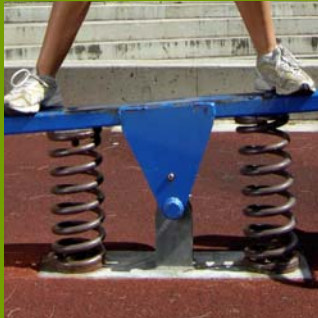


National Housing Conference 2008



Housing NSW & Department of Community Services Shared
Access Trial: Young People Leaving out of Home Care Hunter Region





Purpose of Shared Access Trial

- Improve pathways for young people leaving care with complex housing needs to access social housing and support systems
- Better interagency case coordination of social housing and support services
- Shared responsibility of mutual clients in relation to case reviews



NSW Department of
Community Services





Focus of the Trial

- The trial targeted young people aged 16-19 leaving full-time foster care in the Hunter Region
- To develop a partnership that assists in meeting the needs of the young people in relation to housing and to coordinate support
- To enhance the quality of life and increase community participation and independence of young people leaving care



NSW Department of
Community Services





Tools Developed

- Readiness Assessment
- Case Plan

These are:

- strength based
- based on accurate assessment/referral
- basis for a leaving care/case plan
- ongoing assessment/monitoring
- goal oriented
- client centred



NSW Department of
Community Services





Process

Caseworker identifies young person



Readiness assessment completed with young person



Support services arranged in line with case plan



Referral to Housing NSW
Application to priority housing completed



Young person meets with Tenancy Advice Service



Caseworker, Housing specialist and young person meet to
confirm tenancy



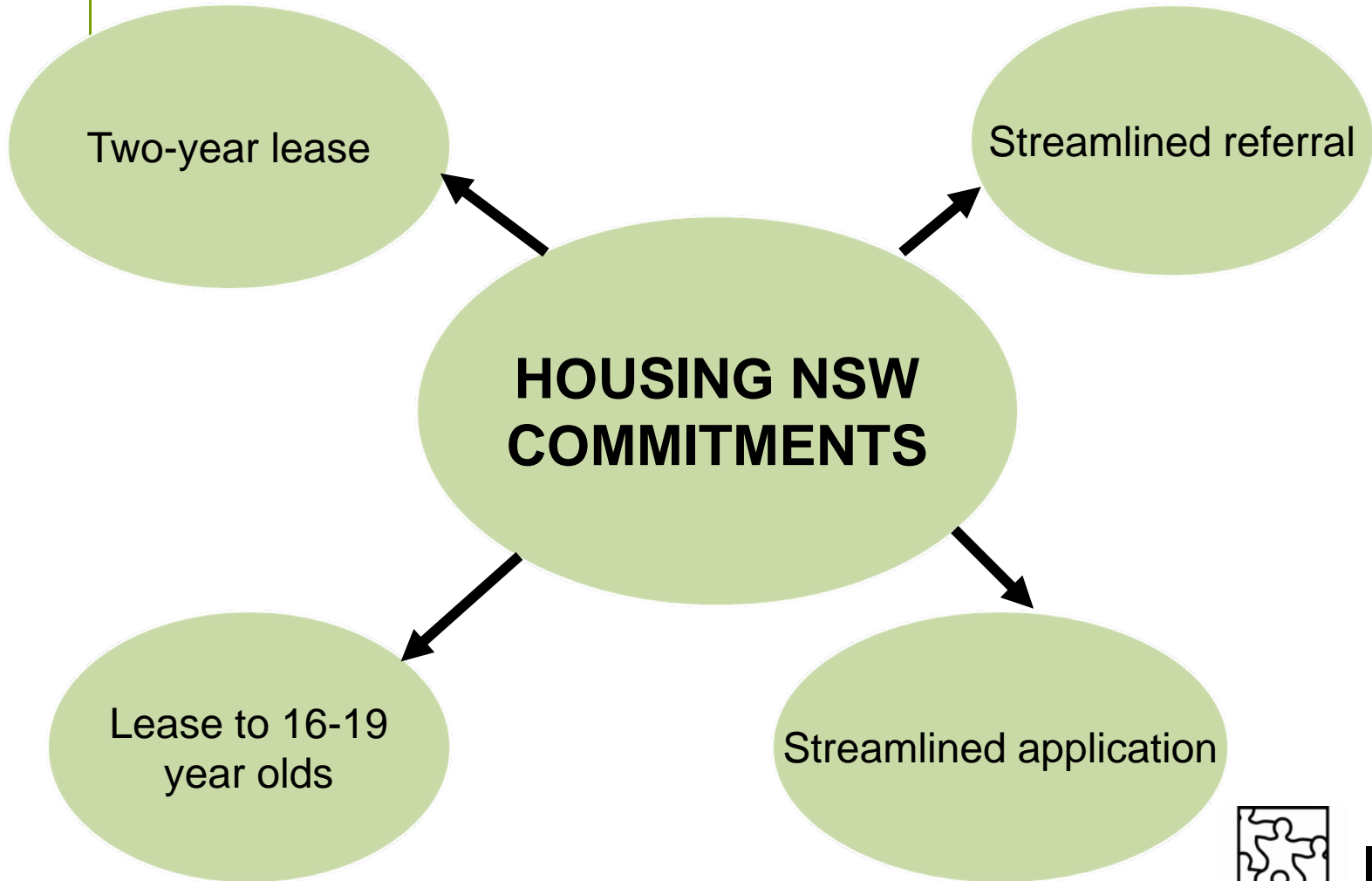
Two-year lease signed with guarantee of ongoing support



NSW Department of
Community Services



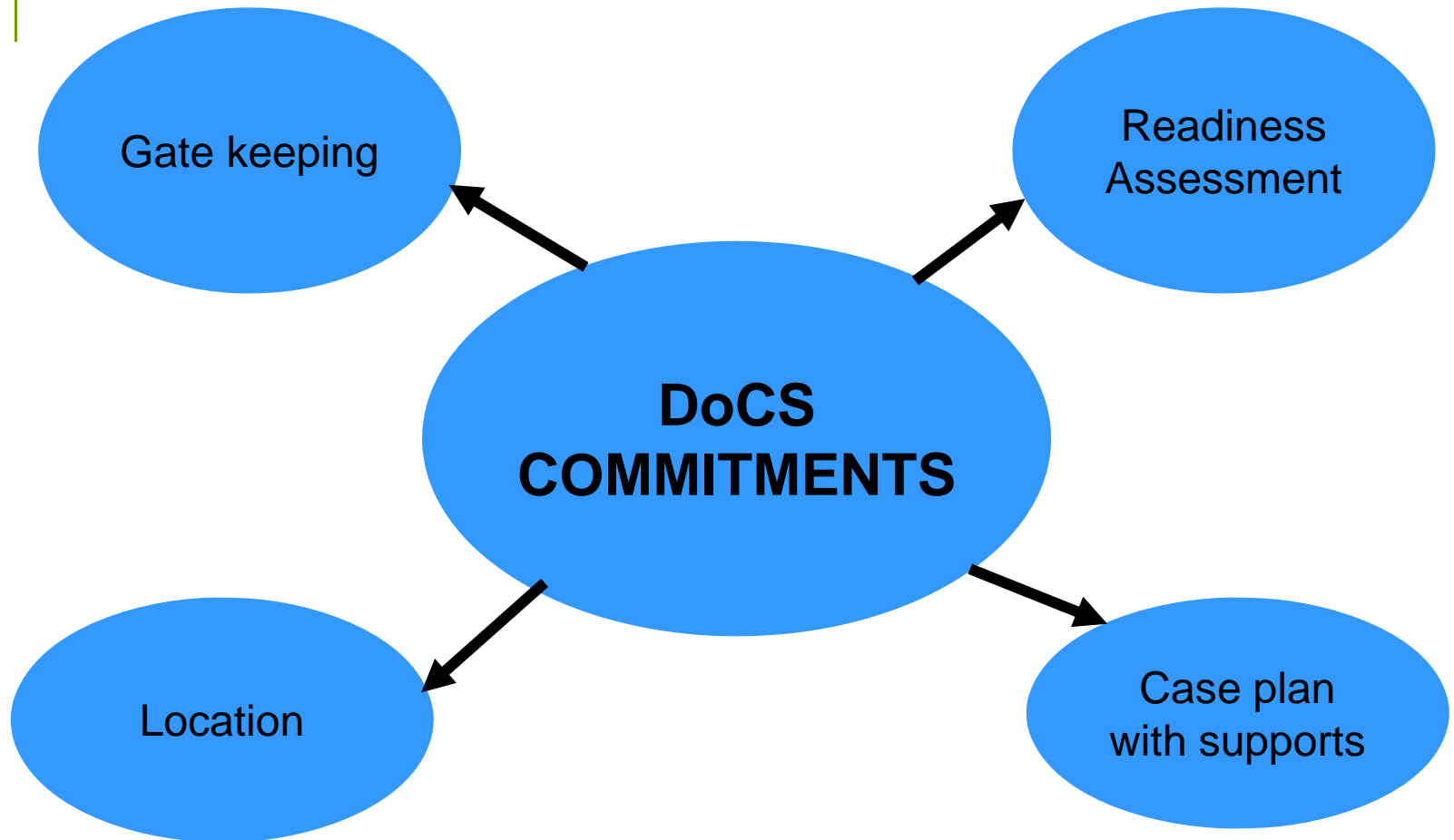
Housing NSW Commitments



NSW Department of
Community Services



Department of Community Services Commitments



NSW Department of
Community Services





So far...

- 3 young people self assessed as unsuitable
- 5 young people in a tenancy with External Agency Support
- 2 young people in a tenancy with Foster Carer Support
- 1 young person in a tenancy Youth Work Mentor
- 1 young person in a tenancy SAAP ongoing support
- 8 young people waiting for accommodation
- 1 young person's tenancy terminated due to antisocial behaviour



NSW Department of
Community Services





Agency Achievements

- Developed respectful and strong working relationships
- Increased our understanding of working with young people
- Developed new strategies to source private rental properties in the very competitive market of Newcastle and the Hunter
- The trial has assisted in understanding each others core business outside of the Accord
- Sustainable tenancies for vulnerable client group
- Capacity building for clients



NSW Department of
Community Services





Client Achievements

- Young people developed independence/confidence
- Sense of ownership/belonging
- Responsibility
- Stability
- Trust in agencies
- Faith in themselves
- Community integration



NSW Department of
Community Services



HOUSING
NEW SOUTH WALES



Challenges

- Sourcing property within the timeframe of the case plan
- Appropriate location
- Appropriate property type
- Confidentiality
- Differences in core business focus
- Some of the young people have had difficulty adjusting to living by themselves



NSW Department of
Community Services





Young People's Quotes

“ The unit was better than I expected I haven't really lived on my own before and I thought it would be worse than it is but I love it. ”

“I think its great and cheaper than what I was paying before. It's been hard to get used to living by myself.”

“Made my life a lot easier and also has given me the stability, consistency and independence to continue on with my life, casual job and also studies.”



NSW Department of
Community Services





Young People's Quotes

“Who would have thought that I would have my own place? That I would get on well enough with my carers to have them over for dinner and my brothers stay over at weekends too.”

“I can't help it every time the women from Housing come I think it's an inspection of how clean the place is. They ask me how I'm going and say how great I've got the place looking. I even scored movie tickets for having a good record for three months. I look forward to their visits now.”



NSW Department of
Community Services





Future Directions

- Trial to continue until March 2008
- Evaluation to take place
- Address challenges
- Further development of pathways



NSW Department of
Community Services





For Further Information

- Grace Richter

grace.richter@housing.nsw.gov.au

- Wendy Wilson

wendy.wilson@community.nsw.gov.au



NSW Department of
Community Services

