

The Public Guardian

Protecting the rights and interests of children and young people in the child protection system

Who we are

The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) is an independent statutory office established to protect the rights, interests and wellbeing of adults with impaired decision-making capacity, and children and young people in Queensland's child protection system. This includes those in out-of-home care, such as a foster home, the home of a kinship carer, a residential care facility, a youth detention or adult correctional centre, disability service or mental health facility.

OPG provides individual advocacy through its community visitors and child advocates. Community visitors and child advocates help and support children and young people by ensuring that their views and wishes are being heard and that their needs are being met

How can a child community visitor help?

OPG community visitors play an important role in child advocacy. They are available whenever a child or young person needs their help, support or advice; this could be about their care arrangements, their rights, or simply matters that are concerning them.

Every child coming into care, or re-entering care, receives a visit from a community visitor and then regular visits are determined based on the child or young person's individual needs.

Some examples of what a community visitor might help a child with are:

- making sure their needs are being met in the place they are living
- expressing a child or young person's views to their child safety officer
- helping to resolve problems or disputes
- helping them become independent when they leave care.

How can a child advocate help?

Through a team of legal officers, the OPG provides children and young people in the child protection system with advice, information, help and support by:

- providing information and advice about legal issues they are concerned about
- helping the child or young person resolve disputes and to make complaints if they have been treated unfairly or are unhappy with a decision made about their time in the child protection system
- supporting the child or young person in legal meetings with Child Safety (or any other agency) to make sure that their needs are being met and their views and wishes are being heard
- supporting the child or young person to have their views and wishes expressed in a court or tribunal
- speaking for the child or young person in court or tribunals



Contact Us

t. 1300 653 187

sms. 0418 740 186

e. publicguardian@publicguardian.qld.gov.au

w. www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au