



The Commissioner for Children is an independent, statutory office responsible to the Parliament of Tasmania. The Commissioner's functions include promoting the rights and well-being of children and young people along with examining and advising Government on policies, practices and services provided for children and laws affecting their health, welfare, care, protection and development

[www.childcomm.tas.gov.au](http://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au)

# CV Pilot at a Glance

- CVs will provide **support and consistent opportunities** for children in care to speak with an **independent person**.
- There are 12 volunteer CV's and 18 children involved in the Pilot. A CV visits up to 2 children.
- The Pilot is funded by DCYFS
- CV Visits commenced on March 25th 2010 and will continue on a monthly basis for the twelve months of the Pilot. All children have now had their first five visits. Each visit is one hour long.
- During each visit the CV completes the "CV Tool" with the child – a series of questions based on the rights contained in the Charter of Rights for Children in Out of Home Care. This takes about 15 minutes of the one hour visit; the rest of the visit is flexible and is mainly directed by the child.
- There is a system (developed with the help of DCYFS Southern Service Centre management) in place for when a child raises an issue which the CFC feels should be brought to the attention of DCYFS. These issues can either be dealt with as Clarifications or Notifications.
- The CV Pilot is being externally evaluated and the six month evaluation should be completed in the next two months.
- The CV Pilot is supported by a Reference Group: CFC AAC members, FCAT, CREATE, DCYFS and an Independent Sector Consultant

# Charter of Rights for Tasmanian children and young people in out of home care

- Have there been times in the past month that you have felt really happy?



I have THE RIGHT to BE SAFE and Feel safe

## THIS includes:



- not being abused or hurt
- not being physically punished
- feeling safe where I live
- not being moved around a lot
- feeling cared for and living with people who care for me
- having someone to talk to if I am unhappy or I don't feel safe
- not being verbally abused

- Have you seen any health professionals (dentist, psychologist or counsellor, etc) If yes, did you understand what they said?



THIS includes:

having a health check when I first  
go into care

being able to see a doctor or dentist  
or counsellor or other health care worker  
when I feel I need to

getting healthy food and time to exercise and play

- Do you know if you have a Care Plan?

I have  
the right  
3 to BE consulted  
& LISTENED to  
seriously about decisions  
that affect me

### THIS includes:

being told why I am in out of home care

being told what plans have been put in place  
for my future

having a say in what those plans are and in the  
sorts of support that will be given to me

having a say about decisions affecting me such  
as where I go to school, what clothes I wear,  
who my friends are and how I spend my time

- Who is your case worker?
- Have you met with your case worker since I saw you?

I have the right

**4** TO have  
**REGULAR**  
meetings **ALONE**  
with my worker

**THIS includes:**

- having a worker who is there for me
- having someone to complain to if I am unhappy about the way I am being treated
- or if I am not feeling safe

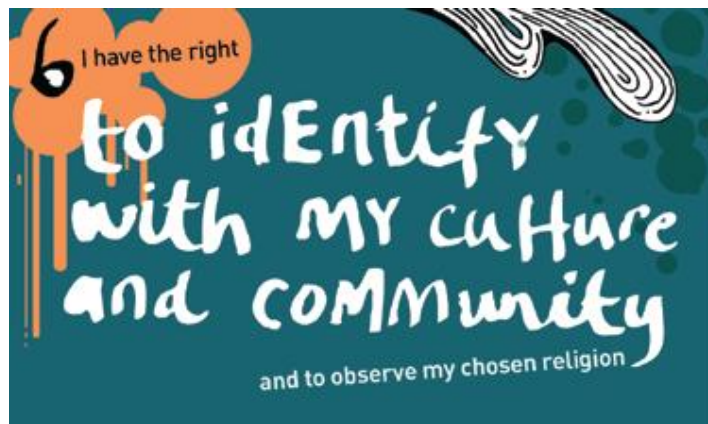
The infographic features a split background: orange on the left and light blue on the right. The text is in a mix of bold, sans-serif and handwritten-style fonts. There are decorative elements like a blue brushstroke behind the 'THIS includes:' text and two stylized trees (one orange, one blue) in the bottom right corner.

- Do you feel you are treated fairly here at home?
- At school? Sport? Elsewhere?





- Do you go to Church? If yes, do you want to?
- If no, do you want to go?
- Where/what would you want to go/do?



### THIS includes:

learning about my background and my family's heritage

being able to go to religious ceremonies if I want to

having contact with cultural elders and leaders

taking part in artistic and cultural activities



- Is there anyone you would like to see sometimes who you don't get to see?



**7**  
I have  
the right


**to HAVE SAFE CONTACT**  
with family and  
**PEOPLE** who matter to me

**THIS includes**

- having regular and safe contact with:  
brothers and sisters, cousins and other family members who are important to me
- friends and former carers if that is what I want and
- having a say about people I don't want to spend time with

The infographic features a sunburst background on the left and a decorative scroll on the right. The text is in a mix of bold, uppercase and lowercase fonts, with some words in a larger, more prominent script.

- What jobs do you do around home?
- What's your most/least favourite thing about school?



**8**  
I have  
the right

To have an  
**EDUCATION**  
and to gain  
**Life SKILLS**

**THIS includes:**

- being able to go to school and get training
- being able to learn how to act responsibly
- being able to learn skills for living as independently as I can when I leave care
- having somewhere quiet to study
- being supported and encouraged in these things

The infographic features a teal background with white and orange text. On the left, a white starburst contains the number '8' and the text 'I have the right'. The main text is in a large, bold, black font. To the right, the phrase 'THIS includes:' is followed by a list of five items. The list is accompanied by decorative circular patterns in orange and red, and a small teal sunburst icon.

- Do you have your own private space where you can keep your own things?

An infographic with an orange background. On the left, there is a stylized teal figure with a question mark inside its head. The text 'I have the right' is written in a small font above the main title. The main title 'to HAVE my PRIVACY RESPECTed' is written in a large, black, hand-drawn font. To the right, the text 'THIS includes:' is written in a black, hand-drawn font. Below it, three bullet points are listed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The background features several black and white circular patterns resembling gears or targets.

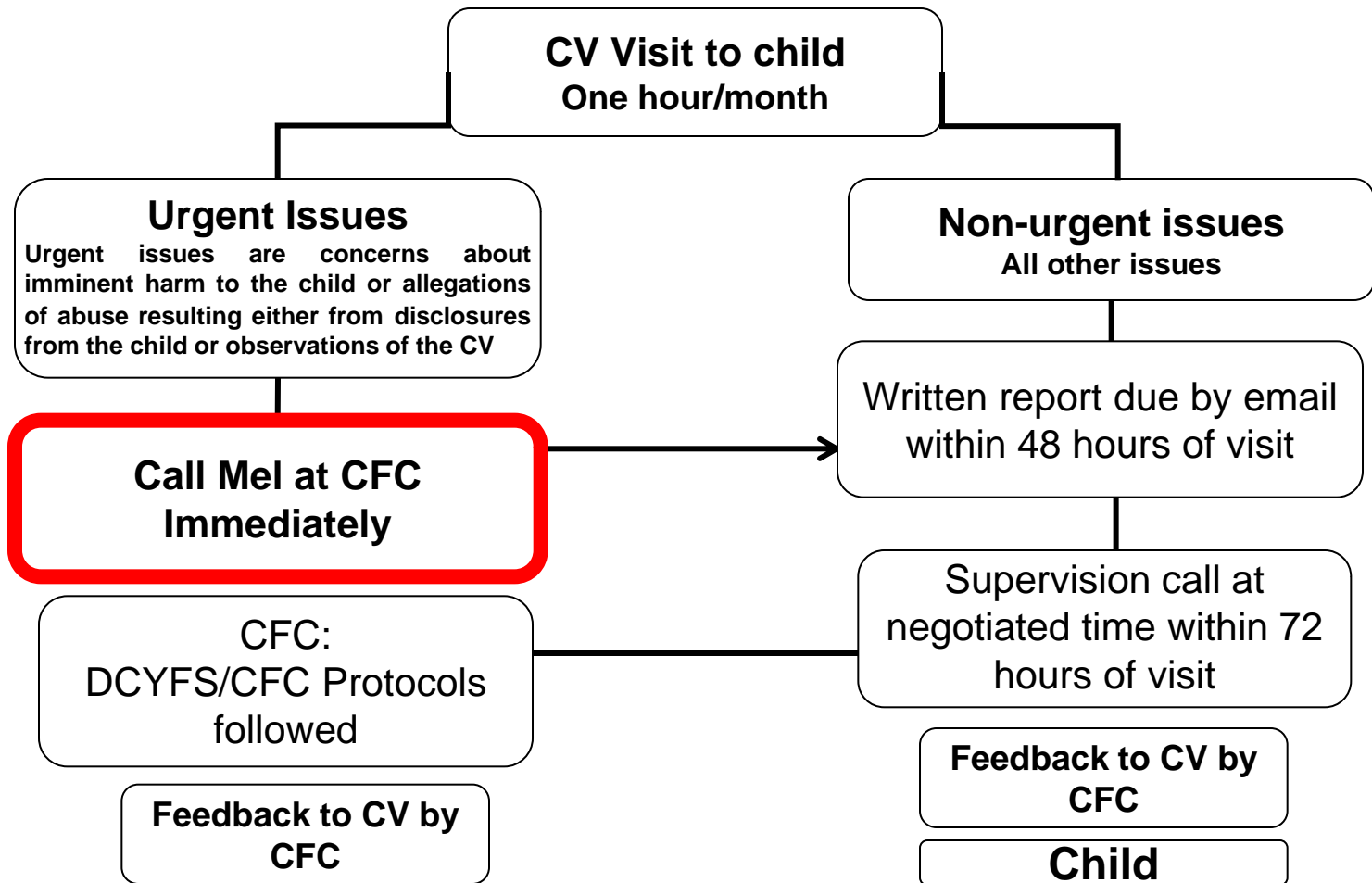
I have the right

to HAVE my  
PRIVACY  
RESPECTed

THIS includes:

- having my own things
- having a private space
- knowing that personal information about me is shared only where it is needed and by adults who have a right to know

# Communicating Issues



# Comments from Children

## Some issues raised during visits

- most children in the Pilot indicated that they did not know what a care plan was or if they have one.
- several wanted to know more and asked to see theirs
- some children do not know the name of their current worker with several saying this is because “they have had a lot of workers and they aren’t sure who it is now” or they are confused about which worker is theirs as they have several professionals in their lives.
- many children have identified that they would like to commence contact with relatives that they currently have little or no contact with while others have asked for increased contact with people they already have contact with.
- most children have positive comments about their carers and their placements with the majority reporting that they feel comfortable and relaxed in their current placement and nearly all saying that they have been happy in the past month.

# Comments from Children

- A child told his CV that he wanted to speak to his worker to talk about “why his father does these things”. This was passed on to his worker and at the next visit the child was very happy about his worker coming to see him and said he “feels a lot better now”
- The CV asked the child how he liked having her come to visit him. He replied “I would like you to visit me every week not just every four. You can visit me every Monday and Wednesday, that would be good”
- The CV was talking to the child about going to work. The child asked “why do you have to do that job when you get paid to come see me”. The CV explained that she was a volunteer and did not get paid to see him, she saw him because she wanted to and wanted to get to know him. The child replied “you really come and see me and get no money”
- The CV asked the Child “ are you Aboriginal?”, to which the Child replied “my mum is”. On being asked “does that mean you are too?”, the Child responded “No. She doesn’t eat meat. But I do”. He was presumably referring to his mother being vegetarian

# Contact Details

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