



Government
of South Australia

Office of the Guardian
for Children and
Young People

The Office of the Guardian's monitoring framework

The Guardian has a statutory obligation to monitor the wellbeing of children and young people under guardianship or in the custody of the Minister. The Office of the Guardian collects and reports information using 12 quality statements. The statements were distilled from the priorities of children and young people in care as expressed by them in the *Charter of Rights for Children and Young People in Care*.

The 12 statements

1. This child lives in a kind and nurturing environment.
2. This child is safe and feels safe.
3. This child is loved.
4. This child is receiving appropriate shelter, clothing and nourishment.
5. This child is cared for in a placement that is stable and secure.
6. This child has a secure personal space to which she/he can withdraw and where personal things are kept safe.
7. This child has contact with family, friends, and cultural community that provide emotional support and identity.
8. This child has access to health and disability services that meets his/her needs.
9. This child is getting an education suited to her/his needs and the opportunity for artistic, cultural and sporting development.
10. This child understands to the full extent of his/her capacity why he/she is in his/her current circumstances.
11. This child has knowledge of and participates in decisions that affect him/her.
12. This child has regular contact with the same case worker who is skilled, knowledgeable, respectful and advocates energetically in the child's best interests.

How the 12 statements are used

In all of our conversations with children, our observations of their circumstances and our conversations with the adults who care for them, the information we collect is structured and recorded according to its relevance to one or more of these statements.

The kinds of information collected

Any observation that is relevant to one or more of the statements may be recorded by the Office's staff.

As an example, here are some of the indicators that we might use in respect of statement number 10, *This child understands to the full extent of his/her capacity why he/she is in his/her current circumstances.*

- the child has access to, and receives culturally appropriate information and communication about the alternative care system
- the child demonstrates in conversation an understanding of their circumstances
- the child reports being involved in decision making
- young people who are not fluent in English have the services of an interpreter whenever necessary
- children who have disabilities are presented information about their circumstances in a way that is understandable to them
- the child talks about participation in case planning and decisions, as appropriate for their age and capacity
- the child has access to information about their situation and rights, for example the *Being in Care* book and the *Charter of Rights*
- the child/young persons attends annual reviews, where appropriate
- the child can explain how they can make a complaint

Not this list, nor any list, is complete or definitive. What is relevant, appropriate and practical to record depends on each child and their circumstances.

Contacting the Guardian

If you require any further information about the monitoring framework, please contact our office.

Phone 1800 ASK OOG (for children and young people) or 08 8226 8570

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Additional information on our monitoring role is available from our website

www.gcyp.sa.gov.au