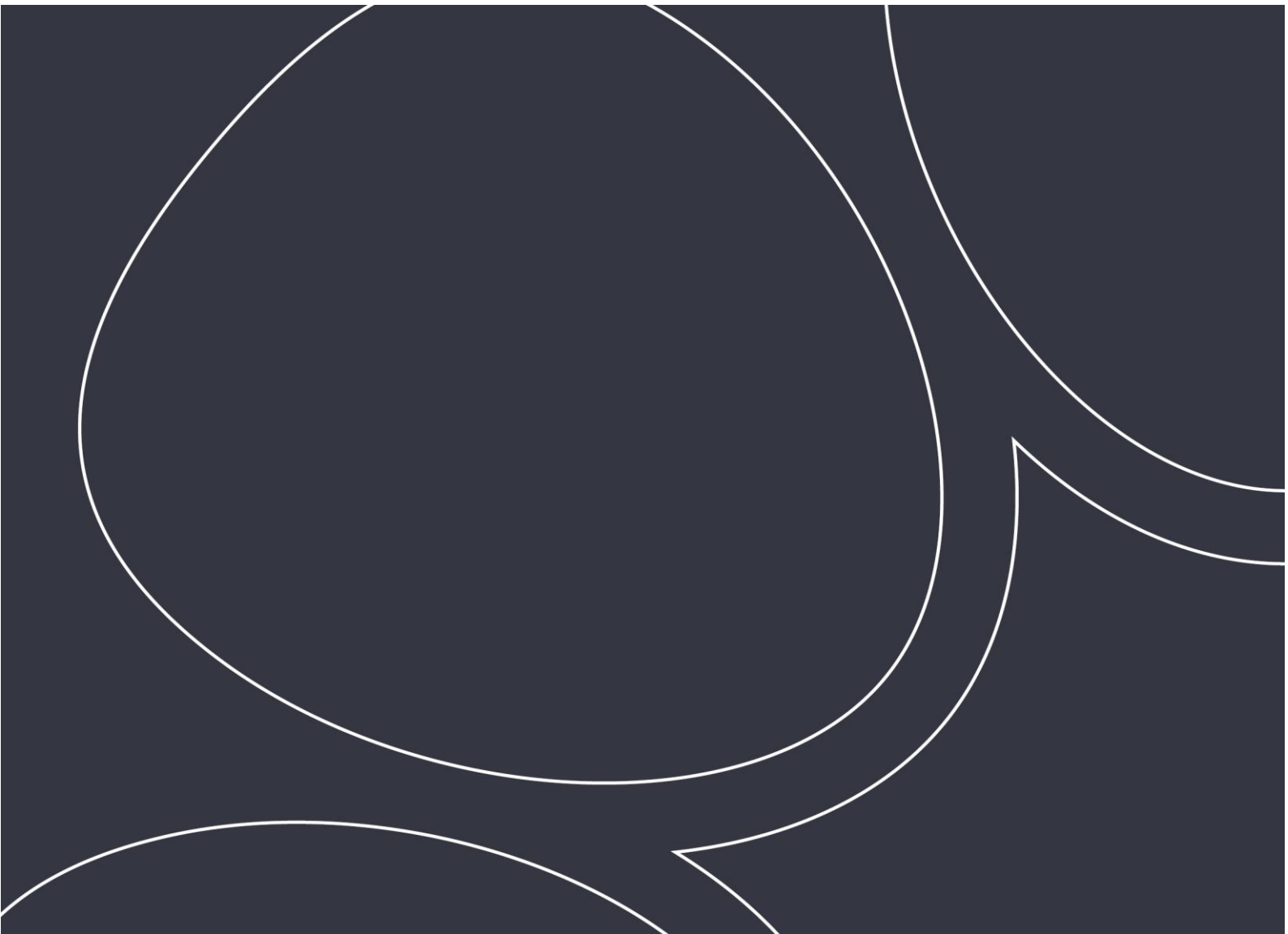


Transition to Independence

Policy



Document title	Transition to Independence
Contact details	Department of Children and Families Operational Policy DCF.Policy@nt.gov.au
Approved by	Executive Leadership Board
Date approved	28/08/2025
Document review	24 months from date of approval
TRM number	61:F2022/00376

Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1.0	04/03/2022	Operational Policy	Merging of the Transition to Independence Policy and the After Care Support Policy to better align with the Act. Updated information to align with legislative reform s85B of the Act.
1.01	27/01/2023	Operational Policy	Updated to align with CARE.
1.02	15/09/2025	Operational Policy	Revised document in plain language. Updated the department name to the Department of Children and Families. Aligned the policy with the After Care Support (ACS) policy, clarified the purpose, and added staff responsibilities. Revised sections 3.1 and 3.2 for better readability.

Acronym	Full form
ACS	After Care Support
ACW	Aboriginal Community Worker
APA	Aboriginal Practice Advisor
BSU	Business Support Unit
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
Practitioner	Child Protection Practitioner
the Act	Care and Protection of Children Act 2007
the Department	Department of Children and Families
TIPL	Transition to independence practice leader
TTI	Transition to Independence

Term	Definitions
A young person who has left the care of the CEO	A person who is between 15 – 25 years of age, has left the CEO's care, was last in the CEO's care continuously for six months and is unlikely to return to care in the future. Exceptions may apply for children who were in care for several years, reunified with family and returned to care for less than six months.

Contents

1. Purpose	4
2. Scope	4
3. Policy statement	4
Transitioning from care.....	4
Assistance for young people.....	4
Responsibilities	5
3.1.1. Practitioners.....	5
3.1.2. Cultural staff	5
4. Legislative basis	5
5. Related documents	5

1. Purpose

This policy requires the Department of Children and Families (the Department) to support long-term stability for young people who are transitioning to independence.

The Department aims to collaborate with young people developing Transition to Independence (TTI) care plans and inform young people about [After Care Support \(ACS\)](#) before they leave the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) care.

2. Scope

This policy is for young people aged 15 to 17 years in the CEO's care, all Department staff involved in TTI care planning, carers, and legal guardians who participate in TTI and ACS decision making.

3. Policy statement

The Department must support young people who are transitioning to independence and those who have left the CEO's care under sections 85A, 85B, and 68 of the *Care and Protection of Children 2007* (the Act).

Every young person must have a care plan referred to in sections 70 and 71 of the Act and be informed about ACS and other available support, including provisions set out in Division 5 before they leave the CEO's care.

TTI care planning is a process that works to develop a written plan with young people that documents their needs and sets out a plan of how the Department will support them to transition to independence when they leave the care of the CEO.

Transitioning from care

TTI care planning is a case management process that commences when a young person is 15 years of age. It focuses on life skill development and the development of self-sufficiency to become an independent adult. TTI care plans identify permanency goals for young people and sets out agreed actions and goals to prepare for successful transition to independence after they turn 18 years of age.

TTI care plans must:

- be written in plain language.
- be reviewed at least every six months.
- include cultural needs.
- outline immediate, short-term, and longer-term needs to support after care.
- outline steps to address needs.

Assistance for young people

The Department is able to provide practical and financial assistance to young people who are aged 15 or over to assist them in transitioning to independence. Refer to s85A of the Act. Section 68 of the Act provides a definition of a young person.

The young person is entitled to receive practical and financial assistance to maintain appropriate living and support arrangements from when they leave care aged 18 until they turn 22 years of age. Refer to s85B of the Act.

The CEO may request a public authority (e.g. health, housing) to provide prioritised access services to a child or young person who has left the CEO's care or a member of their family, if the child or young person is at risk of significant harm. Refer to s43 of the Act.

Assessment of the known level of assistance that should be provided to a young person having regard for their situation, safety, and wellbeing is undertaken as part of TTI care planning. Details of practical and financial assistance to be provided to assist a young person's transition to independence is to be documented in their TTI care plan.

Responsibilities

3.1.1. Practitioners

Practitioners must develop TTI care plans that reflect a young person's views and wishes. For this to happen, practitioners, with the support of their team leader and/or Transition to Independence Practice Leader, must create supportive conditions that encourage participation. Planning for a young person's transition to independence is an inclusive process that includes working with young people, their families, carers and any other significant person to the young person.

3.1.2. Cultural staff

Cultural staff act as advisors in all critical case work decisions. An Aboriginal Community Worker (ACW) or Aboriginal Practice Advisor (APA) must be involved in case planning for Aboriginal young people. This includes involvement in key decision making forums and TTI care planning.

4. Legislative basis

TTI provisions are outlined in Part 2.2, Division 5, Sections 85A, 85B and 86 of the Act.

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)

5. Related documents

This policy must be read with other related documents, including but not limited to:

- [Aboriginal Cultural Security Framework](#)
- [After Care Support Policy](#)
- [After Care Support Practice Guidance](#)
- [Transition to Independence Practice Guidance](#)