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| Home Based Care - Therapeutic Foster Care31413 |
| Outcome objective: Victorians have capabilities to participate  Output group: Child Protection and Family Services  Output: Placement Services |

**OFFICIAL**

## 1. Service objective

To provide temporary, short-term or long-term therapeutic home-based care to children and young people subject to Children’s Court orders who are unable to live with their parents due to issues of abuse or neglect.

## 2. Description of the service

### Therapeutic foster care (Circle)

Therapeutic foster care (Circle) is a home-based care service provided by voluntary carers specifically recruited, trained and supported to provide a therapeutic model of care. Therapeutic foster care supports child centred practices and recognises that children entering out-of-home care require a therapeutic response.

Each Circle placement has a care team with a therapeutic specialist who provides focused training and support to the child, carer and significant others to facilitate the ability of those in the care environment to effectively support the child to recover from the effects of abuse related trauma.

Community service organisations providing the Circle program are responsible for the specialised recruitment, supervision and training of carers and the provision of enhanced placement support. In addition, they work in partnership with a specialist therapeutic support service which provides therapeutic assessment, guidance and support to placements.

### Aboriginal therapeutic home-based care

Aboriginal therapeutic home-based care provides enhanced therapeutic care for Aboriginal children and young people in foster and kinship care placements through the enhanced capacity of care teams and staff to deliver a trauma-informed therapeutic response.  
This model includes a statewide therapeutic clinician to work in collaboration with locally based therapeutic clinicians/services. This role will provide focused training and support to assist the child, carer and significant others in the care environment to effectively support the child to recover from the effects of abuse related trauma.  
The development of local models of service delivery is achieved through regional service planning processes, which are self-determining, holistic and responsive to Aboriginal communities..

## 3. Client group

### Therapeutic foster care

Children aged 0 to 17 years who are entering care for the first time and who have not been in care at any time in the past six months, these children represent two thirds of the target group.

Children aged 0 to 12 years who have been in care for up to two years and who have experienced up to two placement breakdowns, these children represent one third of the target group.

Clients must be the subject of an interim accommodation order, family reunification order, care by Secretary order or long-term care order, and must have an active allocated case manager.

### Aboriginal therapeutic home-based care

Aboriginal children aged 0 to17 years who are in foster care or kinship care (statutory).

## 4. Obligations specific to this activity

In addition to the obligations listed in the Service Agreement, organisations funded to deliver this activity must comply with the following:

### 4a. Registration and Accreditation

* Independent review and accreditation against the department’s Human Services Standards, unless exempted.
* Registration under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005

### 4b. Program requirements and other policy guidelines

* [Aboriginal Therapeutic Home Based Care Program and Funding Guidelines February 2012](https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-therapeutic-home-based-care-program-and-funding-guidelines-word)

<https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-therapeutic-home-based-care-program-and-funding-guidelines-word>

* [Circle Program: A Therapeutic Approach to Foster Care - Program Guidelines (November 2008)](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/590496/circle-program-guidelines-may-2009.pdf)

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0006/590496/circle-program-guidelines-may-2009.pdf>

* [Home-based care performance and reporting requirements](https://fac.dffh.vic.gov.au/home-based-care-performance-and-reporting-requirements-policy)   
  <https://fac.dffh.vic.gov.au/home-based-care-performance-and-reporting-requirements-policy>
* [Human Services Standards policy](https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/human-services-standards-policy)

<https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/human-services-standards-policy>

* [Program Requirements for Home-Based Care in Victoria](https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/program-requirements-out-home-care-services%3e)

<https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/program-requirements-out-home-care-services>

* [Child Protection Practice Manual](http://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au)

<http://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au>

* [Guide to emergency use of physical restraint in out-of-home care](http://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/guide-emergency-use-physical-restraint-out-home-care)

<http://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/guide-emergency-use-physical-restraint-out-home-care>

## 5. Performance

Funding is subject to achieving the performance targets specified in Schedule 2 of the Service Agreement.

Performance is measured as follows:

### Key performance measure 1: Daily Average Occupancy

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| **Aim/objective** | This measure provides quantitative information on the number of placements providing a therapeutic model of care |
| **Target** | The performance measure target is provided in the Service Agreement |
| **Type of count** | Non-cumulative |
| **Counting rule** | The daily average occupancy refers to the total delivered placement days for each client in the reporting period, divided by the total number of days within the reporting period. |
| **Data source(s) collection** | * CRISSP * Service Delivery Tracking (SDT) |
| **Definition of terms** | Approved carers are accredited through a registered community service organisation, are registered on the department’s Carer Register, have their details recorded in CRISSP and are in receipt of a carer allowance |

### Performance measure 2: Percentage of the total number of children and young people in placements greater than six months who are on family reunification, care by Secretary or long-term care orders that are contracted to the provider

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| **Aim/objective** | This performance measure provides information about the number of longer-term contracted placements in the complex category (> six months) as a proportion of all placements |
| **Target** | 80 per cent |
| **Type of count** | Non-cumulative |
| **Counting rule** | 1) Identify and count the number of clients contracted to the provider on family reunification, care by Secretary or long-term care orders whose placements have been > six months for each day over the reporting period 2) Count all clients contracted to the provider on family reunification, care by Secretary or long-term care orders who are placed for each day over the reporting period Take the count of client numbers from 1) Divided by The total number of clients To obtain the proportion of clients in placements > 6 months For example: For 1st quarter each financial year: Counting Rule 1) Day 1 Client A < 6 months (= 182 placement days) Client B < 6 months Client C > 6 months Client count = 1 Day 2 Client A > 6 months (= 183 placements days) Client B < 6 months Client D > 6 months Client count = 2 Total client count (Day 1 and 2) = 3 Counting Rule 2) Day 1 Client A – placed Client B – placed Client C – placed Client D – placed Client E – not placed Total clients placed = 4 Take the count of clients from counting rule 1) – 3 clients Divided by Total number of clients from counting rule 2) – 4 clients (3/4) x 100 = 75% |
| **Data source(s) collection** | * CRISSP * Service Delivery Tracking (SDT) |
| **Definition of terms** | Placement refers to the accommodation provided. > six months refers to placements > 182 days Contracted means case management or case management functions, formally agreed by DHHS and the service provider, undertaken by the service provider |

**Performance measure 3: Percentage of total exits from placement that are planned**

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| **Aim/objective** | This performance measure provides information required to plan placement transition |
| **Target** | 90 per cent |
| **Type of count** | Non-cumulative |
| **Counting rule** | Number of planned exits during the reporting period divided by total number of exits x 100. For example: Number of planned exits during the quarter = 32 Total number of exits during the quarter = 145 Percentage of total planned exits (32 / 145) x 100 = 22.0% |
| **Data source(s) collection** | * CRISSP |
| **Definition of terms** | Exit refers to when the placement ends and the client leaves the placement. Placement refers to the accommodation provided. Planned (exits) means the case planning process which ensures that exits from placements are planned, notwithstanding the possible unanticipated or premature termination of the placement |

## 6. Data collection

The reporting requirements for this service are:

| **Data collection name** | **Data system** | **Data set** | **Reporting cycle** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CRISSP | CRISSP | CRISSP | Monthly |
| Service Delivery Tracking (SDT) | My Agency/SAM | SAMS/Service delivery tracking data set | Monthly |

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