Aboriginal Aftercare
State-wide Service (AASS)
• As part of the organisations commitment to Australia’s first peoples, Jaanimili is responsible for leading relationships and work with Aboriginal people and communities across NSW and the ACT.

• Jaanimili is the directorate of Uniting that governs and coordinates Aboriginal Business; By Aboriginal People.

• 143 Staff Members

• Capacity Building Projects
Aboriginal Aftercare State-wide Service (AASS)

• The Aboriginal Aftercare State-wide Service (AASS) provides support to Aboriginal young people aged 18 – 25 that have left statutory care or have already left care in New South Wales. Connects with Non-Government

• Organisation/s (NGOs) in the Out Of Home Care (OOHC) sector and provides support to develop culturally appropriate leaving care plans based on need and access to aftercare financial support.

• Brokerage and casework support (referral point) for young people leaving care or have already left care aged 16-25years
Key Facts

- This program is funded by FaCS and is in partnership with AbSec and Jaanimili Aboriginal Services and Development Unit (UnitingCare CYPF).
- Project Officer - Sheena Olsen in Dubbo
- Project Officer – Sandi Sharp in Gosford
- Project Manager – Anthony Smith
- State-wide Project
AIM
• Ensure young people leaving OOHC have access to culturally appropriate services that enable links with other agencies to improve their living skills, increase their ability to live independently and assist a young person to secure stable accommodation.

OBJECTIVE
• To advocate on behalf of the young person to leaving care entitlements and provide brokerage funds
• To assist a young person’s general health and well-being
• To assist and refer a young person to access appropriate services including counselling

FUTURE
• To develop an Aboriginal Framework, tools and reporting mechanisms to be implemented and advocate for the needs for Aboriginal Aftercare Service Delivery post June 2016
Each year:
- 460 young people leave care, eligible for leaving and aftercare assistance
- 60% receive some form of direct financial assistance from FACS
- $1M is provided for the fortnightly accommodation allowance or one-off payments
- The average expenditure for those who receive financial assistance is $3,600
- $2.6M (2015/16 budget) is allocated for specialist aftercare services
- Assuming a constant 460 care leavers each year eligible for assistance to age 24, there is a potential pool of 3,220 at any point in time.

- Fact sheet - Leaving and Aftercare data 2015.docx
### FACS required Program Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Service</th>
<th>Type of activity</th>
<th>Quantity per year</th>
<th>Current figure</th>
<th>location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advice</td>
<td>Assist OOHC providers in the development of culturally appropriate LCP</td>
<td>80 (+/-10%)</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>State-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casework</td>
<td>Support young people to transition to independence</td>
<td>60 (+/-10%)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>State-wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brokerage</td>
<td>Provide brokerage to support young people to transition to independence</td>
<td>60 (+/-10%)</td>
<td>115 including access to FACS financial assistance (101 for AASS 5 for FACS 8 for TILA)</td>
<td>State-wide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This data reflects from 01/06/2015 – 30/04/2016
This data is for a 11 month period.
Demographics

Cultural Identity %

- Aboriginal: 98%
- TSI: 2%
- Non-Aboriginal: 0%

Cultural Identity No.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Identity</th>
<th>No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSI</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Aboriginal</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Referral Status %

- Current: 43%
- Closed: 14%
- Ineligible: 3%
- Waiting list: 10%
- LCP Consults: 3%

Referral Status No.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referral status</th>
<th>No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>LCP Consults</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ineligible</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waiting list</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Region by Cultural Identity

- Non-Aboriginal
- TSI
- Aboriginal

Values for each region are as follows:

- Central Coast: 17
- Far West: 4
- Hunter New England: 12
- Illawarra Shoalhaven: 4
- Mid North Coast: 15
- Murrumbidgee: 1
- Nepean Blue Mountains: 8
- Northern NSW: 7
- Northern Sydney: 2
- South Eastern Sydney: 2
- South Western Sydney: 34
- Sydney: 13
- Western NSW: 1
- Western Sydney: 34
Figure 4: Number and type of identified mental health, health or medical needs at referral
Referrals

Reason for initial referral %

- Aftercare support: 21%
- Leaving care support: 18%
- TILA: 18%
- Legal Support: 12%
- Victims comp: 11%
- Homelessness/Housing: 9%
- Material support: 9%
- Cultural/family support: 1%
- Employment, education and/or training: 1%
- Other: 1%
Leaving Care Plan

• All young people who are under the Parental Responsibility (PR) of the Minister require a leaving care plan.

• The plan is to be developed by the designated agency having supervisory responsibility for the YP’s placement.

• The leaving care plan should commence at the age of 15 years and should be reviewed regularly. The final leaving care plan is the Aftercare Plan and this should also include an Aftercare Financial Plan.

• The young person should be consulted in all aspects of planning.

• The Leaving Care Plan should comprise of the following areas:
  • Health & Lifestyle
  • Education & Employment
  • Family/Relationships
  • Culture, Background and identity
  • Future Planning and Accommodation

• The After Care – Schedule for the Provision of Service details resources required in providing an After Care Service. 
  (This is attached to the leaving care plan)
Leaving Care Planning

- Carers
- NGO and FACS
- Support Services
- Family and Significant Others

Life Skills, Culture, Identity, Health and Lifestyle,

Housing, Legal and Financial,

Employment, Education and Training, Support Networks,

Family and Social Relationships
Cultural Support Plans

• **Life Story Work in Cultural Planning**
  – In consultation with the young person and if appropriate, foster carer, the caseworker should compile a culturally appropriate and accurate record of the young person’s time in care. This record should be offered to the young person before or on leaving care and may include:
    – The plan should be shaped around the young person and be meaningful.
    – Personal information about their care history with Community Services and Burnside
    – A paper copy of relevant sections of their file
    – Any photos, videos or other significant memorabilia
    – Any relevant assessments or reports about the young person and their family

• **After Care**
  • For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people or young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who are leaving care, establishing and maintaining links with their cultural identity is important to their long-term development and wellbeing.
  • Caseworkers should encourage a young person to establish and maintain cultural identity by:
    – Identifying significant people in the young person’s life who can assist in maintaining a connection to the community and other relatives and kin
    – Assisting the young person to make contact with specific community and or cultural organisations and associations.
Cultural Support Plans

- Are plans that outlines a child or young person’s cultural identity, kinship groups, community of belonging, language, totem, thoughts on what’s important in their cultural development
- Child or young person’s parents, siblings
- Extended family, kin or community people with a role in supporting child or young person
- Participation in cultural activities, events and programs.
- Aboriginal organisation’s or services with a role in supporting child’s cultural and other needs
- Consultations.
% of clients with a cultural plan

- Does not have a completed plan (78%)
- Has completed plan (19%)
- Blank (3%)
NGO Resource Pack

• Aboriginal Aftercare State-wide Service Brochure
• NGO Consultation Guide
• Burnside Young Person Cultural Support Plan
• AASS casework checklist
• Other available resources for Leaving Care
  • E.g. Victims of crime audit referral, LCP template, FACS financial guidelines, TILA and TEP factsheets, OOHC policy post 18 years support.
Outcomes

- Secured stable accommodation and transitioned
- Addressed substance use and counselling
- Improved cultural connection to community and family
- Developed and endorsed culturally appropriate leaving care and cultural plans
- Assisted and engaged young people in employment and education
- Identify the gaps for Leaving Care & Aftercare services for Aboriginal Young People in NSW - to evidence needs via outcomes based reporting
- Consult with OOHC stakeholders and other NGO’s regarding Aboriginal Aftercare Service Needs for NSW
- In partnership with the Centre for Research, Innovation & Advocacy (UnitingCare) design and develop research project to identify gaps, evidence and inform recommendations for Aboriginal Aftercare Service Needs for NSW
Moving Forward…

- Celebrate the current success of the Aboriginal Aftercare State-wide Service via promotion and awareness.
- Evaluating Aboriginal Aftercare State-wide Service with Uniting Centre of Research, Innovation and Advocacy.
- Develop a model that reflects the Service needs throughout the state based on data analysis and partnerships.
- Placed the Aboriginal Aftercare State-wide Service within the Uniting / Jaanimili strategic priorities.
- Develop a culturally appropriate, sensitive and accountable practice model.
- To inform the action of The National Framework strategy 2 to help young people in OOHC as they become independent adults.
Email from a young person...

Just want to say from the bottom of my heart Thank You. Honestly you have done more for me then DOCS have ever done the whole time I’ve been dealing with them. You are such a fluent worker and I am so happy I got to meet you. Sometimes showing people you care goes a long way.

For a person like me to have my own house is such a big step and it wouldn’t have been possible without you and your help and for that I Thank You again.

Sheena helped me to not only get my aftercare plan complete but helped take the emotional and financial stress off my shoulders, which I am very grateful for.

#Jennah
Aboriginal Aftercare State-wide Service

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