



**Pru Goward**

Minister for Family and Community Services

Minister for Social Housing

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **GUARDIANSHIP TASKFORCE: FOREVER HOMES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

A special taskforce to promote guardianship as a permanent home for children in foster care is changing the lives of vulnerable children and young people who can no longer live safely with their parents.

Minister for Family and Community Services Pru Goward said the Guardianship Taskforce is reviewing the cases of more than 7500 children in out-of-home care to see who can benefit from guardianship.

“We know that children in out-of-home care need safety, security and permanency – they need a forever home,” Ms Goward said.

“Guardianship orders can be a great way to achieve this.

“An order of guardianship is an important moment in a child’s life because the child is no longer considered to be in out-of-home care but in the independent care of their guardian.”

The NSW Government recently announced landmark reforms to the child protection system which will streamline the court process for guardianship, ensuring children have permanency sooner.

Guardianship is an alternative order to out-of-home care, which is made by the Children’s Court when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the child.

Guardianship orders support children to maintain connections with family, community and culture. The majority of Guardianship orders are with relatives.

Since changing the Care and Protection Act in 2014, more than 2800 children and young people have transitioned to guardianship orders in NSW.

To find out more about guardianship, visit [www.myforeverfamily.org.au/guardianship](http://www.myforeverfamily.org.au/guardianship)

**MEDIA: Benjamin Flores 0428 577 285**