

Checklist: Permanency Case Planning

Information informed and evidence based

Permanency case planning has a strong focus on gathering and sharing **relevant information**.

Check that your case planning includes:

- conversations with a child, their parents, family/kin and carers, and other people significant to them
- the history of reports made and all types of assessments conducted by FACS, funded service providers and external practitioners including safety, risk and risk re-assessments and parenting capacity assessments
- health, education, disability (National Disability Insurance Scheme) and other records about a child's development
- discussion between casework and other practitioners and
- consultation with legal officers, casework specialists, psychologists and any other relevant specialist.

Permanency case planning relies on casework practitioners to use professional judgement and make decisions supported by **evidence-based service models**.

Check that your case planning includes:

- Family Group Conferencing with a child (where age and developmentally appropriate), their parents, family/kin, carers and funded service providers
- Family Finding to explore and build a child's lifelong support network
- Purposeful supervision between leaders, supervisors and casework practitioners including group supervision that supports child-centred decision making.

Task centred

Casework practitioners ensure the case plan includes objectives and tasks using the [SMART framework](#).

Check that your objectives and tasks are:

- Specific** – we identify objectives and tasks most likely to provide a child with a permanent home
- Measurable and motivational** – we review objectives and tasks to make sure we are making progress in achieving the case plan goal and acknowledging the parents and family/kin successes
- Achievable** – we ensure the objectives or tasks are achievable for the child, their parents, family/kin and carers
- Resourced and relevant** – we know objectives or tasks are easier to achieve if they are seen as relevant and important and resources are made available to help them

- Time bound** – we make sure objectives and tasks are achieved within a set period of time, to allow a child to focus on the developmental, educational and social challenges of growing up.

Provides safety

Permanency case planning has a strong focus on helping parents, family/kin and carers make meaningful change to meet a child's **safety needs**.

Check that your case planning includes objectives and tasks that identify:

- how parental behaviour impacts on the child (worries, concerns and risks) and the willingness and capacity of parents to make and sustain meaningful change
- what actions need to occur for the child to be and feel safe and who in a child's support network can be involved in keeping the child safe
- who will take the actions and by when,
- the expectations of parents, family/kin and the role of carers
- the skills parents, family/kin and carers need to help them to safely care for their child and
- what professional support and practical assistance is to be provided.

Meets permanency needs

Permanency case planning has a strong focus on helping parents and family/kin meet their child's **permanency needs**.

Check that your case planning:

- is in line with **permanent placement principles** noting 'the best interests' of a child (section [10A](#) of the Care Act) may mean you consider permanency options such as guardianship and adoption at the same time to determine which is best suited to the child and
- identifies a **case plan goal** along the care continuum, that will provide permanent care arrangements for the child while growing up:
 - for most children (over time), this will be family preservation, restoration, guardianship or open adoption and
 - for a small number of children (over time), this will be foster or intensive therapeutic care (in the parental responsibility of the Minister) when preservation, restoration, guardianship or adoption are not possible.

Responds to the impact of trauma

Permanency case planning has a strong focus on recovering from **the impact of trauma**. In developing the case plan, casework practitioners have conversations with the child, their parents, family/kin and carers about the impact of trauma.

Check that the case plan includes objectives and tasks that will:

- help the child to recover from physical, psychological or emotional harm caused by the trauma they have experienced
- help parents and family/kin identify what they can do to recover from the impact of trauma they have experienced and
- supports parents, family/kin and carers to develop skills, access services and build a support network to help their child recover from trauma.

Builds family strengths and resilience

Permanency case planning has a strong focus on ***family strengths and resilience***.

In developing the case plan, casework practitioners partner with the child, their parents, family/kin and carers.

Check that the case planning *process*:

- acknowledges things that worry the child, parents or family/kin about partnering with FACS, or the funded service provider, such as experiences they may have had with services in the past
- explores the parents and family's needs and goals for family relationships, physical and psychological health, community support and connections with community
- recognises and builds on the strengths of the child, their parents and family, including:
 - things they have done in the past that have helped improve their safety
 - things they can do now to identify, manage and reduce factors that cause vulnerability
- considers what FACS or funded service providers can do to help the parents and family/kin overcome other barriers that cause vulnerability such as having enough income, having adequate housing, being able to access treatment services
- strengthens the parents' readiness to make and sustain the changes needed to safely parent their child; to seek help, to build their self esteem and improve communication skills.