

Official Visitor (Children and Young People Services) Visit and Complaint Guidelines 2019 (No 1)

Disallowable Instrument DI2019–147

made under the

Official Visitor Act 2012, section 23 (visit and complaint guidelines)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Section 23 (1) of the *Official Visitor Act 2012*, allows the Minister, after consulting the operational Minister for an operational Act, to make guidelines about -

- (1) (a) visits by an official visitor for the operational Act; and
- (b) the handling of complaints, and referral of complaints to investigative entities, by an official visitor for the operational Act.
- (2) The guidelines must include a schedule that sets out—
 - (a) each visitable place that an official visitor must visit; and
 - (b) how often the official visitor must visit the place.
- (3) A guideline is a disallowable instrument.

The *Official Visitor Act 2012*, sets out the functions of official visitors which includes visiting visitable places, handling complaints from entitled people and reporting on those matters. Part 2.3 section 37 of the *Children and Young People Act 2008*, defines what is an entitled person and a visitable place for the *Official Visitor Act*. This part also prescribes other matters for the *Official Visitor Act*.

This Instrument is necessary to provide guidance for the appointees with statutory authority to perform the duties of the Children and Young People Official Visitor under the *Children and Young People Act 2008*.

The guidelines have been updated to reflect an increase in the number of visitable places (places of care (residential)) from 24 to 28.