

# LINKS

## Trauma Healing Service

Trauma treatment for children and young people in out-of-home care

WESTERN & ILLAWARRA



### all hands on deck

LINKS aims to decrease trauma symptoms, increase psychological wellbeing and improve behavioural and emotional functioning for children in out-of-home care.

To achieve these goals multidisciplinary teams provide tailored, holistic interventions.

LINKS includes psychologists, a speech pathologist and an occupational therapist.

### who's eligible?

LINKS is open to children 8 -16 years in out-of-home care (case managed by either DCJ or NGO) who:

- present with trauma-related symptoms and behaviours; AND
- are experiencing placement instability (e.g. 2 or more placements in the last 6 months)

Children and caregivers:

- must be aware of referral; AND
- be willing and supported to attend the office for appointments

Those eligible may include:

- foster or kinship placements at risk of breaking down; AND
- children in transitional placements



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is LINKS Western & Illawarra?

LINKS Western & Illawarra is a multidisciplinary trauma healing service delivered by DCJ Psychological and Specialist Services. Psychologists, occupational therapists, and speech pathologists work collaboratively with children, carers and casework teams to provide holistic, evidence-based interventions. The program aims to decrease trauma symptoms, increase psychological wellbeing, and improve behavioural and emotional functioning for children in out-of-home care.

## What is a transitional placement?

Transitional placements refer to emergency, temporary out-of-home care arrangements including ACA, IPA, STEP, and ICM. LINKS can work with children in these arrangements who meet the referral criteria, with an aim to support the transition to home-based care.

## What areas does LINKS Western & Illawarra service?

LINKS Western is based in Orange but will triage referrals across the district on an individual basis. LINKS Illawarra will service Wollongong, Shellharbour, and Nowra.

## Who can make a referral?

Anyone with case management responsibilities can refer a child to LINKS.

## How do I make a referral?

Internal DCJ referrals for LINKS Western & Illawarra:

1. complete a ChildStory Service Request record and submit for approval

NGO referrals for LINKS Western & Illawarra:

1. complete the LINKS Trauma Healing Service referral form  
<https://linkssupport.dcj.nsw.gov.au/links-trauma-healing-service/referrals>



2. attach the referral to an email and send to [LINKSWesternandIllawarra@dcj.nsw.gov.au](mailto:LINKSWesternandIllawarra@dcj.nsw.gov.au)

LINKS will contact you to discuss the referral and advise next steps.

## Is LINKS appropriate for Aboriginal clients?

LINKS is a culturally sensitive healing service and can be delivered in culturally safe places. Please reach out to discuss individual needs and circumstances.

## Is there a cost involved for clients?

No – LINKS is a free service, there is no cost involved.

## How do I find more information?

Please email [LINKSWesternandIllawarra@dcj.nsw.gov.au](mailto:LINKSWesternandIllawarra@dcj.nsw.gov.au) with questions and referral enquiries.

You can find out more at <https://linkssupport.dcj.nsw.gov.au>