Step by Step OPG Carer Competencies

Step by Step OPG Competencies	Criteria
Attitudes and connections	Motivation is realistic and appropriate
	Network of support is in place
	Financial stability is demonstrated
	Cultural differences are understood and valued
	Aboriginal cultural competence is demonstrated by active participation in networks within Aboriginal communities, understanding extended family and kinship relationships in an Aboriginal context and use of Aboriginal community organisations and key people providing relevant services
	Attitude to birth families is non-judgemental and recognises the benefit to children having contact with their birth family
Personal resilience	Life history demonstrates ability to form secure attachments
	Trauma has been constructively addressed and adversity has prompted reflection, learning and growth
	Stress is dealt with realistically and constructively
	Relationship is supportive, characterised by warmth, constructive patterns of decision making and dealing with conflict
	Focus is on meeting the needs of the child who is the subject of the guardianship order, in the context of dealing with a wish to have own child
Child focused nurture	Care characterised by warmth, nurture, empathy and playfulness is demonstrated
	Understanding of the effects of developmental trauma is demonstrated
	Ability to promote the positive self-image of children is demonstrated
	The connection between children and their birth family and culture is supported
	Needs of children at different stages of development can be identified and met
	Difficult and challenging behaviour of children can be responded to appropriately
	The impact of providing care on own children is identified and can be responded to appropriately
Working with others	Complex interactions with service providers can be initiated and directed
	Educational engagement of children can be promoted
	Safe contact between a child and their family can be initiated and maintained
	Willingness and ability to develop skills in caring is demonstrated