

Backpacks and Christmas Presents for Children Under Guardianship

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Department for Child Protection

And

Backpacks 4 SA Kids

2018

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

- 1.1. The signatory parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are the Department for Child Protection (DCP), and Backpacks 4 SA Kids (B4SAK).
- 1.2. The MoU outlines the conditions under which B4SAK will provide DCP with backpacks and Christmas presents to then give to children under Guardianship.
- 1.3. B4SAK is a Non-Profit organisation supporting newborn babies through to teenagers who are displaced from home and generally entering emergency services such as foster care, Guardianship, domestic violence shelters and youth homeless shelters.
- 1.4. B4SAK provided backpacks relieve some of the stress and anxiety children face when they are removed from their family, often in traumatic situations and without the opportunity to take any personal belongings with them.
- 1.5. Since inception the number of backpacks supplied has increased from 564 in 2014 to 2600 in 2017¹; with forecasts of 3000 in 2018. The proposed push into Residential and Respite care is forecast to be an additional 500 backpacks bringing the total to 3500.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. To provide children entering care or transitioning into new placements with their own B4SAK sourced backpack full of personal items, which they can easily identify as theirs, and take with them to their next family or placement.
- 2.2. To provide children in care with B4SAK sourced Christmas presents.
- 2.3. Actively expand the B4SAK program to include all placement types.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1. DCP will:
 - 3.1.1. Provide backpacks to children as they are received from B4SAK.
 - 3.1.2. Give all Christmas presents provided from B4SAK to children within 3-4 days of Christmas Day, at parties and events celebrating Christmas.
 - 3.1.3. Mitigate issues impacting on the timely and appropriate provision of backpacks and presents to children and young people efficiently and effectively.
 - 3.1.4. Actively seek opportunities to expand the program of backpack and present provision, to include all placement types, including Residential Care.
- 3.2. B4SAK will:
 - 3.2.1. Provide DCP with backpacks for children.
 - 3.2.2. Provide DCP with Christmas presents for children.
 - 3.2.3. Actively seek opportunities to expand the program of backpack and present provision, to include all placement types, including Residential Care.

4. ELIGIBILITY & SCOPE

- 4.1. Both DCP and B4SAK are committed to ensuring as many children receive backpacks and Christmas presents as possible, including:
 - 4.1.1. All children entering care or transitioning placement are eligible to receive a

¹ This is for all services (i.e. youth homelessness, children under Guardianship and domestic violence victims). Backpacks and Christmas Presents for Children Under Guardianship Memorandum of Understanding between the Department for Child Protection and Backpacks 4 SA Kids

backpack.

4.1.2. All children under Guardianship of the Minister are eligible to receive a Christmas present.

4.2. Exceptional circumstances will be considered for any children for whom a backpack may not be appropriate. B4SAK will be consulted on this decision.

4.3. Not all children under Guardianship, or transitioning placements will receive backpacks or Christmas presents due to availability.

5. TERM, VARIATION AND REVIEW

5.1. This MoU will be effective from the date of the last authorising signature (January 2018) and will continue indefinitely or until terminated by agreement of both parties.

5.2. This MoU may not be varied or modified except with the written agreement of both parties.

5.3. This MoU will be reviewed in December 2018 and then annually to ensure delivery of MoU objectives.

6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

6.1. All disputes unable to be satisfactorily resolved by operational staff and Managers of the DCP office involved will be notified to the Office of the Deputy Chief Executive, Service, Delivery and Practice for resolution in accordance with this MoU.


6.2. Disputes will be monitored by the DCP Strategy and Performance Directorate to identify trends or systemic issues needing attention.

7. GOVERNANCE

7.1. Representatives from the DCP Strategy and Performance Directorate and B4SAK will meet when required to manage MoU governance.

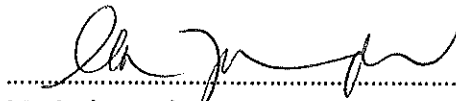
EXECUTED AS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Signed by Founder and General Manager Backpacks 4 SA Kids


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Ms Rachael Zaltron

Dated this 5th day of February 2018

Signed by the Chief Executive of Department for Child Protection


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Ms Cathy Taylor

Dated this 22nd day of January 2018