



Changes in Out of Home Care Residential Care Services in the Inner West

We are delighted to announce that the OOHC Inner West Residential Care Services delivered by Stretch-A-Family will transfer to The Burdekin Association.

Stretch-A-Family (SAF) and The Burdekin Association (TBA) have worked collaboratively to create a smooth transition process focused on continuing SAF's important work in providing support to young people in Out of Home Care. All staff will be able to transfer to TBA to provide continuity for the young people and employment to a valued workforce.

SAF and TBA have been in close communication with The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) in negotiating the change.

We would like to thank DCJ for its ongoing support to ensure stability to the young people and ongoing delivery of residential care services in the Inner West. While this is an end of an era for SAF it offers opportunity for TBA to bring its knowledge and experience of service provision to the Inner West.

The changes in the short term will be minimal however in the longer term; the new arrangement is expected to generate more options for the young people in residence. SAF and TBA share a commitment to quality care, innovative practices and specialised support services.

About the Inner West Residential Care Service

The Inner West OOHC residential Care service offers comprised four residential care programs: the On Track Program, Newington House, Stanmore House and Campsie House. These programs offer residential care and support for young people aged 12-18 years of age.

Staff work with the young person and community services to assess if they can return to live with their family, live in foster care or continue to reside in residential care, and also to assess their living skills and support them to continue with school or employment. There is always a member of staff available and staff sleep over to support the young people during the night. All young people have their own bedroom and share common spaces such as the kitchen and lounge area.

Whilst in the residential programs, young people are supported to develop themselves towards living independently once they leave care.

About The Burdekin Association

We are a small bespoke organisation with a track record of more than four decades.

We believe in client focused service and have been recognised for our reform efforts and innovative practice dating back to the 1990s. Former Human Rights



Commissioner and Patron of the Burdekin Association, Prof Brian Burdekin A.O. wrote the report 'Our Homeless Children' promoting adaptive and client focused practice to ensure children and young people in crisis received tailored support to meet their needs, and from that report, the Burdekin Association was born.

Our vision is that all children, young people and their families are empowered and supported to develop their full potential. Importantly, this includes building life skills and providing opportunities to lead a full and active life in our community. We are willing to go the extra mile for our young people and always have the best interest of the children and young people in our care at heart.

For more information visit www.burdekin.org.au

About Stretch-a-Family

Stretch-A-Family, Inc. (SAF) was established in 1977. It grew out of the Young People's Refuge (YPR), the first youth refuge in Sydney. Workers there began to realise that refuges could not meet the long-term needs of young people for stability and the development of life skills, particularly those under the age of sixteen. In 1984, SAF and the YPR mutually agreed to separate and YPR moved to a separate house.

SAF's roots lie in the philosophy of offering homeless young people an alternative to institutional care. SAF has a history of working towards legal and social equality for young people and continues to work against all forms of discrimination and persecution against children and young people. During SAF's 40+ years of operation the organisation has developed a professional reputation for excellence and is highly regarded in the field of Out-of-Home-Care. We are frequently called upon to share our expertise with workers from other agencies in Australia and overseas.

For more information visit <https://stretchfamily.com.au/>

For more information about out-of-home care, information for children and young people in care and for their parents, including types of care, rights, case planning, restoration and leaving care please visit <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/out-of-home-care>.

For more information about the work of the Department visit <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/>