childprotection.sa.gov.au](http://childprotection.sa.gov.au).

|   | Carer | DCP |
|---|-------|-----|
| Making a missing person report in an emergency situation requiring an immediate call to SAPOL | ✓     |     |
| Making a missing person report following an initial attempt to locate a child or young person | ✓     |     |
| Authorising a public media campaign   |       | ✓   |



## Mobile phones and the internet

A request from a child or young person for a mobile phone is considered a day-to-day decision that all families must make. Decision making about mobile phone and internet use should consider the child or young person's age and level of vulnerability, and what supervision should be put in place to support online safety.

Carers should discuss concerns about mobile phone or internet use of a child or young person in care with the DCP case worker.

|  | Carer | DCP |
|--|-------|-----|
| Mobile phone use and supervision   | ✓     |     |
| Internet use and supervision   | ✓     |     |
| Posting images of children and young people on social media (making appropriate safety and privacy considerations) | ✓     |     |



## Preparation for adulthood

All parents face challenges when making decisions for a young person as they approach adulthood. Carers must balance protecting a young person in their care while allowing them the freedom to make their own decisions. Carers should include young people in decision making, and provide guidance that gives a young person every opportunity to make decisions in their best interests.

|  | Carer | DCP |
|--|-------|-----|
| Transition from care planning                                    |       | ✓   |
| Arranging housing for a young person leaving care                |       | ✓   |
| Supporting a young person to obtain a driver's licence           | ✓     |     |
| Supporting a young person to attend driving lessons              | ✓     |     |
| Supporting a young person to commence employment or volunteering | ✓     |     |



## Sleepovers and babysitting

Allowing a child or young person to sleepover with friends contributes to their development as an individual and builds confidence and resilience. Particular care should be taken to ensure the child or young person is going to a safe environment. DCP approval of a sleepover arrangement is required for stays of 3 nights or more, or where a formal alternative care arrangement (such as respite care) is established. Carers should discuss any concerns or uncertainty about plans for overnight stays with the DCP case worker.

|   | Carer | DCP |
|---|-------|-----|
| Babysitting (up to 2 nights)  | ✓     |     |
| Overnight stays (up to 2 nights)  | ✓     |     |
| Overnight stays (3 nights or more)  |       | ✓   |
| Formal child care attendance (including long day care, family day care and occasional care) |       | ✓   |
| Formal respite care arrangements  |       | ✓   |



## Travel, sport and recreation

Carers are encouraged to include children in their care on family trips and holidays where this does not conflict with the child or young person's case plan or family contact. Remember to always keep your DCP case worker informed about travel plans and provide contact details and travel dates.

|   | Carer | DCP |
|---|-------|-----|
| Passport applications for a child or young person         |       | ✓   |
| Travel within SA  | ✓     |     |
| Interstate day trips                                      | ✓     |     |
| Interstate overnight trips                                |       | ✓   |
| Overseas trips  |       | ✓   |
| Low to moderate risk recreational and sporting activities | ✓     |     |
| Higher-risk recreational and sporting activities          |       | ✓   |

# Useful contacts

## Review and complaints

### DCP Central Complaints and Feedback Management Unit

t: 1800 003 305

e: [DCPComplaintsandFeedback@sa.gov.au](mailto:DCPComplaintsandFeedback@sa.gov.au)

### South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT)

t: 1800 723 767

e: [sacat@sacat.sa.gov.au](mailto:sacat@sacat.sa.gov.au)

w: [sacat.sa.gov.au](http://sacat.sa.gov.au)

### Ombudsman SA

t: 1800 182 150

e: [ombudsman@ombudsman.sa.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.sa.gov.au)

w: [ombudsman.sa.gov.au](http://ombudsman.sa.gov.au)

## Support for children and young people

### DCP Central Complaints and Feedback Management Unit

t: 1800 003 305

e: [DCPComplaintsandFeedback@sa.gov.au](mailto:DCPComplaintsandFeedback@sa.gov.au)

### The Guardian for Children and Young People (GCYP)

t: 1800 275 664 or 8226 8570

e: [gcyp@gcyp.sa.gov.au](mailto:gcyp@gcyp.sa.gov.au)

w: [gcyp.sa.gov.au](http://gcyp.sa.gov.au)

### The Commissioner for Children and Young People

t: 08 8226 3355

e: [CommissionerCYP@sa.gov.au](mailto:CommissionerCYP@sa.gov.au)

w: [ccyp.com.au](http://ccyp.com.au)

### The Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

t: 08 8226 3353

e: [CommissionerACYP@sa.gov.au](mailto:CommissionerACYP@sa.gov.au)

w: [cacyp.com.au](http://cacyp.com.au)

### The CREATE Foundation

t: 1800 655 105

e: [sa@create.org.au](mailto:sa@create.org.au)

w: [create.org.au](http://create.org.au)

## Support for carers

### Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers

t: 1800 732 272

e: [support@cfc-sa.org.au](mailto:support@cfc-sa.org.au)

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and agencies

### Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFSS)

t: 8205 1500

e: [afss@afss.com.au](mailto:afss@afss.com.au)

w: [afss.com.au](http://afss.com.au)

### Watto Purrinna Aboriginal Primary Health Care Service

t: 8182 9206

### Nunkuwarn Yunti of SA Inc. - Health Services

t: 08 8406 1600

### Nunkuwarn Yunti's Link-Up SA Program

t: 08 8406 1600

e: [nunku@nunku.org.au](mailto:nunku@nunku.org.au)

### DeadlyKidsSA

e: [HealthDeadlyKidsSA@sa.gov.au](mailto:HealthDeadlyKidsSA@sa.gov.au)

## Legal services

### Legal Services Commission

t: 1300 366 424

e: [lsc.sa.gov.au](http://lsc.sa.gov.au)

### Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM)

t: 8113 3777 or **free call:** 1800 643 222

e: [CivilFamilyLaw@alrm.org.au](mailto:CivilFamilyLaw@alrm.org.au)

w: [alrm.org.au](http://alrm.org.au)

## Alternative DCP contracts

### DCP After-Hours line

t: 13 16 11



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