

FAQs – Office of the Public Guardian transfer

Adult guardianship in the Northern Territory

The *Guardianship of Adults Act 2016* (the Act) provides the legal framework for adult guardianship in the Northern Territory.

The Act:

- Established an independent Office of the Public Guardian
- Established the statutory appointment of an independent Public Guardian
- Introduced comprehensive guardianship principles
- Transferred jurisdiction from the Local Court to the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT).

The Guardianship Act supports people with impaired decision-making capacity who need help to make decisions about their personal or financial matters.

Office of the Public Guardian transition from Department of Health to Department of Attorney-General and Justice

On March 4 2019, the Office of the Public Guardian will transfer from Department of Health to Department of Attorney-General and Justice.

Why is this transfer occurring?

- All other independent offices in the Northern Territory are hosted by the Department of Attorney-General and Justice
- This transition brings the Office of the Public Guardian into line with other guardianship jurisdictions across Australia.

What does the transfer mean?

The Department of Attorney-General and Justice will provide all corporate support for the Office of the Public Guardian.

Will the transfer impact on the impartiality of the Public Guardian?

The transfer will not affect the impartiality of the Public Guardian who is a statutory independent officer.

Will anything change for represented adults, families and guardians?

There will be no change to the provision of guardianship services by the Office of the Public Guardian.

Benefits of the transfer

The work that the Office of the Public Guardian undertakes in relation to human rights and social justice issues for people with a disability will be better recognised within this framework. The Office of the Public Guardian will now be located with the other Northern Territory independent offices, facilitating increased communication and collaboration between these agencies.

Will the transfer affect operations and processes?

All Office of the Public Guardian operations and processes will remain the same. There will be no disruption to operations by this hosting change.

What is the cost of the transfer?

There will be no cost for the transfer of the Office of the Public Guardian between host agencies.

Staffing and organisational structure

There will be no change to Office of the Public Guardian staffing or structure.

Office location and contact details?

- There will be no change to the location of the Darwin and Alice Springs offices
- Office of the Public Guardian contact details will remain the same.

Office of the Public Guardian



1800 810 979 (8 am to 4 pm weekdays)



public.guardian@nt.gov.au



www.publicguardian.nt.gov.au