

Carer allowances

Allowance payment type	Age groups	Rate	Who is eligible? What is the allowance expected to cover?	Special notes
Statutory Care Allowance	0-4	\$423	Authorised foster carers who are caring for children and young people will be eligible for the Statutory Care Allowance until the young person's eighteenth birthday. Statutory Care is where the Minister, Director General or a Non relative has been granted Parental Responsibility of a child or young person via a Children's Court Order.	*This payment is made fortnightly in arrears.
Supported Care Allowance	5-13	\$475	<p>Relative and kinship carers may be eligible for the Supported Care Allowance where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the relative has Parental responsibility via a Court Order or ▪ an assessment by Community Services has determined the child or young person to be in need of care and protection and is unable to safely remain with one or both of their parents. <p>The Care Allowance is intended to reimburse the Carer for day to day expenses such as food, household provisions and costs, clothing and footwear, daily travel, suitable car restraints, gifts and pocket money, holidays, hobbies and activities, general educational and medical costs, pharmaceutical costs.</p>	* In determining the amount of allowance to be paid the number of "days in care" equals the nights a child sleeps in the carer's home
	14-15	\$638		* care allowances are not means-tested and are not affected by Commonwealth Benefits that the carers or young people may be receiving (e.g. Youth Allowance for children or young people over 16 years)
	16-17	\$426		Please note: from 1 January 2012, there is an adjusted allowance rate for statutory and supported care allowances paid in respect to young people 16 years and older. Please see the Changes to care allowances for young people from 16 years fact sheet .
Statutory Care+1 Allowance	0-4	\$633	Carers of children and young people who have special needs. This allowance is subject to a Special Needs Assessment which is conducted by a Caseworker.	Your caseworker will explain the assessment which determines the level of allowance to be paid
	5-13	\$713		
Supported Care+1	14-15	\$956		

Allowance	16-17	\$744		
Statutory Care+2 Allowance	0-4	\$838	As for Care+1 above	
	5-13	\$940		
Supported Care+2 Allowance	14-15	\$1,263		
	16-17	\$1,051		

Other allowances

Allowance payment type	Who is eligible? How much is it? What is the allowance expected to cover?	Special notes
Pre Adoption Allowance	This payment is made to carers of children for whom adoption consents are held prior to their placement with Adoptive Parents.	* Conditions are the same as for Care or Care+ Allowances as described above
Post Adoption Allowance	This payment may be made to an adoptive parent who, without this financial support, would not be able to proceed with the adoption. This payment is also paid to foster carers who adopt a child or young person who has been in their care for at least two years and were receiving the Statutory Care Allowance prior to the adoption.	* The level of payment is based on the adoptive parents need. *Foster carers who adopt and are eligible for the continuing financial assistance will receive the same rate as the Statutory Care Allowance.

Extra Financial Support (formerly known as contingencies)

The following is a list of common expenditure items in the form of one-off contingency payments which may also be available for children and young people in OOHC. This is meant as a guide only. All expenditure must be discussed with a Caseworker and included as part of an approved case plan for individual children and young people. Carers do not need to meet any thresholds for additional financial support. **It is essential however, that carers seek approval via their Caseworker for all expenditure that may require reimbursement.**

Item	Form of financial support
<i>All expenditure should be discussed with your Caseworker before commitments are made. Any costs requiring reimbursement must be pre-approved and included in the child or young person's case plan.</i>	
Birth family contact	Generally, costs associated with a child or young person's contact with his/her birth family or significant others are met by the fostering agency eg Community Services.
Child care	For childcare costs where attendance at childcare is approved as being in the best interests of the child.
Clothing and footwear	All clothing and footwear, both general wear and school wear is to be purchased from the allowance paid to carers
Education	All general expenditure associated with schooling is expected to be covered from the allowance paid to carers. This may include uniforms, writing materials, excursions and school camps, school levies, text book hire etc. Costs for other items or services such as tutoring may be paid by the fostering agency where this has been pre-approved.
Establishment costs	The costs of establishing a child in an emergency placement are met by a payment of \$75. For short to medium term placements, a payment of up to \$350 can be made for items identified in the first two weeks of the placement based on the child or young person's needs. For longer term placement, up to \$1400 is available for approved items.
Hobbies, activities and holidays	All to be paid from the allowance to carers
Loss or damages	Any claims for loss or damages should be discussed with your Caseworker
Life Story Work	Photos and gifts for a child's birth family should be covered by the allowance paid to carers
Medical	All general medical and all pharmaceutical costs (both prescription and over the counter) are to be met from the allowance. Any dental or optical needs may be met by the fostering agency where this has been pre approved.
Professional therapy	Professional therapy must be recommended and approved by the fostering agency, who will also meet the costs
Respite	Respite with an authorised carer will be met by the approved fostering agency, where this has been pre approved.
Travel	Carers are expected to cover daily travel from their allowance. Additional travel which has been pre approved will be reimbursed.