



I am... convinced that this program provides real opportunities to improve our practice and long term care of children and young people in alternative care arrangements. There are a number of features of the program which I find particularly appealing:

- The way in which the forms... provide a guided practice;
- The total integration of... (LAC) to provide long term continuity for the review of care of children and young people;
- The retention of valuable information which is currently at risk of being lost when a child moves or changes (his/her) placement;
- Improved quality of information to carers;
- The participation of children and young people... in their care planning.

Robert Fitzgerald AM
NSW Community Services Commissioner
July 1999

Looking After Children materials, training and support are now available through The LAC Project for agencies in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania, and can readily be made available for other Australian States.

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THE LAC PROJECT

Looking After Children

Introducing The LAC Project

Looking After Children
"Good Parenting, Good Outcomes"



LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN

Research evidence indicating serious problems experienced by children and young people in welfare care has led to the development of the Looking After Children (LAC) case management system.

LAC has been designed to improve the parenting of children in out-of-home care. LAC guides social welfare practice and is about:

- Parenting
- Partnership
- Outcomes

LAC identifies the concerns and expectations for children and young people at different life stages, and includes everyone involved – children and young people, carers, parents and workers.

CARING ABOUT OUTCOMES

LAC considers everything that parents usually do to promote children's development and well being throughout childhood and beyond. LAC aims to bring the experience of being in care closer to that of children living with their own parents in the community.

LAC assesses progress across a spectrum of developmental dimensions:

- Health
- Education
- Identity
- Family and Social Relationships
- Social Presentation
- Emotional and Behavioural Development
- Self Care Skills

STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

By identifying outcomes and tasks required to achieve these for children and young people, LAC:

- Guides "best practice"
- Meets government standards for care
- Contains built-in time frames for Reviews
- Recommends minimum worker visiting schedule for children and young people in care
- Assists care planning
- Creates partnerships with children and young people in care, parents and carers
- Strengthens accountability by clearly specifying **who** does **what**, by **when**, and **why**