

26 July 2022

Janet Schorer PSM
Children's Guardian for NSW
NSW Office of the Children's Guardian
Guardian@ocg.nsw.gov.au

Dear Janet,

Re: NSW Office of the Children's Guardian's advice regarding Barnardos Australia Class or Kind arrangements

Barnardos Australia (Barnardos) has received notice regarding Barnardos Australia's Class or Kind (CoK) arrangements lapsing on 31 August 2022 from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian.

This letter of response is to express Barnardos concern that we received no notice of and were not consulted about this decision, and subsequently received an invitation, after receipt of your letter, advising of an opportunity for Barnardos to respond to your office's July 2022 discussion paper on the Statutory Review of the Children's Guardian Act.

Barnardos intends to submit a response to the discussion paper by the due date of 19 August 2022 and prior to this will join with the sector through its peak body, the NSW Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA), to review implications of the proposed amendments to the legislation including the section 4.9 regarding CoK.

Apart from the delay in enabling consultation regarding this matter, there appears to be minimal reference to this decision in the public domain and it is not clear to Barnardos why the cessation of the CoK arrangement cannot be aligned with the completion of the office's legislative review in March 2023. The limited timeframe afforded to the sector to respond to proposed changes, and the proposed lapsing of the CoK arrangements at the end of August 2022, suggests that the OCG is determined to rush its legislative responsibilities without allowing the sector enough time to consider the implications of the proposed changes to our service provision.

Further, the OCG's limited notice of the lapsing of the CoK arrangement has not provided Barnardos with enough time to review the ramifications of this change to our existing reportable conduct scheme systems and procedures. We anticipate that the decision will increase the administrative burden of Barnardos' operations and increase the volume of reports to your office, both of which are likely unintended consequences requiring prior discussion and consideration.

Barnardos Australia

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Chair Janett Milligan

Chief Executive Officer Deirdre Cheers

Contact

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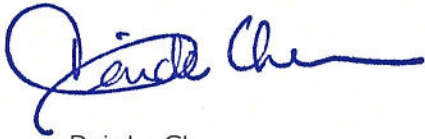
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Barnardos respectfully requests that we remain party to the existing CoK arrangement until 31 March 2023, as it is both premature and unnecessary to cease this arrangement within the next month. It is preferable these arrangements remain unchanged until the tabling of the OCG report to Parliament on 1 March 2023.

Please liaise with Penny Hood, Executive Leader, Children & Families phood@barnardos.org.au if further information is required.

Yours sincerely,



Deirdre Cheers
Chief Executive Officer
Barnardos Australia