

There are several reasons that a child or young person may come into care

Voluntary Care is when a family in the community request that their child or young person be cared for by a foster carer, in the carer's home, for a period of up to 14 days, generally this occurs because of a crisis in the home, in this case where there is no risk of harm to the child, Community Services need not be involved and the arrangement is made between KARI and the legal guardian of the child or young person.

Temporary Care is when a family in the community requests Community Services to place their child or young person in care for a period of up to three months, this generally happens because of a family crisis that will extend beyond a few weeks. Community Services will request that KARI provide this when it is an Aboriginal child in South West Sydney.

Court Ordered Care is when Community Services take action under the authority of the NSW Children's Court to remove a child from its family due to a belief that there is a significant risk of harm to that child or young person, the child or young person and sometimes their siblings will be removed from the home in these circumstances. Where the child or young person is Aboriginal Community Services are required to apply the Aboriginal Placement Principle, in order to do this Community Services ask the family about who might be able to care for them and contacts KARI to ask for assistance to place a child within their kinship group, community or in an Aboriginal placement.

Once a child comes into care there are several types of care that can be utilised:

Long Term Care means foster care that is for a period that extends beyond three months and may be until they reach eighteen years of age.

Short Term Care means foster care that is for a period of up to three months this usually happens when a child or young person is before the court but the final decision has not been made or when a kinship placement has been found but not finalised

Respite Care is when a carer offers care for a child or young person that does not usually live with them this can be provided in multiple forms that could be for single days or nights or up to a few weeks at a time when needed. Patterns may be:

Regularly with the same child or young person, this could be one weekend a month for a child with special needs in order to allow the permanent carer to have some time off.

Occasional care at irregular intervals with various children or young people, this could be for a two week period whilst a carer is in hospital.

Kinship Care is when a child has family members who are willing to take on the full term care of the child when they cannot live with their parents. This is managed by Community Services and KARI will only be involved if Community Services have a specific need such as assessing a family's capacity to care for another child or working together in the transition of a child to the family. KARI may provide some respite care to the family if required