

Permanency and placement priorities

Placement and permanency priorities for children and young people in OOHC are:



1. Kinship care with a view to Restoration or Guardianship

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) are the preferred provider for all Aboriginal children regardless of permanency goal or placement type. DCJ is the preferred provider of all non-Aboriginal rel/kinship care regardless of permanency goal



2. Foster care with a view to Restoration or Guardianship for Aboriginal children / Foster care with a view to Restoration, Guardianship or Adoption for non-Aboriginal children

NGOs are the preferred provider of foster care regardless of the permanency goal, and where no NGO placement is available, DCJ is the preferred provider for short term / crisis care.



3. Intensive carer models

Specialist programs through Oz Child – Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCO), Professional Individualised Care (PIC) are available in some districts, or by DCJ through Individual Placement Allowance



4. Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) for children over 12 years with high needs*

Incorporating *ITTC, *ITCH, *ITC-SD, TSOP,*THBC, and *TSIL with a view to step-down

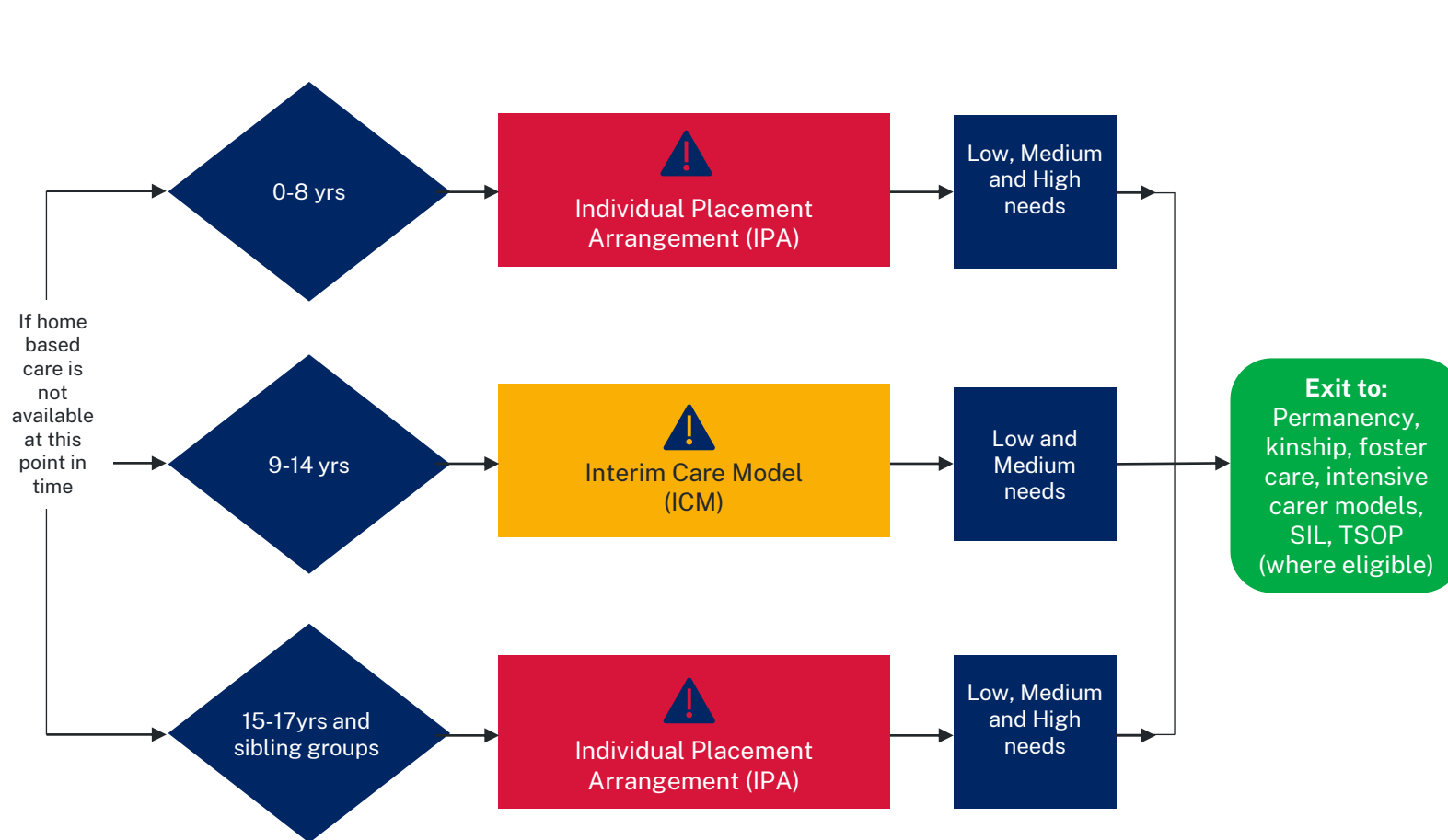


High Cost Emergency Arrangements (HCEA)

1. ICM or STEP
2. IPA
3. For children with significant disability, **Special OOHC** can be considered.
4. **ACAs** are the least preferred HCEA and are excluded from the following hierarchy as part of the broader strategy to eradicate ACAs from the service mix over time.

The following flowcharts depict the order of placement hierarchy where permanency options, kinship or foster care placement cannot be immediately sourced.

For children and young people with **low to medium needs** (where a **permanency option, kinship care or a foster care placement** cannot be immediately sourced)



- Indicates preferred placement types after permanency
- Indicates short-medium term placement type to be followed by a step down or exit
- Indicates least preferred emergency arrangement
- ⚠ Indicates a service system gap which leads to the use of high cost emergency arrangements (HCEA).

Low, Medium and High needs refers to the outcome of the CAT

For children with **low – medium needs aged 0-8 years**, there are no preferred placement types available after permanency, kinship or foster care.

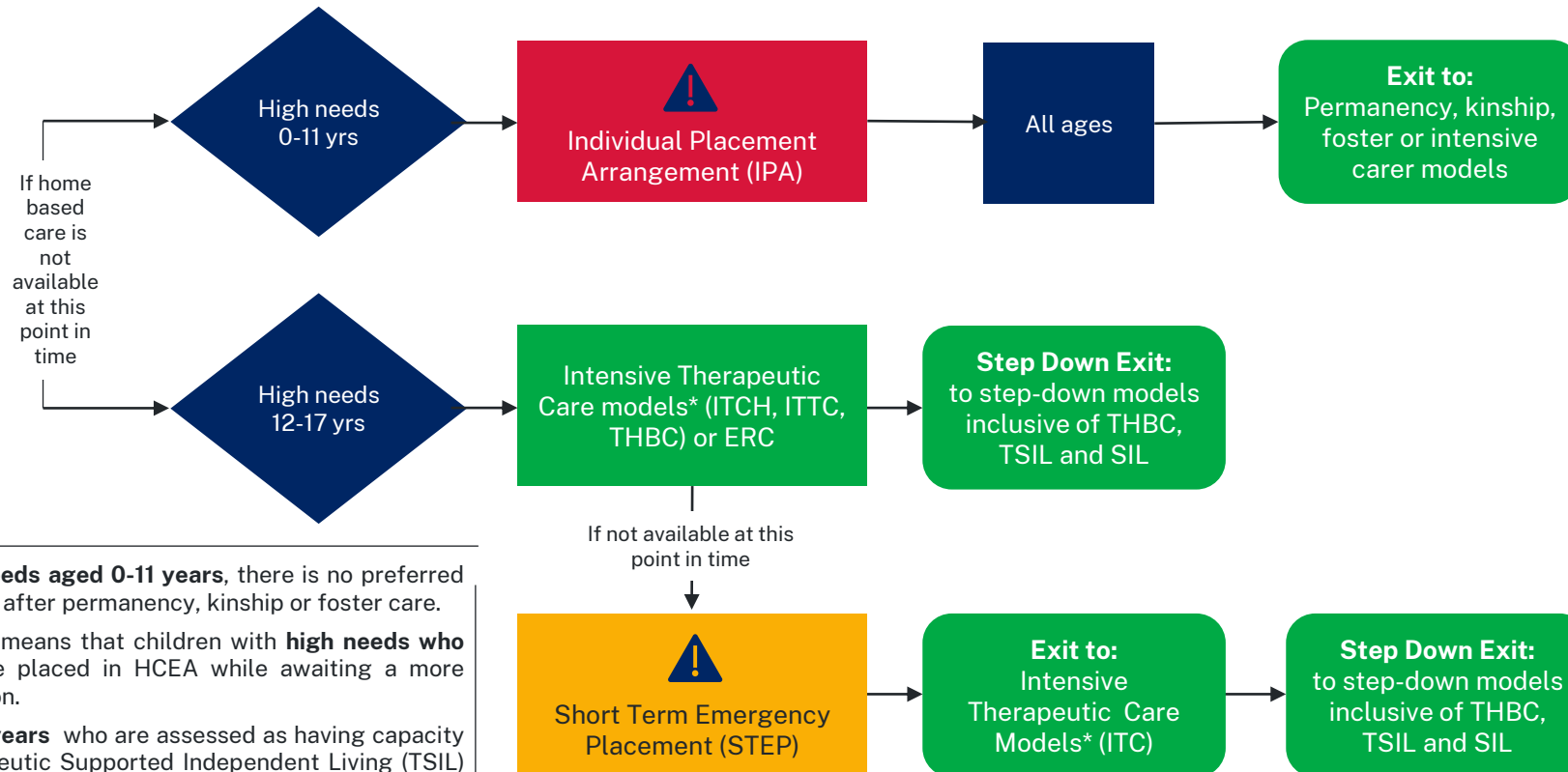
For young people **16-17 years** who are assessed as having capacity to be placed in a Supported Independent Living (SIL) arrangement, a SIL placement should be pursued.

Sibling groups (3 or more) of mixed needs can be considered for TSOP where one of the siblings meets the ITC eligibility criteria

For children with **low- medium needs aged 9-14 years**, if permanency, kinship or foster care has been exhausted, the single available placement type is ICM.

For children and young people with **high needs**

(where a **permanency option, kinship care or a foster care placement** cannot be immediately sourced)



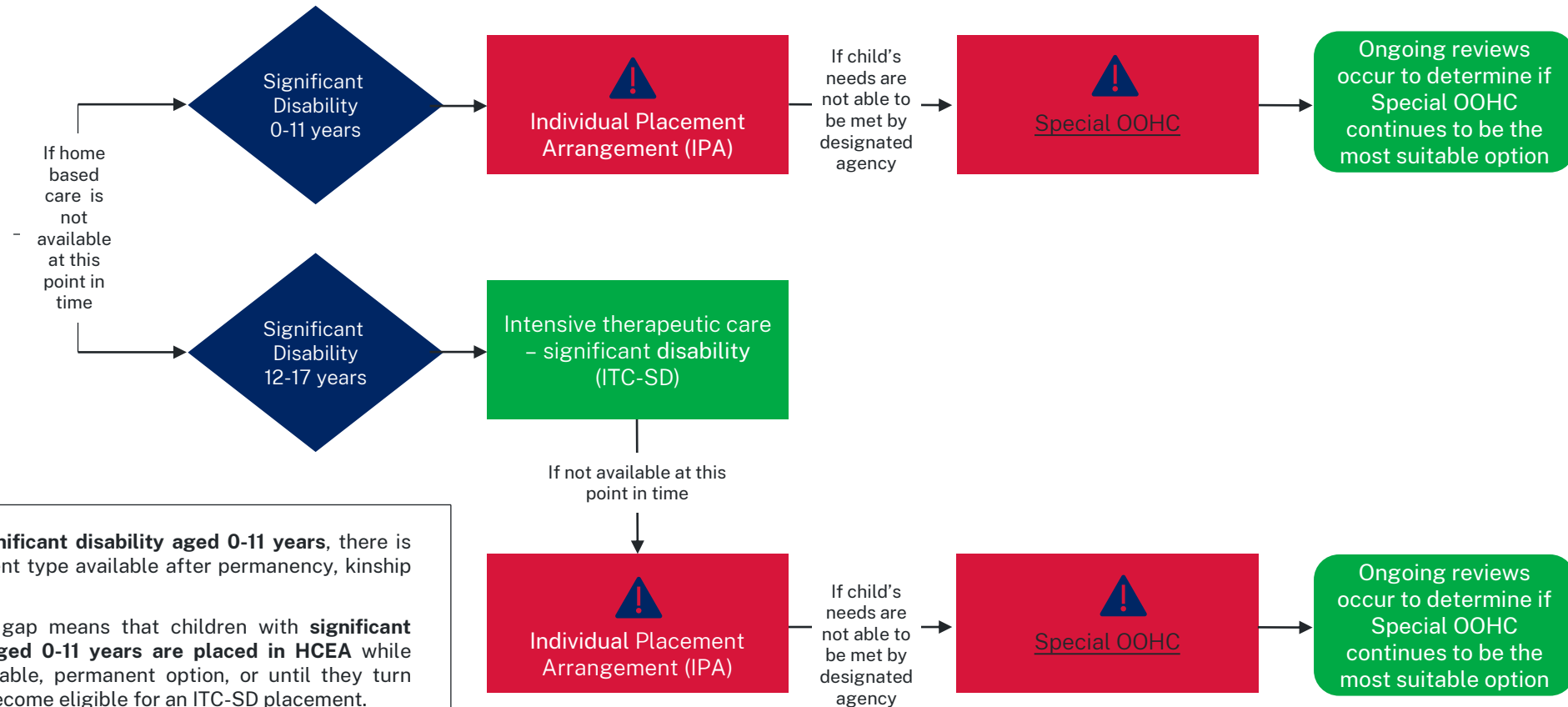
For children with **high needs aged 0-11 years**, there is no preferred placement type available after permanency, kinship or foster care.

This service system gap means that children with **high needs who are aged 0-11 years** are placed in HCEA while awaiting a more suitable, permanent option.

For young people **16-17 years** who are assessed as having capacity to be placed in a Therapeutic Supported Independent Living (TSIL) arrangement, a TSIL placement should be pursued.

For children with **high needs aged 12-17 years**, if permanency, kinship or foster care has been exhausted, and immediate entry into ITC is unavailable, the single available placement type is STEP.

For children and young people with **significant disability** (where a **permanency option, kinship care or a foster care placement** cannot be immediately sourced)



For children with **significant disability aged 0-11 years**, there is no preferred placement type available after permanency, kinship or foster care.

This service system gap means that children with **significant disability who are aged 0-11 years are placed in HCEA** while awaiting a more suitable, permanent option, or until they turn 12 years of age and become eligible for an ITC-SD placement.

Case planning should focus on how NDIS plans can be strengthened to enable placement in a home based setting.

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
PSP	Permanency Support Program
HCEA	High Cost Emergency Arrangement
ACA	Alternative Care Arrangement
CAT	Child Assessment Tool
IPA	Individual Placement Arrangement
ICM	Interim Care Model
STEP	Short Term Emergency Placement
ITC	Intensive Therapeutic Care
ITTC	Intensive Therapeutic Transitional Care
ITCH	Intensive Therapeutic Care Home
ITC – SD	Intensive Therapeutic Care – Significant Disability
TSOP	Therapeutic Sibling Option Placement
TSIL	Therapeutic Supported Independent Living
SIL	Supported Independent Living
THBC	Therapeutic Home-Based Care
ERC	Emergency Residential Care
PIC	Professional Intensive Care
TFCO	Treatment Foster Care Oregon
IP Allowance	Individualised Placement Allowance

