



Ongoing intervention: Family reunification flowchart

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Child or young person enters care (under a [Voluntary Custody Agreement or short-term order](#))

DCP case worker [assesses and responds to the child or young person's needs](#) and undertakes concurrent planning. Refer to the DCP Assessment Framework for guidance. Undertake scoping for long-term kinship care placements as part of concurrent planning. For Aboriginal children and young people, seek family members' views about potential placement options and consider how best to support the child or young person's meaningful connection to family, kin, community and Country. Consider placement options that support children and young people from CALD backgrounds to maintain connection to family, community, language, religion (where applicable) and culture in accordance with the Culturally and linguistically diverse child placement policy.

DCP case worker [refers to reunification service providers](#)
Contact the service provider for advice about referral criteria and timeframes. Consider culturally appropriate service providers as appropriate. Prepare referral form, seek supervisor approval and submit to service provider in C3MS.

OR

DCP case worker refers to Newpin reunification program
Discuss the referral with family and their willingness to participate. Submit referral form and family's signed consent to share information, seek supervisor approval and submit to the DCP Program Manager via [email](#).

DCP case worker works with reunification service provider to plan and confirm what services will be provided to meet the family's needs

- Attend planning meeting with the service provider to discuss how best to meet the family's needs
- Review the service provider's written estimate of hours and activities (note Newpin referrals do not require an estimate)
- Sign the estimate and seek supervisor endorsement
- Upload estimate in C3MS and email to service provider and DCP Contracts and Licensing within one business day
- Place a copy of the estimate in the child or young person's hardcopy file.

DCP case worker makes referral to other service providers or support services (as required)

Consider:

- the child protection concerns and what interventions are required
- whether interventions is required to repair or strengthen the relationship between the child or young person and parents or guardians.

DCP case worker provides case management services to support reunification

Establish a care team. Arrange regular care team meetings to monitor progress and make timely decisions. Undertake regular placement visits. Undertake regular home visits with parents or guardians. Work with service providers to support parents or guardians or the child or young person and to monitor progress. Monitor family contact arrangements.

Undertake regular case management activities

Note, a decision about the validity of reunification must be made within six months for children under two years OR 12 months for children and young people older than two years.

DCP case worker reviews progress and assesses evidence of change

Complete [SDM® Family Reunification assessments](#) every four to six weeks. Hold reunification review meetings. Attend Reunification Court hearings as required.

Further progress required

Review the [case plan](#) and/or contact determinations as required

Develop and issue a new case plan to reflect updated outcomes and actions.

Further progress required

Child protection concerns addressed

Child protection concerns not addressed, reunification not proceeding

Reunification not proceeding

DCP case worker consults with supervisor to decide whether to proceed with reunification

Seek additional advice from a practice leader, Principal Aboriginal Consultant and/or DCP Multicultural Services where required. Record the consultation and outcome in accordance with the [Consult or Decision Record Procedure](#)

Reunification proceeding

DCP case worker prepares reunification transition plan

Engage the child or young person, parents or guardians and carer. Consider roles and responsibilities, services and supports required (including longer-term supports and strategies), and [referring for a FGC](#).

DCP case worker implements and monitors the reunification transition plan in partnership with the parents or guardians

Meet regularly with the child or young person and their parents or guardians. Undertake regular assessment using [SDM®](#) tools and the DCP Assessment Framework. Review or amend the reunification transition plan as required.

Child or young person is reunified (where assessed as safe to proceed)

DCP case worker provides post-reunification support

- Work in partnership with the child or young person, parents or guardians, service providers and other family and community supports
- Identify and manage risks
- Develop a plan for how service providers will continue to support the family (with reduction in intensity over time)
- Meet regularly with the child or young person and their parents or guardians to monitor and review post-reunification supports
- Regularly re-assess the child or young person's safety

DCP case worker considers case closure criteria and consults with the supervisor

Consider whether the child or young person is safe at home and support is no longer required from DCP. Ensure other case closure criteria have been met. Record the outcome of the consultation in accordance with the [Consult or Decision Record Procedure](#).

Child or young person is assessed as safe at home

DCP case worker undertakes [case closure](#)

Consult with the senior practitioner and supervisor to ensure case closure criteria have been met. In circumstances where criteria are not met, [SDM Risk Reassessment](#) remains high and manager approval to close is sought:

- consult with a practice leader (and PAC and DCP Multicultural Services as appropriate)
 - record in accordance with the [Consult or Decision Record Procedure](#)
 - refer to the DCP Assessment Framework for guidance about case closure in exceptional circumstances.
- Close the case and provide written notice of case closure to the family and relevant stakeholders.

DCP case worker [seeks long-term orders](#) as soon as practicable

To be read in conjunction with [Undertake family reunification](#) in the Ongoing intervention chapter of the Manual of Practice.