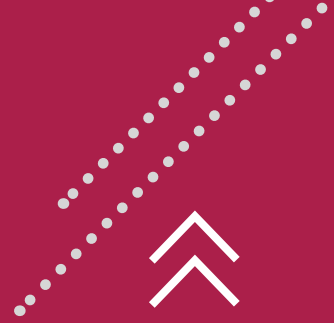


# Care and Protection Representing Children



## Overview

The Care and Protection: Representing Children training module aims to provide lawyers with an overview of the responsibilities of independent and direct legal representative in care proceedings, information on meeting with children, and explains the social science and legal issues that are relevant to child representatives. This training module will provide new child representatives with knowledge of the role and their obligations as a child representative. It covers a range of topics that identify legal issues and practical skills specific to the child representative.

## Learning Outcomes

By completing this training module, participants will:

1. understand the role of the child representative including the legislative framework and the expectations of the bench in fulfilling this role
2. have more confidence and skills in meeting with and interviewing with children
3. have knowledge of how to work collaboratively with the Department of Communities and Justice
4. proactively represent children in Dispute Resolution Conferences
5. proficiently draft legal documents and make succinct but thorough submissions to the Court
6. assist with the development and amendment of care plans and leaving care plans
7. understand and ensure the appropriate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
8. draft orders and applications and make submissions in relation to clinic and expert reports

## Course Content

### Video

- *Care and Protection: Representing Children*  
Presented by Katie Kelso (Solicitor, Legal Aid NSW), Magistrate Nell Skinner (Children's Court of NSW) and Jayne Christian (Solicitor, Legal Aid NSW)

### Webinars

- *Interstate Transfer of Care and Protection Orders and Care Proceedings*  
Presented by Matthew Levy (Solicitor, Legal Aid NSW)



## Podcasts

- *Meeting with Children: The Practicalities*
- *Working with the Department of Communities and Justice*
- *Child Representation and Dispute Resolution Conferences*
- *Evidence and Advocacy Basics*
- *Leaving Care Plans*
- *Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families*



## Required Reading

- Representation Principles for Children's Lawyers, Law Society of NSW
- Proactive Representation of Children in Care Proceedings by Robert McLachlan
- Communicating with Children over 10: Of Wishes were Horses, Beggars would Ride by Dr Chris Lennings
- Unacceptable Risk: A comparison of the Family and Care Jurisdictions by Dr Richard Chisholm
- Article 12 of UNCROC and the Participation of Children in Statutory Child Protection Decision-Making in Australia by Deborah De Fina
- Understanding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principles as a framework for best practice, The Aboriginal Legal Service
- Practice Note No.2 Initiating Documents for Care Proceedings
- Practice Note No.3 Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures in the Children's Court
- Practice Note No.5 Case Management in Care Proceedings
- Practice Note No.10 Parent Capacity Orders
- Practice Note No.13 Section 38 Care Plans
- Working with Children: A Guide to Best Practice
- The Secretary of the DCJ and Fiona Farmer [2019] NSWChC 5
- Hackett (a pseudonym) v Secretary, DCJ [2020] NSWCA 83



## Useful Links

- [Best for Kids – Legal Aid NSW](#)
- [Children's Law News](#)
- [Children's Court of NSW: Practice Notes](#)
- [Department of Communities and Justice](#)
- [Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT](#)