

Philosophy of Care

Policy

Dunlea Centre will provide the highest standard family preservation and restoration program which has safety, welfare and wellbeing of young people as the highest priority.

Dunlea Centre Residential Program

Dunlea Centre provides a family preservation service to young people and parents/carers in crisis who are voluntarily seeking intensive support to keep their family together. Young people reside onsite from Monday morning to Friday lunchtime, returning home for weekends, school holidays and public holidays. Parents/carers are encouraged to attend Common Sense Parenting workshops at Dunlea Centre to strengthen parenting skills and receive additional support.

Dunlea Centre aims for all young people to return to the full time care of their parents/carers upon completion of the program. Safety issues will always take precedence with regard to transition plans.

When a young person and their parents/carers are seeking an OOHC residential support program they should receive a service which:

- Is designed to meet their specific needs
- Provides them with stability, consistency and the opportunity to be involved in decisions which affect them
- Respects and recognises their privacy and dignity
- Values and assists them to maintain their cultural and language background
- Provides a safe and nurturing environment
- Assists them to develop social and life skills
- Maintains educational opportunity

Dunlea Centre is committed to these principles and to working to keep young people in their homes, in partnership with the Department of Communities and Justice and other service providers. Dunlea Centre is also committed to working with parents, carers and young people on the basis of equality, fairness, honesty and reasonableness to ensure the best possible outcomes in adherence with Out of Home Care Standards.

Dunlea Centre believes that its Philosophy of Care should be based upon legal statutes such as:

- **Guardianship Act 1987 (NSW)**
- **Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)**



- **Disability Discrimination Act 1992**

Dunlea Centre ensures the welfare, safety and wellbeing of young people by fostering their health, developmental needs, self-respect, spirituality and dignity within a safe and nurturing environment. All actions and decisions at Dunlea Centre take account of culture, disability, language, religion and sexuality of young people. Name, identity, language, cultural, religious and family ties are preserved as far as possible and permanency planning principles embraced, with priority given to placement with family.

Young people are given information, assistance and opportunities to express their views and participate in decisions that are likely to impact their lives, according to their age and level of understanding.

Further, in respect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) young people, Dunlea Centre understands ATSI Placement Principles and self-determination is promoted. Special accommodations are made for ATSI and CALD young people as described in Dunlea Centre's ATSI Adaptions and CALD Adaptions policies.

