

Charter of Rights

for Tasmanian children and young people
in out of home care

These are your rights as a child or young person living away from your parents and in out of home care. All of these rights are important - some might be more important to you than others. That is why they are not in any particular order. Each right is followed by some examples of how the right might work in daily life.

This Charter establishes that **all children** and **young people** living in **out of home care** in **Tasmania** have the following **rights**:



1 I have the right to be safe and feel safe

This includes:

- not being abused or hurt
- not being physically punished
- feeling safe where I live
- not being moved around a lot
- feeling cared for and living with people who care for me
- having someone to talk to if I am unhappy or I don't feel safe
- not being verbally abused

2 I have the right to receive health care when it is needed

This includes:

- having a health check when I first go into care
- being able to see a doctor or dentist or counsellor or other health care worker when I feel the need to
- getting healthy food and time to exercise and play

3 I have the right to be consulted and listened to seriously about decisions that affect me

This includes:

- being told why I am in out of home care
- being told what plans have been put in place for my future
- having a say in what those plans are and in the sorts of support that will be given to me
- having a say about decisions affecting me such as where I go to school, what clothes I wear, who my friends are and how I spend my time

4 I have the right to have regular meetings alone with my worker

This includes:

- having a worker who is there for me
- having someone to complain to if I am unhappy about the way I am being treated or if I am not feeling safe

5 I have the right to be treated fairly and with respect for who I am

This includes:

- being able to feel good about myself
- being able to relax and have fun
- not being discriminated against
- being treated as an individual
- being accepted for who I am

6 I have the right to identify with my culture and community and to observe my chosen religion

This includes:

- learning about my background and my family's heritage
- being able to go to religious ceremonies if I want to
- having contact with cultural elders and leaders
- taking part in artistic and cultural activities

7 I have the right to have safe contact with my family and people who matter to me

This includes:

- having regular and safe contact with:
 - brothers and sisters, cousins and other family members who are important to me,
 - friends and former carers if that is what I want
- having a say about people I don't want to spend time with

8 I have the right to have an education and to gain life skills

This includes:

- being able to go to school and get training
- being able to learn how to act responsibly
- being able to learn skills for living as independently as I can when I leave care
- having somewhere quiet to study
- being supported and encouraged in these things

9 I have the right to have my privacy respected

This includes:

- having my own things
- having a private space
- knowing that personal information about me is shared only where it is needed and by adults who have a right to know

This is who **I can call** if I need extra **help**:

Child Advocate	1800 549 725 / 0419 970 181
CREATE	1800 655 105 / (03) 6223 7749
Child Safety Service	1300 737 639
Commissioner for Children and Young People	(03) 6166 1366
Kids Helpline (24 hour)	1800 551 800

Although these are **my rights**, I have the **responsibility** to **respect other people's rights** and **property** and **to respect what they have to say.**

