



Who Am I

Making Records meaningful

Research to support archiving and record-keeping
in Victorian Out of Home Care

<http://research.cwav.asn.au/AFRP/OOHC/WAMI/default.aspx>

Who Am I?

Learning and Development for record keeping to support identity: from accountability to identity construction and meaning-making

Current Practice WORKSHOP 4: 23 October, 2009

Preliminary Discussion Paper:

Australian policy context surrounding children, young people and care leavers' *'personal records'*

Introduction

Key to the progress of the *Who am I?* current practice strand is the ability to draw together the four knowledge domains: research literature, consumer expertise, practitioner wisdom and policy context. The first three workshops raised questions in relation to a number of policy areas including privacy and children's legislation, out-of-home care standards and rights frameworks. To support the continuing research of the current research strand, this document seeks to review the Australian policy levels interfacing with children's 'care' records.

This policy review will focus in particular on the first three workshops' emerging concept of children's '*personal records*'¹ as distinct from their statutory 'care file'. While the term '*personal records*' remains open to construction, a preliminary definition² informing this paper is: records of a child's development, history and identity belonging to the child. The life story archive, for example, (Cowling, 2009) might form part of a set of '*personal records*'.

This paper proceeds by considering the relevant background from the Who am I? current practice workshops 1-3 on what might constitute '*personal records*' and how these might relate to the 'care file'. In turn this paper reviews the current Australian policy context surrounding children's care records, concluding with a discussion of suggestions for future research within the *Who am I?* project.

¹ The italicised term '*personal records*' is used to refer to the hypothetical concept proposed for further research; use of the non-italicised term is explained in the next section.

² This definition integrates definitions used within state and territory policy documents as well as discussions arising in the Who am I? workshops 1-3

Background: Who am I? Workshops 1-3

The first three *Who am I?* workshops deconstructed the child's 'care file' and a subset of recording tools with specific relevance to the child's identity: *Looking After Children* (LAC), life story work and cultural support planning. In view of the limitations of the statutory 'care file' for supporting children's identity, the concept of a distinct set of children's '*personal records*' emerged. A summary of the workshop findings follow.

Workshop 1 (April, '09) explored the concept of the 'care file' as the sum of many different types of case notes, reports and records, written by a number of authors for a variety of purposes and dispersed across a range of locations. Participants identified a number of characteristics of the statutory 'care file' that potentially hindered the ability of the record to convey a coherent, positive and continuous narrative of the child within their family, community and culture³ (Campbell, 2009a).

Workshops 2 and 3 (June '09; August '09) then focused on a subset of 'care file' records, specifically designed to be co-constructed with children and young people in order to support their development, identity and wellbeing: *Looking After Children* (LAC), life story work and cultural plans. During these workshops, participants raised concerns about the interfacing with privacy legislation⁴ as well as the quality and consistency of current practice across the continuum of making, storing and accessing these records⁵. In particular, participants emphasised children's right to keep a copy of these records for themselves.

The idea that children and young people have 'a right' to co-create and own for themselves a copy of '*personal records*' (such as LAC, life story and cultural support plans) suggests a natural boundary could exist between these records and the broader 'care file'⁶ (which is owned by the agency/DHS and subject to privacy legislation). To support future research in this area, a review of the Australian care records policy context follows.

Literature Review: The Australian Care Records Policy Context

The course of the first three workshops highlighted the complexity of the 'care file' legislative and policy context. This section begins by introducing this general context before reviewing the policy instruments that might consider children's rights to a collection of '*personal records*'.

Table 1 (below) identifies some of the multi-level policy instruments that interface with children's records, ranging from international to domestic law, state-based standards and the sector initiatives delivering them.

³ Practitioner and consumer responses highlighted the tendency for recording to privilege statutory and compliance requirements over supporting identity construction. In addition, access to the 'care file' was noted as problematic due to restrictive Privacy and Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation.

⁴ In addition, concerns were raised over the circumstances in which Freedom of Information and Privacy legislation might impact on either:

- The creation of records that recognise the interconnectedness of the child's story with their relatives stories
- Care leavers' access to their own 'personal records'

⁵ Refer to the workshop summary paper series for broader issues surrounding practitioner skill and quality of practice in co-creating these records.

⁶ This subset may function simultaneously as a personal archive for the child as well as a set of practice tools supporting the child's case plan and broader 'care file'.

Table 1: A cross-section of the 'care file' legislative and policy context

Please note: This table is a work in progress; a range of other instruments not listed might also apply.

	Legislative/Policy Level			
	International Law	State/Territory Legislation	Standards	Sector Initiatives: Practice Frameworks, Training, Resources & Consumer Information
General 'care file' records		-Privacy and Freedom of Information legislation, incl. 's.17' -Children's legislation	-Standards relevant to managing and storing records, e.g. PROV -OOH 'care' standards	
Children's 'personal records'		-Privacy and Freedom of Information legislation, incl. 's.17' -Children's legislation	-OOH 'care' standards	Practice guidelines/ frameworks, training and resources relevant to making, storing and accessing children's ' <i>personal records</i> ' as distinct from the rest of their 'care file'
Children's Rights	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Reviewed by Campbell, 2009b)	-Children's legislation	-State Charters for Children's Rights	Web accessible information on children's rights to records for children, families and carers

*The national policy level has been omitted as no references to children's care file records were found (http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2009-04-30/docs/child_protection_framework.pdf).

A more detailed review of the bold highlighted instruments from Table 1 follows. Specifically, the focus is on the ways that Australian states and territories acknowledge children's rights to '*personal records*' through children's legislation, sector standards, children's rights charters and the provision of website information for families, carers and consumers. Of the remaining instruments in the table:

- Campbell (2009b) has previously reviewed the recording implications arising from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Victorian Charter of Children's Rights
- Privacy and Freedom of Information needs further review regarding the interfacing with different types of '*personal records*' (Workshop 3, Aug, '09)
- Practice guidelines, training and resources relevant to making, storing and accessing records, including '*personal records*' will be further considered in Workshop 4 (Oct '09).

This analysis first started during the preparation for *Who Am I?* Workshop 2 when consultants across three states pointed out different ways that legislation, policy and sector resources supported life story work in their state. Accordingly, the workshop 2 life story work presentation illustrated interstate differences by briefly comparing the Victorian and New South Wales out-of-home care standards surrounding '*personal records*' (Department of Human Services, 2007, p.18) and '*life story records*' (NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, s.3.2). This document broadens and extends that comparison across each of the Australian States and Territories.

The question posed here is:

- How have Australian states and territories acknowledged children's rights to '*personal records*'⁷ in legislation, standards, rights frameworks and online information for families, carers and consumers?

The following research methods formed the basis of this review:

- Child protection legislation of each Australian State and Territory were searched for references to '*care records*', '*identity*', '*life story work*', '*children's rights*' and '*personal records/ information*'.
- The websites of each State and Territory child protection service and Office for Children were searched for references to '*Out-of-home care standards*', '*identity*' '*children's rights*', '*life story work*' and '*information for children/families/carers*'.

⁷ '*Rights to 'personal records*' are considered in relation to the recording continuum, i.e. making, storing and accessing records. This non-italicised term is used to refer to the concept as it currently exists in policy, c.f. '*personal records*' on page 1.

A table of findings is provided in Appendix 1⁸. States are listed roughly in order of the extent to which their web-accessible policy instruments acknowledge children's rights to 'personal records'. According to the table in Appendix 1, a comparison of states and territories shows that: New South Wales and South Australia appear to have integrated children's right to 'personal records' most fully into their instruments; Victoria has privileged this right in their standards and charter of children's rights; the Northern Territory and Tasmania have no web-accessible mention of children's rights to 'personal records'; the remaining states and territories provide only brief and limited acknowledgement.

A brief description of references to each of the main search categories (care records, life story work, 'personal records' children's rights and information for children, families and carers) across states and territories follows.

'**Care records**' were covered in detail by NSW and, to a lesser extent, SA. Notable from the NSW policy context was the unique emphasis on the accountability of 'care records' in supporting the child's ongoing needs, including: quality of care, understanding of their personal history, establishing an independent life, sufficient detail to respond to queries later in life as well as clear information on how this record relates to other files and signed consents.

Other notable stipulations across states and territories included:

- The participation of children and young people, including the rights to know about, read and add information to their care file, such as their own personal entries (NSW; SA)
- The inclusion of all relevant plans, reports and records including birth certificate, court reports, school reports, medical records and copies of life story materials (NSW; SA; ACT)
- A focus on family, community and cultural connections (e.g. NSW; SA)
- Parents' right to information concerning the progress and development of their children (NSW)
- Retention of records, leaving care records access and relationship to state records act (NSW)

'**Life story work**' was integrated in standards and rights charters at a number of levels, including:

- As a right referred to on its own
- As part of a set of broader 'personal records' or 'care records'
- As a method for supporting a range of other needs, including: strengthening a sense of identity and self-esteem, connection to family and community as well as understanding why they are in 'care'

The level of support for life story work potentially exists on a continuum where responsibility may be placed on the child/carer, the broader care team and general sector resourcing⁹. In this review, state policies ranged between the first two positions on the continuum.

'Personal records/information'

Because there is potential for significant overlap between life story work, personal records and care records, in this review the distinguishing feature that defined records and information as *personal* was the stipulation that these materials be compiled and kept safe, in trust for the child, young person or care leaver.

A range of personal materials were identified:

- Life story collections (NSW; SA; Vic)
- Placement details, experiences and achievements, photographs of meaningful and significant events and the names of significant people (Victorian draft CSO registration standards, p.18)
- Originals of birth certificate, school reports, medical reports and personal photographs (NSW, s.169; ACT, s.15.4.3; WA)
- Information about decisions and plans concerning the future and personal history (QLD)
- Other "personal things" (NSW, charter of children's rights)

All states other than Northern Territory and Tasmania included a reference to 'personal records/information' in either their legislation, standards or rights charters. Further consideration may also be given to the extent to which the 'care records' statement in s.160 of the NSW Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act (1998) may also constitute 'personal records' – that "written, photographic and other records about the child's development, history and identity" should be "maintained" and "accessible to the child or young person".

Three '**Children's rights**' charters (NSW, SA, VIC) included significant reference to children's rights to personal records and information, including: life story, personal, family and cultural history, reasons why children are in care and where they can get more information. NSW and SA also included the right to add information to your care file.

⁸ Where search results were relevant to records and identity these were summarized in Appendix 1.

⁹ development of life story resources, including funding, kits, training, sector-wide initiatives, and a collective knowledgebase.

A search of child protection and Office for Children websites showed NSW to be the only state providing additional **'web-accessible information about records for children, families and carers'**.

Discussion/Conclusions

Subsequent to the first three *Who am I?* workshops, this paper noted the emergence of the idea that children should have rights to a collection of *'personal records'* to be kept in trust as distinct from their statutory 'care file'. After exploring the hypothetical *'personal records'* concept, this paper searched for layers of potential support for this idea within existing state and territory policy instruments.

The review found children's rights to a set of *'personal records'* appeared within policy in some way across almost all Australian states and territories (with the exceptions of the Northern Territory and Tasmania). However, it should be noted that the scope of what was considered 'personal records' varied between states, from a more comprehensive list in the Victorian draft standards to a mere entitlement to identity documents on leaving care in several other states.

It was further evident from this review that the consolidation of children's rights to *'personal records'* within policy potentially exists across a number of continuums, including:

- **The range of policy levels incorporating children's rights to 'personal records'**
E.g. the best integration considered possible in this review is that these rights are provided for within legislation, standards, rights charters and web accessible information for children, families and carers (NSW provided a strong example).
- **The definition of 'personal records' used**
E.g. an inclusive and comprehensive definition compared to a mere entitlement to identity documents
- **Awareness of broader sector responsibilities in supporting children's rights to 'personal records'**
E.g. policy may place responsibility on the child/carer alone, the care team or broader sector resourcing
- **The coherence of each instrument, such that the value of 'personal records' (and its contents such as 'life story work') are considered at a number of levels**
E.g. life story work may be considered as a right of its own, part of a broader set of records to which the child is entitled as well as a method for supporting a range of the child's rights/needs
- **The consistency between instruments within each state/territory**
E.g. references to children's rights to 'personal records' say similar things across each instrument

This review has argued that the idea of a set of *'personal records'* already has some grounding in the Australian policy context. However, these continuums show there is considerable potential for greater policy and sector consolidation of children's rights to the co-construction of 'care records' and to the ownership of a set of *'personal records'*. Future research suggestions for the consideration of *Who am I?* participants follow.

- **What implications for practice arise from a close examination of current policy?**
E.g. Might the quality and scope of children's 'care records' and 'personal records' be improved simply by enhancing awareness of existing policy amongst CSOs, practitioners and consumers? How could current practice be better supported to comply with the current policy stipulations?
- **Should future research aim to realign policy instruments surrounding 'care records' according to the priority of children's identity, with particular emphasis on their rights to co-construct and own a set of 'personal records'?**
NB. Implications for policy may span the recording continuum of making, storing and accessing records.

In order to influence policy development, perhaps some level of consistent agreement in the practice processes of co-constructing 'care records', including the making, storing and accessing of *'personal records'* may be a useful starting point. A related question for the consideration of *Who am I?* participants is thus:

- **By what methods are we to achieve agreement in the practice processes of co-constructing 'care records', including the making, storing and accessing of 'personal records'?**
For instance, future action research findings may be sufficient, or at a more formal level perhaps the development of practice frameworks may be useful.

Taken together, these suggestions for future research in policy and practice have the potential to synthesise a range of previous issues and suggestions for future research from within the Who am I? project (Campbell, 2009a; 2009c). These are listed in Appendix 2.

In particular, from the workshop discussions so far, further research on the concept of children's 'personal records' might be better informed by more detailed information on a range of topics, including:

- Out-of-home 'care' recording guidelines on LAC and cultural planning records (whether or not it is recommended that children be given a copy to keep)
- Clarification of types of records invoking privacy and freedom of information legislation
- Clarification of the extent to and means by which third party permissions (e.g. a parent giving permission for mental health records to be accessible to the child) can be pre-arranged
- The outcome of privacy/freedom of information 'section 17': children's files to be transferred to DHS and only accessible to care leavers via freedom of information
- Means of storage within CSOs, DHS, community custodians and Office of the Child Safety Commissioner

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References

Campbell, L. (2009a) *Fragmentation or coherence? Issues in recordkeeping for children in out-of-home 'care'*, Report of Workshop 1. <http://research.cwav.asn.au/AFRP/OOHC/WAMI/default.aspx>

Campbell, L. (2009b) *Rights and co-construction of the record*. Preparation sheet, Workshop 2.

Campbell, L. (2009c) *Supporting the Journey: Issues in co-creating a sensitive narrative of the child's identity and experience in 'care'*. Report of Workshop 2. <http://research.cwav.asn.au/AFRP/OOHC/WAMI/default.aspx>

Cowling (2009) *A collaborative life story archive? Issues for reflection and discussion*. Preliminary discussion paper, Workshop 2 <http://research.cwav.asn.au/AFRP/OOHC/WAMI/default.aspx>

Department of Human Services (2007) *Evidence guide for registered community service organisations* (Draft, July 2007.)

NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, *Out of home care accreditation standards and benchmark policies, s.3.2* <http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/accreditation/nsw-out-of-home-care-standards> - accessed 29th September, 2009.

APPENDIX 1

Table 2: Legislative and policy support across Australian states and territories for the concept of children’s rights to ‘personal records’

STATE	STATE LEGISLATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN	STANDARDS & INFORMATION FOR WORKERS	WEB ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN FAMILIES AND CARERS
NEW SOUTH WALES	<p>Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act, 1998¹⁰</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charter of Children’s Rights (s.162)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ‘Care records’; ‘Identity’ -“...written, photographic and other records relating to the development, history and identity” should be “maintained” and “accessible to the child or young person” (s.160) -Parents’ right to information concerning progress and development of their children (s.163) -Leaving OOH care plan (s.166) -Records relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young persons (s.167) -Leaving care records access (s.168) -Retention of records (s.170) -State records act (s.170A)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ‘Personal records’ -Entitlement to originals of certain</p>	<p>Out-of-home care accreditation standards and benchmark policies (Office of Children’s Guardian) http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/accreditation/nsw-out-of-home-care-standards</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ‘Life story’; ‘Identity’ <i>Identity and family relationships (s.3.2)</i> -Placement plans identify strategies for encouraging self-esteem and identity (s.3.2.1) -C&YP are encouraged to express their own cultural and religious identity (s.3.2.2) -Clear picture of important attachment relationships (s.3.2.3) -Carers and/or staff collect a wide variety of material to assist in developing self-identity (s.3.2.6) -Access to pictures and information about their life story including their time in care (s.3.2.7) -c.f. Adoption benchmark policies (life story record) http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/example-folder-5/Adoption/adoption-benchmark-policies/1.6_Casework_with_the_child_v1.0.pdf</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ‘Children’s rights’ <i>Rights of children, young people and families (s.4)</i> ‘to be recognised, respected and promoted’</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ‘Care records’ <i>Management of the care records system (s.5.1)</i> -Importance of accurately recording and retaining a child’s history, memories and life</p>	<p>Information for young people in care Participation, support, Charter of Rights, leaving care http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/parents_carers_and_families/or_young_people/are_you_in_care.html</p> <p>Charter of Rights</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right to contact with family and community and to know why in care</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right to keep a life story record</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right to ask about, read and add to ‘care file’ information http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/assets/main/documents/charter_13-18.pdf</p> <p>Life story work information for foster carers http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/parents_carers_and_families/f</p>

¹⁰ One of the main legislation changes emphasised the need to keep identity and life story records. A summary of legislation changes is listed here: http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/for_agencies_that_work_with_us/out_of_home_care_services/out_of_home_care_legislation/main_changes_resulting_from_the_out_of_home_care_legislation.html

	<p>documents: birth certificate, school reports, medical reports & photographs (s.169) http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/fullhtml/inforce/act+157+1998+FIRST+0+N?#ch.8-pt.5-sec.160</p>	<p>experiences -Records should be: organised and well managed with time set aside for this task; subject to regular review to ensure compliance</p> <p>Content of care records (s.5.2) -Records should: accurately reflect life history; contain sufficient information necessary to provide quality care; assist children and young persons in establishing independent lives once leaving OOH care; respond to queries later in life about their time in care, life before their time in care and reasons for entry into care; need to be comprehensive and contain sufficient information to answer the child or young person's questions about their history and demonstrate quality of care. -Scope of content of care records listed, this includes: copies of life story materials; clear information on how this record relates to other files on natural families or placements; signed consents where applicable. -Life story materials should relate to all aspects of the child's life, including photographs. -Young people are given opportunities to make file entries on their own behalf.</p>	<p>ostering and adoption/foster care/are you a foster carer/life story work.html</p>
<p>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</p>	<p>Children's Protection Act 1993</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Care records'; 'Life story work'; 'Personal records'; Children's rights</p>	<p>Standards of Alternative Care in South Australia (Dept. Families and Communities) http://www.dfc.sa.gov.au/pub/tabId/257/itemId/1178/moduleId/1084/Standards-of-Alternative-Care-in-South-Australia-2.aspx</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Care records' -life domains, school reports, medical records etc. (s.2.7.10) -strengthen and maintain connections with family, community and culture (s.3.1.6) -Core standard 5 Care Records</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Life story'; 'Identity' -life story collections the responsibility of all members of care team; collections should be kept and looked after (s.5.3) -promoting community connections through life story work (s.2.8.3) -supporting identity and self-esteem, access to a life story book (s.3.1.7) -care team partnership responsible for life story works and collections (s.2.7.12)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children's Rights (s.6.1) -give information about entitlements and how to make views known (s.2.7.14)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Personal records' -Refer to stipulations under 'Care Records' above -when leaving care to be provided with copies of identity documents (s.7.2)</p>	<p>Charter of Children's Rights</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rights to: know who you are, your personal history and culture; understand where your family is and why you are in care; have all personal things kept safe and add information to your file. http://www.gcyp.sa.gov.au/cgi-bin/wf.pl?pid=&hi=&mode=show&folder=documents/Charter%20of%20Rights&file=20_The%20Charter%20of%20Rights.htm</p>

<p>VICTORIA</p>	<p>Children, Youth and Families Act, 2005; Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Care records'; 'Life story work'; 'Personal records/information'; Children's rights</p>	<p>Out-of-home care accreditation standards: Evidence guide for Registered Community Service Organisations DHS, Draft July 2007 (Hard Copy)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Personal records' "include details of a child or youth's placement, their experiences and achievements, photographs, of meaningful and significant events and the names of significant people involved in the child or youth's life that the child/youth can take with them" (s.2.4, 'Information Sharing'; s.2.5, 'Information Accessibility'; s.5.2, 'Promoting Development').</p>	<p>Charter of Children's Rights</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right to be provided with information, e.g. my life story, my history, my family's history, the choices I have and where I can go if I have a problem.</p> <p>http://www.cyf.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/96066/charter_for_children_in_out-of-home_care.pdf</p>
<p>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</p>	<p>Children and Community Services Act 2004</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Personal records' -Entitlement to documents on leaving care PDF http://www.community.wa.gov.au/DCP/AboutDCP/Legislation/ChildrenandCommunityServicesAct2004/#act</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Care records'; 'Life story work'; Children's rights</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standards not found on web</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Life Story Work Child protection and foster care partnership Background Paper http://www.community.wa.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/AE073E14-7FA7-4B78-9B36-ED336E9246A1/0/FosterCarePartnershipBackgroundPaper2.pdf 'carers are to be provided with a life story handbook to assist the child to record important information about themselves' (s.5.3, p.9)</p>	<p>Charter of Children's Rights</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rights listed not specific to records</p> <p>http://www.community.wa.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/57128BFC-1C29-4405-A3E3-D38ED4DDAC28/0/DCPPROcharterofrights1318DCD2122007.pdf</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No web accessible information about records for children, families and carers</p>
<p>AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY</p>	<p>Children and Young People Act 2008</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Personal information' to be kept by foster carers and care services (birth certificate, school reports, medical records, photographs) (s.15.4.3)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standards not found on web</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No web accessible information about records for children, families and carers</p>

<p>QUEENSLAND</p>	<p>Child Protection Act 1999</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charter of Children's Rights</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Care records'; 'Life story work'; 'Personal records'</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standards are brief and non-specific: http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/fostercare/rights-responsibilities/standards-care.html</p>	<p>Charter of children's rights</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right to be given information about decisions and plans concerning the future and personal history http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/fostercare/documents/charter-journey-care.pdf</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No web accessible information about records for children, families and carers</p>
<p>NORTHERN TERRITORY</p>	<p>Care and protection of children Act 2007</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Care records'; 'Life story work'; 'Personal records'; Children's rights</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standards not web-accessible</p>	<p>Children's Rights in care</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rights listed not specific to records http://www.nt.gov.au/health/docs/fostercare_factsheet_2_standardsofcare.pdf</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No web accessible information about records for children, families and carers</p>
<p>TASMANIA</p>	<p>Children, Young Persons and their Families Act, 1997</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 'Care records'; 'Life story work'; 'Personal records'; Children's rights</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standards not web accessible</p>	<p>Children's Rights in care</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rights listed not specific to records http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/9107/Rights_of_Children_and_YP_in_Care.pdf</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No web accessible information about records for children, families and carers</p>

APPENDIX 2

Table 3: Previous issues and suggestions for future research related to this paper's proposed research questions (p.11/12)

Please note: ideas in this table are intended to contextualise this paper's proposed research questions within previous workshop findings and remain open to revision by participants.

Issues/Themes	Suggestions for future research
<p>Improving the child's voice in and ownership of the record (Campbell, 2009a, p.10)</p> <p>Improving the coherence of the narrative (Campbell, 2009a, p.10)</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "...maintaining truthful, coherent and accessible case records must be understood as a fiduciary responsibility: 'the system', and the many workers within it [must], <i>hold in trust information crucial to the child's evolving identity</i>. During and after 'care' the child must be able to gain access to a coherent life narrative" (Campbell, 2009a, p.11). - Supporting the three elements of a coherent, positive evolving life narrative: (i) basic identity, (ii) history and memory-keeping, and (iii) therapeutic interpretation or 'meaning making' (Campbell, 2009c, 16). 	<p>"Should there be attention to which aspects of the record clearly belong to the child, not to 'the system'?" (Campbell, 2009a, p.12).</p> <p>"Young people currently 'in care' [are] not aware of rights to access information and how to do it" (Campbell, 2009a, p.8): How can files be made more transparent to the child while 'in care'? (Campbell, 2009a, p.12).</p> <p>"That the project explores the feasibility of a more consistent approach to building, with the child, the child's own portable and durable personal record, using creative methods appropriate to the child or young person" (Campbell, 2009a, p.11).</p> <p>*A new implication arising from this paper might be: How might the three elements of a coherent narrative be supported in policy?</p>
<p>Recognising the place of the family in its culture in the child's evolving life story (Campbell, 2009a, p.10)</p>	<p>From Campbell (2009a, p.11):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -How family members can be and are involved in <i>creating</i> and <i>storing</i> important information for the child's record? <p>*A new implication arising from this paper could be: How can policy support the place of the family?</p>
<p>Realigning legislation and standards with the best interests of the child (Campbell, 2009a, p.10)</p>	<p>"How to address FOI issues so that people who are/have been in 'care' can get important information about siblings and family members?" (Campbell, 2009a, p.8)</p> <p>From Campbell (2009a, p.13):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -That this project consortium advocates for and contributes to a review of the Freedom of Information legislation to better accommodate the needs of 'care'-leavers. -That this project continues to examine and disseminate knowledge about best practice in file access for children and young people in 'care' and for 'care'-leavers.

Issues/Themes	Suggestions for future research
	Who has the right to release what kinds of information, such as court reports and specialist assessments? (Campbell, 2009a, p.9).
Managing technologies for information durability (Campbell, 2009a, p.10)	That the current practice and archival strands work together to develop [<i>personal records</i>] archiving practices in the field, with attention to issues of skills, hardware, technologies and training (Campbell, 2009a, p.13).
Too much or too little information (Campbell, 2009a, p.10)	*A new implication arising from this paper could be: Where should the boundary between <i>personal records</i> and the broader 'care file' be drawn in the interests of achieving balance in information?
The tensions between standards and flexibility (Campbell, 2009c, p.15).	"Is it appropriate for this inter-organisational consortium to develop and test standards for identity-supporting case recording for and with children and young people 'in care'?" (Campbell, 2009c, p.17)
Restoring purpose and child-centredness in recording: that the record, an integral part of practice, is about and for the child Examples: - providing repeated opportunities to explore reasons for entry to care (Campbell, 2009c, p.15)	*New implications arising from this paper include: How can policy better support these themes in practice?
The need to explore further the factors that promote good child-centred practice, and those that de-skill workers and inhibit good outcomes (Campbell, 2009c, p.15).	
The need to improve secure retention of the archive, including tangible memorabilia and day to day information about the child's life (Campbell, 2009c, p.15).	
The need for continued training in methods of involving children in records such as LAC and life stories (Campbell, 2009c, p.15).	
Ensuring that any learning from the Who am I? project filters down to front-line workers and carers (Campbell, 2009c, p.15).	
Collaborative practice with children, young people and their families (Campbell, 2009c, p.18).	
Defining the roles of the care team in identity-supporting record-making (Campbell, 2009c, p.18).	

Issues/Themes	Suggestions for future research
Resolving tensions and confusions between the accountability and practice purposes of recording tools such as LAC, and between different ways of working with children (such as LAC and life story work) (Campbell, 2009c, p.18).	
Place of training in building and sustaining quality of identity-supporting practice and record-keeping (Campbell, 2009c, p.18).	