# Home Stretch WA

Foster and Family Carers Participating in Staying On

Consent to Participate and Collect Information

**Introduction**

Home Stretch WA aims to help young people leaving out-of-home care at 18 to transition to independent living by providing extended support and resources until the age of 21.

The Department of Communities is partnering with community service organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (Home Stretch WA providers) to deliver the Home Stretch WA program across the State.

Participating in the Home Stretch WA program is voluntary, and the decision of the young person. Staying On is one part of the Home Stretch WA service offer and includes support to a previous foster or family carer through a Staying On Facilitator.

**National Privacy Law**

As a Home Stretch WA provider, all of our employees follow strict privacy rules. These are part of a national law called the *Privacy Act 1988*. Under this law, we must tell you why they need your information and what we will do with it.

This means your ‘personal information’ will not be shared with anyone outside of the provider unless you have given permission.

Personal information that Home Stretch WA providers will collect about you includes:

* your name, and details about where you live; and
* information about the living arrangements under Staying On,
* information about things are working in the living arrangement, and the supports provided.
* Other information recorded as recorded in the Staying On Agreement.

**Limits to Confidentiality**

There are some circumstances when we may need to breach confidentiality, such as:

* there is an ‘immediate and obvious threat to life’ (including to you, your friends, or your child)
* you provide information about known or suspected child abuse
* we have concerns or believe a child is at risk of harm or neglect
* a court orders the information to be released.

If at any point we were going to breach confidentiality, where possible, we would try and speak to you about this first and explain what the process might involve.

As part of ensuring you will keep records of the activities and work that they undertake, and record that in a case note file connected to the young person who is participating in the program. They will record information on a secure database and your information is only accessible by the provider and its staff.

If you want to know more about how we keep your information private, please speak to your Home Stretch WA provider or contact the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. Visit [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au) or call 1300 363 992.

**Information Sharing with Department of Communities**

The Department of Communities is responsible for receiving, reviewing, approving applications made by Home Stretch WA providers to pay a Staying On subsidy to a foster or family carer. They are also responsible for the ongoing payment of subsidies and keep financial records of payments.

Except in circumstances listed above, only information directly relevant to setting up, maintaining or ending a Staying On subsidy is shared with the Department of Communities. This information is typically recorded and shared through the Staying On Subsidy Application Form, Staying On Agreement and Staying On Agreement Review Forms.

## Consent

I have read or had the contents of this form explained to me.

I understand what information will be recorded and how it shared and used by the Home Stretch WA provider.

I give permission for my information to be recorded and used for the purposes described in this form.

|  |
| --- |
| **Name of Young Person in Living Arrangement** |
| **Name of Carer/Family** | **Signature**  | **Date** |
| **Name of Home Stretch WA Staff/Agency** | **Signature**  | **Date** |

## Participation in Program Development and Evaluation

The Department of Communities funds the Home Stretch WA program, and is working together with Home Stretch WA providers across the state to ensure the service is working well for young people and their families. This is called the Home Stretch WA - Community of Practice.

The Department of Communities has also engaged an independent evaluator to gather information on how the program is working for young people and to ensure Home Stretch WA providers are delivering a high quality service. We may share general non-identifying information regarding participants in the program with the Department of Communities, Anglicare WA and the evaluator to inform this.

Your feedback and experience of the program is important. Along the way, we and the independent evaluator may ask for your feedback on the support you have received from the program. Your views, ideas and experiences will inform improvements that are made to the program along the way.

Any of your personal information or feedback collected for the purpose of research and evaluation of the program, will be anonymised/de-identified, which means your name and identity will not be revealed.

A report will be written for the Department of Communities about what the evaluation finds about the Home Stretch WA program to help make the service better. No names will be used in the report, so your identity and that of your family is kept confidential.

Participating in the Home Stretch WA program is voluntary, and you have the right to opt out at any time until you reach 21. If you choose to opt out, you may be asked for feedback as to why you have chosen to leave the program.

## Consent

I have had the chance to discuss and ask questions about the research and evaluation process of the Home Stretch WA program.

I understand what is being offered by the program and the invitation to provide feedback on my experiences.

| Name of Carer/Family | Signature  | Date |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Home Stretch WA Staff** | **Signature**  | **Date** |