

Once you have lodged an application to become a carer there is a process to determine your suitability to care for our most vulnerable children and young people. This fact sheet discusses the steps involved in this process. The steps are:

- 1) Screening Checks
- 2) Assessment
- 3) Approval
- 4) Registration
- 5) Training

## Screening Checks

First you will be asked to complete several **Screening Checks**. These checks are:

**Medical check:** Your General Practitioner completes a written report and provides information on your physical and emotional capacity to care for children.

**Criminal history check:** Police search their databases to determine if you have a recorded criminal history against your name. If you have a history of minor offences, you may still be considered to become a carer. The recency and severity of the offences will be taken into account during the assessment.

**Child Protection check:** NT Families and Children (NTFC) will conduct a check of their own records to ascertain if you are 'person believed responsible' for having maltreated children. This information is collected during Child Protection investigations. A Child Protection History is not equivalent to having a Criminal History, unless the matter was investigated by the Police and you were subsequently convicted by a court of law.

**Referee Reports:** You will be asked to provide the names of a character reference and a professional reference that should be from two un-related people who can write a reference about you, to tell us what they think about your suitability to become a carer.

## Assessment

The **assessment** process is about getting to know you to determine if you are the right person to care for children and young people. Assessments are a detailed process where applicants will need to provide information about themselves, their background, personal relationships and attitudes to caring, among other things.



The assessment is a time to discuss your motivation to become a carer and consider the impact of caring upon you and reflect upon your ability to cope with the pressures associated with caring. There is no such thing as the 'perfect carer', and we will work with you to identify the personal qualities you have to offer children and young people.

## **Registration**

Information collected during the assessment process will be used to determine whether you are a person considered suitable to care for children and young people. The information will be written into a report and a recommendation made as to whether you should be approved or not approved.

Approved carers receive a letter stating that they are approved.

## **Training**

Successful applicants will be offered training. Professional Development is also offered via NTFC and Departmental training. Other training opportunities will arise throughout the year and carers are strongly encouraged to attend.