



CAFWA-SA position statement on Residential Care[❖]

Broad principles of effective residential care

The following principles of care will contribute to effective residential services and are generally applicable to children in statutory services.

- a. The service is guided by a clear conceptual model**
- b. The residential service takes an approach to care that is tailored to suit the needs of the child**
- c. The service targets developmentally appropriate skill development**
- d. The service engages with family and wide social and cultural connections**
- e. The service engages staff in building children's competencies and modelling social skills.**

The use of residential care for young children

There will always be a proportion of children who will be placed in residential care for reasons that range from the need to address their complex needs, to systems pressures, to the need for children to be placed together with siblings. There is a clear need for practitioners to develop and articulate a model of practice for young children that is based on and responsive to the child's developmental needs.

Guidance principles to shape the use of residential care for young children are summarised as follows:

- a. Provide a consistent, integrated and team oriented model of care**
- b. Provide care that is developmentally informed**
- c. Staff have the skills to respond to interpersonal trauma, neurocognitive compromise and neglect**
- d. Staff are adequately trained, supported and monitored**

[❖] *This CAFWA-SA position statement is drawn from the detailed submission provided to the SA Royal Commission in March 2015 and based on a commissioned literature review by the Australian Centre for Child Protection – see full submission: [CAFWA-SA_submission_re_literature_review_.pdf](#)*