

Out of Home Care – Mid North Coast

Contact details

Coffs Harbour Office

Suite 2.2, Level 2 Gateway House
Mastracolas Road (PO Box 2058)
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
T: 6659 2800 F: 6651 4739
Coordinator: Rex Brown

Port Macquarie Office

105-107 William Street
(PO Box 1551)
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
T: 6581 6600 F: 6583 8931
Coordinator: Lou Limoges

Hours of service: Monday to Friday: 9.00am - 5.00pm. After hours support available

Manager: Wendy Orth

Manager Operations: Tony White
Director: Linda Mondy

About the program

UnitingCare Burnside's Out-of-Home Care on the Mid North Coast provides a range of services to children, young people and families who have come to the attention of the Child Protection authorities.

In January 2009, Burnside received state government funding to extend its OOHC service across the Mid North Coast and to a broader client group. The new program became operational in May 2009 with staff now working out of two of Burnside's regional offices in Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie. The program services four NSW State Government Community Service Centres across the Mid North Coast with referrals being received from Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Port Macquarie and Taree offices.

Eligibility

- Children and young people aged 0-17 years who require care and protection and who have been identified as being at significant risk of harm as defined under the C&YP Care & Protection Act.
- Young people who are leaving or have left foster care who are between the ages of 18 and 25 and who require assistance to make a successful transition into independent living.

Objectives

Burnside's Mid North Coast OOHC program works to ensure children and young people in foster care receive optimal educational opportunities and are placed in a safe and stable home-based placement where their health, wellbeing, social and emotional development is nurtured over the long term.

Referral

All referrals received from the Dept of Family and Community Services are processed through the Child and Family Regional Unit based in Lismore on the Mid North Coast. Any voluntary referrals can be made by contacting the manager in the first instance.

Services

The Burnside Mid North Coast Out-of-Home Care service provides up to 78 generalist foster care placements for children and young people aged 0-17; 20 after care placements for young people aged 18-25 who have left foster care; and 10 foster care placements across two Supported Family Group Homes that cater for larger sibling groups of four or more children.

The Generalist Foster Care service provides a wide range of placement options for children and young people entering out-of-home care. Quality carers are recruited, assessed, trained and supported to provide a safe, long-term nurturing home environment to each child in their care. A caseworker is assigned to each child to support their placement and ensure they have a comprehensive case plan that addresses all areas of their life including education, health, wellbeing, social and life skills.

Funding

Community Services, Department of Family and Community Services provides full funding that is renewable annually to June 2013.

Key Facts

General Foster Care relies on the caseworker, foster carer and other key people to develop and implement the case plan for children and young people in care.

Aftercare provides financial assistance and case management to young people who have been in an out-of-home care placement. This service aims to assist young people to achieve their goals as independent young adults.