



Blue Card requirements for young people turning 18 and remaining in placement

NON-FAMILY BASED CARE

There are some circumstances where young people continue to reside in licensed non-family based care premises after turning 18 years of age.

One increasingly common scenario is where a young person with a disability turns 18 but continues to reside in a non-family based care setting supported by the licensed non-government organisation where other children in care are currently placed.

As these young people are not caring for other residents, engaged in employment, business or activities that fall within the scope of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000*, they are not required to have a Blue Card in order to remain residing at the premises. They are considered to be a resident of the service.

However, the licensee must ensure that persons do not pose a risk to the safety of any other child or young person placed, and do not negatively impact on the Standards of Care being met for any other child or young person placed in the licensed care service.

Licensees must also have a *Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy* as required by the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000*. This strategy must address 8 mandatory requirements and helps to create a safe and supportive environment for children. Blue Card Services have developed a range of resources to assist organisations to develop a *Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy*.

During regional inspections, Contract Officers should ensure that any potential risks associated with these arrangements have been identified and adequately addressed by the licensee.

FAMILY BASED CARE

Young people in family based care who will continue to reside with a *foster and kinship carer* after they turn 18 years must apply for a Blue Card.

An application can be made when the young person is 17 years and 9 months. The young person can remain in the carer household while they await an outcome from Blue Card Services as per the section 148D of the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/information-for-carers/rights-and-responsibilities/carers-responsibilities/cards-for-carers>

HOW DO I FIND FURTHER INFORMATION?

Further information regarding blue card requirements and *Child and Youth Risk Management Strategies* can be found at: www.bluecard.qld.gov.au

The Child Safety Licensing team can be contacted on phone 07 3097 5905 or by email: CS_Licensing@cyjma.qld.gov.au

Licensing requirements are also outlined in the *Organisation Level Licensing Manual for Non-Government Organisations Providing Out-of-Home Care Services* available on the department's website: [Organisation Level Licensing Manual for Non-Government Organisations Providing Out-of-Home Care Services \(dcssds.qld.gov.au\)](http://www.dcssds.qld.gov.au)