

How community visitors can help

The Office of the Public Guardian's state-wide teams of community visitors (CVs) visit children and young people in care, including children in foster and kinship care, residential care, youth detention, correction facilities and mental health facilities.

What can a CV help with?

Community visitors undertake individual advocacy and play an important role in supporting children and young people in the child protection system.

The community visitor program aims to ensure that children and young people are safe and well and all their needs are being met in line with the standards of care.

CVs are available whenever a child or young person needs their help, support and advice; this could be about their care arrangements, their rights or simply a matter that is concerning them.

A child community visitor can help a child or young person:

- express their views to their child safety officer
- with issues relating to education, health or counselling needed
- access support services
- make changes to their care arrangements
- with contact with their family
- with legal matters through an OPG child advocate legal officer.

How often will a CV visit?

Every child coming into care—or re-entering care—receives a visit from a community visitor. This allows the CV to determine the needs of the child or young person, to find out if they want or need regular visits, and if so, how often depending on their specific needs.

A child or young person who is in long-term care or well settled placement may receive less frequent visits from their CV, or they may request that the CV no longer visits them at all.

All children and young people in the Child Protection system can still request a visit from their community visitor—at any time—by contacting their CV directly or through the Office of the Public Guardian.

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