



Government of South Australia

Office of the Guardian
for Children and Young People

Strategic Plan 2011-2015

promote

advocate

monitor

advise

inquire

investigate

organisational capability

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organisational capability

function

PROMOTE the interests of children under the guardianship, or in the custody, of the Minister, and in particular those in alternative care.

PROMOTE the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people through, among other things, sound information sharing about families' needs.

intent

We will start from the positive, the possible and strengths.

We will ensure the voice of children and young people informs our work.

We will be mindful of the responsibility, independence and reach of our office.

goals

Action is prompt on issues that impact on the safety and well being of children and young people.

Effective early intervention services for high need families ensure only those who need state care are taken into care.

Responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is shared.

action

Promote the rights of children in care as expressed in the Charter of Rights.

Promote and monitor good information sharing among agencies when children are at risk.

Engage children and young people in our work through whatever avenue we can.

Through a range of media, share the knowledge we have.

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function

Act as an ADVOCATE for the interests of children under the guardianship, or in the custody of the Minister, and, in particular, for any such child who has suffered, or is alleged to have suffered, sexual abuse.

intent

The views of children and young people will be sought wherever possible and included in our advocacy work.

We will be caring, brave and tenacious in our advocacy and also respectful of the challenges others face.

goals

More children and young people in care feel good, are safe and cared for, get help, understand and have a say.

Allegations of sexual abuse of children in care are investigated promptly.

action

Through outreach activity we ensure that children and young people who need individual advocacy receive it.

Through the advice we provide we ensure that what we hear and see results in systemic change.

Work with the police, public prosecution and DFC investigators to ensure that children involved in investigations of sexual abuse in care have an advocate and that investigations are conducted in a timely manner.

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MONITOR the circumstances of children under the guardianship, or in the custody of, the Minister.

intent

Our monitoring will produce reliable evidence.

We will create confidential, safe space for honest and robust interactions.

goals

Know what is happening for children and young people in care.

Identify and promote what is working well.

Identify weaknesses in the child protection system.

action

With a range of strategies that give us direct knowledge of what is happening to children, we report on systemic issues based on what we hear and see.

We also discuss some systemic issues with the young people who work closely with our office as youth advisors or members of the advisory committee.

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function

Provide ADVICE to the Minister on the quality of the provision of care for children under the guardianship, or in the custody of, the Minister and on whether the children's needs are being met.

intent

We will seek others' perspectives and then act decisively.

goals

Advice results in action on critical issues for groups of children and young people.

The Minister and others have confidence in the advice provided.

action

Report regularly to the Minister and others with advice on policy or practice issues.

Cooperate with others and respond to requests for advice, to pass on our knowledge and views.

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function

INQUIRE into, and provide advice to the Minister in relation to, systemic reform necessary to improve the quality of care provided for children in alternative care.

intent

We will ensure that reform builds on the strengths in people and the system.

Inquiries will be independent, thorough and inclusive.

goals

Inquiries result in systemic reform that is long-standing.

action

Hold at least one major inquiry each year.

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function

INVESTIGATE and report to the Minister on matters referred to the Guardian by the Minister.

intent

Investigations will be independent, thorough and inclusive.

goals

Investigations result in practical recommendations that are acted on.

action

Respond to requests for advice and investigate matters where we have the resources to do so thoroughly.

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function

Organisational capability.

intent

We will look for opportunities to do even better.

We are playful and creative in our work and encourage innovation.

goals

The mechanics of the office are straightforward and efficient.

All staff are skilled, well managed and supported to achieve.

action

We regularly review office policies and procedures, and act on issues or gaps promptly.

Through a range of actions staff have opportunity to learn and to provide feedback.