



Brad Hazzard

Minister for Family and Community Services
Minister for Social Housing

MEDIA RELEASE

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FUNDING BOOST FOR KIDS IN CARE

Minister for Family and Community Services Brad Hazzard and NSW Treasurer Gladys Berejiklian today said the NSW Government will boost funding for Out Of Home Care (OOHC) by \$200 million over four years in the NSW Budget.

Starting in 2015-16, OOHC will have an extra \$50 million to support the increased number of children and young people requiring statutory care.

Mr Hazzard said recent increases in the numbers of children taken into care following a court order had been driven by increasing family violence, mental ill health, alcohol and drug abuse and increased reporting of child sexual abuse following the establishment of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

“Children who cannot remain with their parents need homes that are permanent, secure and safe,” Mr Hazzard said.

“The NSW Government is reforming the sector with an emphasis on permanency through guardianship and Open Adoption, in which children retain contact with their birth parents but have the security and permanency of adoption.

“We are also moving the care of children to the Non-Government sector, a key recommendation of the Wood Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW.”

Ms Berejiklian said: “I’m pleased this significant increase in Budget funding by the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will help ensure children are given the care they need.”

The Budget highlights the important partnership with Non-Government Organisations (NGO). Around 55% (\$538 million) of the OOHC \$960 million recurrent budget for 2015-16 is directed to the NGO sector as grants.

Under the reforms, new law came into effect in October 2014 which increased the focus on early intervention and new parenting resources and also enacted permanent placement principles.

Guardianship and adoption are to be considered ahead of long-term placement in OOHC if a child cannot be safely returned to their parents. Carers can be dually registered for fostering and prospective adoption.

There are currently 19,800 children and young people in OOHC, including 2300 who moved to guardianship orders in October 2014.