

Child Safety POLICY

Title: Child related costs – placement support funding

Policy No: CPD 629-1

Policy Statement:

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (the department) will deliver an effective and efficient out-of-home care system aimed at meeting the daily protection and care needs of children, and achieving positive outcomes for children. Where a child requires out-of-home care to meet his or her protection and care needs, this will occur in accordance with the legislated Statement of Standards (*Child Protection Act 1999*, section 122) and the Charter of Rights for a Child in Care (*Child Protection Act 1999*, Schedule 1).

The department will utilise child related costs to fund additional support for placements, where it is required for either new or existing placements to meet the needs of the children placed. Placement support funding allows the out-of-home care system to be flexible and responsive to the changing needs of children over time.

Principles:

- The safety, wellbeing and best interests of a child are paramount.
- A child's family has the primary responsibility for the child's upbringing, protection and development and the preferred way of ensuring a child's wellbeing is through the support of the child's family.
- The department will only place children in out-of-home care as part of an integrated child protection response when assessment indicates that separation of the child from their family is unavoidable to ensure the child or young person's safety or wellbeing.
- Placement in out-of-home care is a means of providing a safe and therapeutic care environment for children.

Objectives:

This policy and associated procedure provide departmental staff with guidance in circumstances where it is identified that a particular placement is best suited to a child, but additional support is required to ensure the child's needs are met in the placement.

The purpose of placement support funding will be to provide additional support to a placement where it is required to meet specific needs of a child, improve the stability of the placement and/or minimise placement disruption.

Scope:

Placement support funded through child related costs is available for children placed in out-of-home care under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, section 82.

Child related costs is a funding source that may be used to augment current grant funded placements in order to support a flexible and efficient out-of-home care system. In circumstances where it is identified that a particular placement type is best suited to meet the specific care needs of a child, but that additional support is required to ensure the child's needs are met in the placement, the additional support may be funded through child related costs – placement support funding.

The types of out-of-home care placements that may be supported through child related costs – placement support funding include:

- grant funded or departmentally delivered kinship care
- grant funded or departmentally delivered foster care
- grant funded intensive foster care
- grant funded residential care
- grant funded supported independent living
- grant funded safe houses
- grant funded therapeutic residential care.

Placement support funding may also be utilised in circumstances where a child is living independently (for example, in the period immediately preceding his or her transition from care) and additional support is required to ensure the child's safety and wellbeing in his or her living arrangements.

The types of support that may be funded include contracting a non-government organisation or private contractor to deliver services to the child and/or carer, including youth-work support, counselling, respite services (for example, through a disability support service) and transport services. Placement support funding may also be used to fund resources to support a placement, such as motor vehicle leasing and specialised equipment (for example, to support a child with a disability). Further information on the full range of costs that may be met through child related costs – placement support funding is in the associated procedure.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Roles and responsibilities related to the use of child related costs – placement support funding are outlined in the associated procedure.

Roles and responsibilities related to out-of-home care placements are contained in the *Child Safety Practice Manual*.

Authority:

Child Protection Act 1999

Financial Accountability Act 2009

Child Protection Regulation 2011

Disability Services Act 2006

Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000

Delegations:

Delegations for approval of child related costs – placement funding are outlined in the associated procedure.

Records File No.: CHS/20150
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Office: Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
Help Contact: Child Protection Development

Links:

Legislation

Child Protection Act 1999

Family Services Act 1987

Financial Accountability Act 2009

Policy and procedure

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Child Safety Practice Manual

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