

Open Place Transition

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.

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

We are 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 now and into the future.

Co-design

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 the current service provided by Open Place and what if anything could improve.

During this time, there were more than 150 telephone calls, 80 emails and letters, and 12 consultation forums that were attended by approximately 150 people.

In December 2019, the department also worked with a smaller group of self-nominated Pre-1990 Care Leavers to co-design principles to help the department identify the new provider and develop the future service.

A summary report of what was heard from Pre-1990 Care Leavers in the consultations is available on [the department's website](https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/open-place-transition-new-service-provider) <<https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/open-place-transition-new-service-provider>>.

From January 2020, Pre-1990 Care Leavers can also contact Open Place on 1800 779 379 (free call) to request a copy of the report.

Next steps

The department will commence the tender process in mid-January 2020 to identify the new provider.

It is anticipated the new provider will be announced by the end of March 2020 and be operational by 1 July 2020.

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

Further information

For further information about the transition, you can email [the department](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

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, December 2019.

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>