**Legislative Council—Draft**
Draft for discussion—23 August 2026

South Australia

# Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) (Residential Care Telephones) Amendment Bill 2026

**A BILL FOR**

An Act to amend the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016*.

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**The Parliament of South Australia enacts as follows:**

# Part 1—Preliminary

## 1—Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) (Residential Care Telephones) Amendment Act 2026*.

## 2—Commencement

This Act comes into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

# Part 2—Amendment of Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016

## 3—Insertion of section 26A

After section 26 insert:

### 26A—Residential care telephones

(1) In this section—

*residential care facility* means premises at which care is provided on a residential basis, by or through a government or non-government agency, to a child or young person under the guardianship, or in the custody, of the Chief Executive, but does not include a foster home, detention facility or independent living arrangement;

*residential care telephone* means a fixed telephone installed in a residential care facility for use by children and young people residing in the facility.

*Chief Executive* has the same meaning as in section 26

(2) A person responsible for the operation of a residential care facility must ensure that at least 1 residential care telephone is installed and maintained in the facility.

(3) A residential care telephone must—

(a) be permanently and securely fixed to a wall and incorporate a corded handset; and

(b) comply with the standard design prescribed by the regulations; and

(c) be robust in design and installed so as to minimise the risk of damage, removal or interference; and

(d) be located in a common area that is readily accessible to children and young people; and

(e) be located so as to allow a child or young person reasonable privacy when using the telephone; and

(f) clearly display the name and telephone number of each support service specified by the regulations and provide a clearly labelled quick-dial control for each such service; and

(g) be available for use without requiring the approval or assistance of a carer or staff member.

(4) A person responsible for the operation of a residential care facility must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with subsection (2) or (3).

Maximum penalty: $10 000.

(5) A person must not, without reasonable excuse—

(a) disable or interfere with the operation of a residential care telephone; or

(b) unduly prevent or restrict a child or young person residing in a residential care facility from using a residential care telephone.

Maximum penalty: $10 000.

(6) The regulations may prescribe—

(a) the standard design of residential care telephones; and

(b) minimum technical, installation and maintenance requirements for residential care telephones; and

(c) the support services to be displayed and accessible by quick-dial.