

# Child Safety POLICY

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**Title:** Dual payment of carer allowances

**Policy No:** 289-9

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## Policy Statement:

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women may make dual payments of carer allowances to both the primary and respite carers of a child or young person, throughout respite placements, to provide financial assistance for the costs of caring.

Dual carer allowance payments are concurrent payments of carer allowances to two carers for the same child or young person, on a *pro rata* basis, for the period of time that the child is placed in planned or emergent respite care, up to the allowed annual limits.

Carers are not required to produce receipts or other evidence of expenditure of allowances.

Where a young person is in receipt of a wage, or Commonwealth or State government benefit, they will not be expected to contribute to the cost of their care.

## Principles:

- The safety, wellbeing and best interests of a child or young person are paramount.
- Children in care will receive a quality of care that is consistent with the Charter of Rights for a Child in Care (*Child Protection Act 1999*, Schedule 1) and the Statement of Standards (*Child Protection Act 1999*, section 122).
- The continuity of care for a child or young person will be maintained through placements with the same respite carer whenever possible.
- Respite arrangements are to be flexible and responsive in accommodating the needs of the carer and the child or young person they support.
- Carers have the right to receive support that will ensure a safe and caring environment in which the needs of the child or young person are met.
- Approved carers are volunteers who care for children and young people subject to statutory child protection intervention in the carer's own home without expectation of remuneration.
- Approved carers are entitled to financial assistance, paid in the form of allowances, as reimbursement towards the real financial costs of responding to the direct care needs of children and young people placed in their care.
- Long-term guardians who were previously approved foster or kinship carers for the child or young person in their guardianship have the right to receive support that will contribute towards the ongoing stability of the guardianship care arrangements.
- Payment of carer allowances will be in accordance with the appropriate financial delegations.

## **Objectives:**

The use of dual payments recognises the resource requirements of each placement and the critical ongoing support required by the primary carer

## **Scope:**

This policy and associated procedure guide the decisions and actions of Child Safety staff in relation to the dual payment of carer allowances.

Note: Permanent guardians are not eligible to receive dual payment of carer allowances.

## **Roles and Responsibilities:**

Roles and responsibilities related to the dual payment of carer allowances are outlined in the associated procedure.

Roles and responsibilities related to the provision of respite to children and young people in care, including emergent respite for children subject to long-term guardianship orders to suitable persons, are contained in the *Child Safety Practice Manual*.

## **Authority:**

*Adoption Act 2009*

*Child Protection Act 1999*

*Financial Accountability Act 2009*

## **Delegations:**

Refer to the instrument of delegations for decisions made under the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

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**Records File No.:** CHS/16389  
**Date of approval:** 6 May 2016  
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**Date to be reviewed:** 6 May 2019 (Minor update 18 October 2018)

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**Office:** Department of Child Safety Youth and Women  
**Help Contact:** Operational Support

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**Links:**

**Procedures**

Dual payment of carer allowances (289)

**Related Policies**

Case planning (263)

Child related costs – carer support (597)

Child related costs – client support and family contact (598)

Child related costs – education support (599)

Child related costs – long-term guardian support (608)

Child related costs – medical (596)

Child related costs – outfitting (600)

Child related costs – placement funding (628)

Child related costs – placement support funding (629)

Child related costs – travel (595)

Complex support needs allowance (612)

Expenses – fortnightly caring allowance and inter-state foster payments (365)

High support needs allowance (296)

Regional and remote loading for carers (379)

**Related Legislation or Standard**

*Child Protection Act 1999*

*Child Protection Regulation 2011*

*Financial Accountability Act 2009*

Statement of Commitment between the Department of Communities, Child Safety and

Disability Services and the foster and kinship carers of Queensland.

**Related Government Guidelines or Policy**

Child Safety Practice Manual

**Forms, Standard Letters or Memorandum**

Approved carer payment form – care agreement

Approved carer placement – addition and deletion advice

Respite Agreement Form

**Rescinded Policies**

289-8 Dual payment of carer allowances

289-6 Respite Placements and Dual Fortnightly Caring Allowance

289-4 Respite Placements and Dual Fostering Allowance

299-2 Dual Foster Allowance

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Director-General