



Long term foster care

This form of care is for cases where serious neglect or abuse has occurred, or there is significant family breakdown and it is not possible for the child or young person to return to their own parents. Long term care may be needed until the young person reaches 18 years.

Who we are

Narang Bir-rong, funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, was established in 2007 (formally known as Link-Up Family Services) to provide out-of-home care for Aboriginal children and young people who cannot remain at home due to abuse and/or neglect.

The service targets the Sydney Metropolitan West Region covering Auburn to Mt Victoria, Wisemans Ferry, Penrith, Blacktown, Mt Druitt, Merrylands and the Blue Mountains. Narang Bir-rong's office is currently located at the following address:

**Barnardos Penrith
Children's Family Centre
Hosking Street
Cranebrook NSW 2749**

Are you interested in becoming a foster carer?

Narang Bir-rong is constantly looking for more Aboriginal carers. If you would like to know more or are interested in becoming a carer please contact us:

Post Office Box 79

Cranebrook NSW 2749

Phone: (02) 4729 1677

Fax: (02) 4729 1908

Email: mshaw@barnardos.org.au

Website: narangbirrong.org.au

1800 061 000

barnardos.org.au



We believe every child deserves a safe and supportive home.



Helping Aboriginal children and young people

- Narang Bir-rong places Aboriginal children and young people in care situations that support their individual identity and self esteem and that meet their social, emotional and behavioural needs.
- Narang Bir-rong believes that Aboriginal children are best raised by their own families however when they are unable to remain at home, they should maintain connections with their community and kin.
- Narang Bir-rong ensures that the child or young person's family or kinship group are involved in all aspects of work such as case planning, providing support, reviewing and monitoring case plans and planning for children or young people to exit care.

In Aboriginal communities where children are placed with family and kin, it is frequently referred to as being in kinship care.

Narang Bir-rong will also support children, young people and carers in kinship care arrangements. Kinship carers will also be required to undergo carer assessment to ensure the best possible placement for the child or young person.

Our carers

Narang Bir-rong recruits, trains and supports Aboriginal foster carers, and case manages children and young people in out of home (foster) care.

Narang Bir-rong also offers support to carers who have children or young persons in their care as a result of family kinship ties, and provides support for the care of these children.

All potential carers are assessed regardless of their relationship to the child or young person as the need for support and supervision are always based on the findings of the assessment.

Narang Bir-rong ensures that only people best able to meet the individual needs of children and young people are recruited as authorised carers and that carers receive appropriate training and on-going support for their roles.

Narang Bir-rong also provides carers with opportunities to participate in decisions such as case planning and implementation and developing exit plans, and that carers have their rights upheld.

What is out-of-home care?

Out-of-home care is a form of substitute care (or foster care) for children who cannot remain in their own home due to abuse and neglect. Children enter the out-of-home care system when a report is made about them to the Department of Family and Community Services, and after the Department has assessed and investigated the report, a decision is made that removal from their usual carer is necessary to protect them from serious risk of harm. When this decision is made, the Department must take the matter to the Children's Court for a care order.

Types of out-of-home care

These descriptions are from a training guide for Aboriginal people applying to become foster carers in NSW, 'Our Carers for Our Kids'.

Emergency, crisis or short-term placements happen when the Police or FACS believe a child or young person is at immediate and serious risk of harm. They may also be used during adjournments in Children's Court proceedings.

Respite care is a valuable form of foster care for regular planned periods of time to give families a break while providing a positive experience for the child or young person.