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| Service model and approach – decision making process |
| Aboriginal Children’s Forum Priority 5 |

# Aboriginal Children’s Forum Priority 5

**Place all Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care under the authority, care and case management of an ACCO.**

# Objectives

* To clarify the key decision-making options available to facilitate the transfer of Aboriginal children.
* To describe appropriate contingency/interim responses that ensures continuing best interests planning for children/young people.

# Overarching messages

* Commitment to Aboriginal self-determination and self-management.
* The Victorian government with the community through the Aboriginal Children’s Forum has committed to place all Aboriginal children and young people in out of home care under the authority, care and case management of an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation (ACCO).
* All decisions guided by best interests of the child principles, individualised transition planning and collaborative practice approaches (including care team meetings, Aboriginal Family-Led Decision Making meetings, clinical consultation).

# Decision making process

| Decision scenario | Option | Response |
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| **1. Child and carer transfer to ACCO.** | ACCO can undertake support of placement and case management of child. | Case contracted to ACCO. |
| **2. (Exceptional circumstances): Child transfers from existing carer to new ACCO carer.** | **Option A**ACCO has suitable carer available to provide placement and can provide placement support and case management. | **Option A**Case contracted to ACCO. |
| **Option B**ACCO does not have available carer to provide service. | **Option B**Existing arrangements continue with date set for transfer based on ACCO workforce availability; Interim flexible approaches explored; Ensure cultural support plans are strengthened, implemented and monitored during the interim. |
| **3. (Exceptional circumstances): Child does not transfer.** | **Option A**Collaborative decision is that transfer is not in the child’s best interest at this point in time. | **Option A**Clearly articulated rationale for not proceeding with transfer including circumstances that would lead to a review of the transfer decision. Consider a panel review with relevant agencies, ACCOs, CP and if required FCAV and/or Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People to fully explore what is in the child’s best interest. Ensure cultural support plans are strengthened, implemented and monitored during the interim. |
| **Option B**Child/child’s family choose to remain with current organisation and is considered in child’s best interest. | **Option B**Consider as part of case planning process. |

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