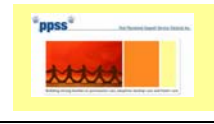




FCAV/PPSS FACT SHEET: Financial information to assist carers of young people leaving care



FCAV Position

The FCAV strongly believes that young people should begin preparing for their transition to independence from an early age. Developing skills such as problem solving, dealing with people they do not know, as well as cooking, cleaning, budgeting, and driving are basic requirements for a successful adult life. Each agency has its own leaving care program which helps to ensure young people leaving care are prepared for the process. We recommend that you contact your agency for more information.

Another vital aspect to post 18 transitioning from care is where does a young person live? And how do they manage financially?

Some young people will remain with their foster families but will no longer be subject to a protective court order; therefore their carers will no longer be eligible to receive care giver reimbursements. This fact sheet is designed to assist carers and young people with the financial aspects when a young person in home based care turns 18 years of age.

Department of Human Services

Leaving Care Services	Care Giver payments
<p><u>Eligibility for services</u> Leaving Care services are specifically for any young person under the age of 21 who was subject to a court order (Custody or Guardianship) on or after their 16th birthday. Support is available to those young people transitioning from care or who have left care and subsequently needs support. Each DHS region has the following Leaving Care programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Leaving Care Mentoring, ➤ Post Care Support, Referral & Information Services, and ➤ Leaving Care Brokerage Funding (LCBF) <p>The LCBF is aimed at providing a flexible financial support for young people who have been in State care up to the age of 21 years. The use of brokerage is strictly focused on supports that directly benefit the young person's transition to or maintenance of independent living. This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Education & Training ➤ Establishment Costs ➤ Legal Costs ➤ Medical Costs (only those not covered by Medicare) ➤ Official documents ➤ Life skills education ➤ Travel to see family <p>Enquiries about Leaving Care Brokerage go via Home Based Care agencies to regional Placement and Support units. Further information will be provided to the FCAV regarding Post Care Support and Mentoring agencies in the near future.</p>	<p>For young people who have turned 18 and are still attending an accredited education institution, residing in home based care, and on a Custody or Guardianship Order reimbursements continue to the end of the school year. Requests need to be directed via Foster Care agencies to Child Protection.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regional Financial Support</p> <p>There is also an expectation that DHS provide young people leaving care with the equivalent of \$1000 worth of assistance from their regional budget.</p> <p>However each DHS region provides these services in different ways so it is best to contact the relevant region via your home based care agency to determine what form this support may take in your region.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">State Concessions</p> <p>Young people leaving care who hold a Healthcare Card may also be entitled to a range of concessions. More information is available at: www.dhs.vic.gov.au/concessions/home</p>



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Commonwealth

Commonwealth	Centrelink
<p>Transition to Independent Living Allowance: (TILA)</p> <p>TILA is a one-off grant of \$1,500 from the Australian Government. Its purpose is to assist young people who are making the transition from formal and informal care to independent living. Web information and application forms are available at - www.tila.org.au</p> <p>TILA can be used to pay for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Connection to Utilities to assist in the establishment of housing ➤ Moving expenses ➤ White goods ➤ Furnishings ➤ Financial or other counseling ➤ Education ➤ Transport 	<p>Centrelink have a number of financial supports for which young people leaving care may be eligible. It is important that they make an appointment with the social work unit at their nearest Centrelink office to learn about their entitlements and apply for benefits. Contact the Centrelink Youth Allowance Unit on 13 24 90 for information and appointments with Centrelink Social Work Units.</p> <p>It is important that young people receive information on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Youth Allowance http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/ya_eligible.htm ➤ Youth Allowance – Independence Test http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/ya_independent.htm ➤ Rent Assistance http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/rent_eligible.htm <p>General information is available at the Centrelink internet site www.centrelink.gov.au Follow the links to Youth Allowance or to Rent Assistance</p>

Other Supports

<p>Office of the Child Safety Commissioner (Victoria) at: www.ocsc.vic.gov.au</p> <p>Legal Aid Victoria at: www.legalaidvictoria.gov.au</p> <p>Tenants Union Victoria at: www.tuv.org.au</p> <p>Good site with lots of information for young people at: www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au</p>	<p>CREATE Foundation at: www.createyourfuture.org.au</p> <p>CREATE have developed a new website with information that is specific to leaving care. This site includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blogs ➤ Information on education ➤ Links to financial assistance ➤ Links to grants currently available and how to access them
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