

A brief history of Out of Home Care in NSW since 1980

1980

Shift of focus from residential care to family-based care (foster care).

1990

Progressive closure of Departmental residential care facilities.

2000

Incremental increases in and transition to NGO placements. Prolonged and stalled.

2010

Dalton Report ('80-'82)

- Examine needs and facilities for kids in OOHC.
- Planning and coordination of future government & non-government services.
- Rec: Funding to non-government organisations to be dramatically increased.

Vardon Report ('83)

- Report to Minister on directions for Residential Care.

Voluntary Standards ('86-'87)

- ACWA administers voluntary 'Standards Review'.
- Funding withdrawn.

Jarvis Report ('88)

- Departmental review of residential care facilities.
- Rec: Closure of Departmental medium facilities and revision of remainder.

Principles for Substitute Care ('89)

- ACWA develops first work on standards for OOHC in NSW.

Usher Report ('91-'92)

- Review of substitute care services in NSW.
- Rec: All services for children requiring substitute care be contracted to non-government organisations.
- Implementation from '93-'95 before being halted.

Cashmore & Paxman Research ('96)

- Care leavers study commissioned by the Department.
- Found many had poor outcomes, due to poor quality care (incl. health & education), and poor preparation for leaving care.

Wood Royal Commission ('95-'97)

- Inquiry into the Police Service, and later pedophile activities within Police Service.
- Establishment of **Commission for Children and Young People**.

Fitzgerald Review ('00)

- Community Services Commission broad review of substitute care.
- Rec: Shift long term foster care from Department to non-government organisations.

Children's Guardian ('01)

- Established as a result of new Children and Young People (Care and Protection) Act 1998. Not wholly proclaimed.
- Monitor OOHC services under rigorous set of standards.
- Accreditation process commences in 2003.

Kibble Review ('01-'02)

- Internal Departmental review of workloads.
- Found large numbers of unallocated cases.
- Resulted in additional caseworkers being employed by Department.

Wood Report ('07-'08)

- Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW.
- Rec: Gradual transition of all OOHC to non-government organisations.

Boston Consulting Group ('09-'10)

- Government commissioned report on cost modeling on OOHC.
- Worryingly focuses on costs of care rather than care needs and outcomes for children in OOHC.