

Open Place Transition

March 2020 - Information sheet

People who were care as children before 1990 are sometimes known or described as Forgotten Australians, Care Leavers or Pre-1990 Care Leavers. The Department of Health and Human Services (the department) uses the term Pre-1990 Care Leavers.

Transitioning to a new provider

From July 2020, a new provider will run Open Place, a service for people who were in care as children before 1990. Open Place is currently run by Berry Street Victoria.

We are supporting Berry Street Victoria to ensure the transition period to a new provider is smooth. Thanks to the staff at Open Place for their dedication and contribution to alleviating the life-long impact of institutional care.

The Victorian Government is committed to addressing the impact of past practices for Pre-1990 Care Leavers and trusting their expertise and guidance to help develop a future service to support their needs.

Client experience matters

From October to December 2019, the department consulted with Pre-1990 Care Leavers and key stakeholders to hear their views about what they value most about Open Place and what, if anything, could improve.

In December 2019 we also worked with Pre-1990 Care Leavers to co-design supporting principles which will help identify the most suitable new provider for Open Place.

A [summary report](#) of these consultations and co-designed service principle report is available on the Department of Health and Human Services website.

Next steps and key dates

The department commenced the tender process in mid-January 2020 to identify the new provider of Open Place.

This work currently remains on track as a departmental priority and it is still anticipated the new provider will still be announced by the end of March 2020 and operational by 1 July 2020. Should this change as an impact of the COVID 19 response stakeholders and Pre-1990 Care Leavers will be advised.

The department will work closely with the new provider, Open Place staff, Berry Street Victoria and Commonwealth Department of Social Services, who also fund Open Place, to help Pre-1990 Care Leavers to experience a safe and smooth transition.

Further information

If you have questions, email [Open Place Transition](mailto:openplacetransition@dhhs.vic.gov.au) <openplacetransition@dhhs.vic.gov.au>.

Pre-1990 Care Leavers can contact Open Place on 1800 779 379 (free call) for support or information about their current services.

To receive this publication in an accessible format email

openplacetransition@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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Available from [Open Place transition to new services provider page](#) on the Services website

<<https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/open-place-transition-new-service-provider>