THERAPEUTIC ASSESSMENT REVIEW REPORTS

ENSURING CHILDREN CONTINUE TO GET THE RIGHT SUPPORT AS TIME GOES ON

ACT Government
Community Services

INFOSHEET

In the ACT, *A Step Up for Our Kids* strives to create a therapeutic, trauma-informed care system that helps kids grow up strong, safe and connected. A system where everyone involved – service providers, carers and families – understands the impact trauma has on a child's behaviour, health and development. A system that builds positive, safe and healing relationships and practices because of its understanding of trauma, attachment and child development.



One way we do this is by reviewing a child's care needs each year to ensure the supports they get continue to work for them. We do this by preparing a **Therapeutic Assessment Review Report**.

WHAT IS A THERAPEUTIC ASSESSMENT REVIEW REPORT?

A Therapeutic Assessment Review Report is produced every year following a review of a child's needs.

The review is similar to the therapeutic assessment that happened when the child came into care and looks at what progress their Care Team has made in achieving the original assessment's recommendations.

The purpose of the review report is to collate information about any changes to the child's care environment, wellbeing and general health and development, and to update the original recommendations to ensure they remain relevant to the child as they get older.

WHO DOES THE REVIEW AND WRITES THE REPORT?

This depends on which agency has case management responsibility for the child you are caring for.

If your case manager is from CYPS, then a therapeutic assessor from the CYPS Therapeutic Assessment and Planning team will do the review and report – this may not be the same assessor who did the original therapeutic assessment.

If your case manager is from ACT Together, then ACT Together will do the review and report. Consult your ACT Together case manager for more information on this process.

HOW IS THE REVIEW REPORT DEVELOPED?

Similar to the original therapeutic assessment, the assessor will contact various people involved with the child to learn how the child has been going over the past year. This will include you as their carer, the child, their school and anyone else who may be able to offer relevant information. Strengths and difficulties questionnaires may be used again, but not in all cases.

The assessment process usually takes a few weeks to complete. The assessor will work sensitively with everyone involved.

When conducting assessments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, cultural input will be sought and recommendations relating to the child's cultural needs will be reflected in the child's Cultural Plan and Care Plan.

A Therapeutic Assessment Review Report looks at the progress achieved over the past year. In doing so, it seeks the views of the child, their carer and many other people involved in supporting the child.

WHAT WILL THE REVIEW REPORT INCLUDE?

The review report will include:

> a summary and case analysis of the child's last 12 months, for example:
  - personal progress and achievements
  - attendance and progress at school
  - social and family connections
  - relationship with you as their carer
  - placement stability
  - any concerns or behaviours impacting their development
  - risk and safety issues

> progress against the recommendations from the original Therapeutic Assessment Report

> a comparison of the strengths and difficulties questionnaire results against the previous year new recommendations to support the child and the reasons for them – a recommendation may be to continue a previous recommendation.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once the review report is complete, the therapeutic assessor will meet with you to discuss the recommendations. You will be given a copy of the review report and, if relevant, any resources connected to the information raised in it – such as about child development, support strategies or developmental trauma.

The assessor will also organise a Care Team meeting to go through the report and discuss the recommendations. The Care Team will discuss the recommendations with the view to accept or reject them. Your case manager will use this information to update the child's Case Plan incorporating all agreed recommendations.

The Care Team meeting marks the end of the assessment process. If the review report was prepared by a CYPS therapeutic assessor, their involvement with you and the child also ends at this point.

The Care Team will work together to implement the agreed recommendations in a timely manner, with your case manager continuing to oversee the child's ongoing care needs.

WILL ALL RECOMMENDATIONS BE ACCEPTED?

Everyone in the child's Care Team will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on the report's recommendations.

The case manager is ultimately responsible for making the final decision and following through with implementing the recommendations.

If your case manager decides not to accept a recommendation they are required to clearly document their reason why.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

You are also encouraged to read:

> My Therapeutic Assessment Report (for young people)

> Strengths and difficulties questionnaire

> Carer handbook: The go-to resource for kinship and foster carers in the ACT

CONTACT US!

For additional resources or to have a brief follow-up discussion, contact:

Therapeutic assessor:

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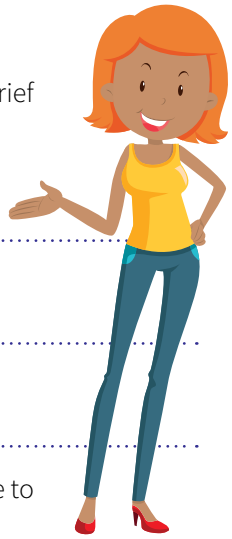
Phone:

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Email:

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Note: All case management queries are to be directed to your case manager.



Note: In this document, 'child' or 'children' also refers to a young person or young people under the age of 18.

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