



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

Financial Support Information

Family or Foster Carer Subsidy



It's not just the child's life
that changes

Family or Foster Carer Subsidy

Current at 1 July 2023 per child:

0–6 years: \$435.17 per fortnight

7–12 years: \$512.41 per fortnight

13–18 years: \$589.64 per fortnight

plus 10% or 20% loading for selected country regions.

The subsidy is not taxable. It is not an income, but is to cover:

- food and shelter
- water, electricity, gas
- local transport
- outings and entertainment
- haircuts
- small toys
- general expenses related to personal hygiene items
- basic general medical treatment and non-prescription pharmaceutical requirements
- small incidental expenses for education, leisure and hobby activities, i.e. pencils, pens, etc

This subsidy is paid directly into your account. The Department of Communities worker is responsible for initiating the subsidy and the foster carer may need to check that this has been completed. Make sure the Department of Communities worker has your bank account details.

In some cases it may be three to four weeks before your subsidy commences; therefore, if you require money earlier, you must make this request to the Department of Communities child protection worker placing the child.

Short-break support

Short-break carers receive a daily allowance to a maximum of five days per month per child:

0–6 years: \$38.17 per day

7–12 years: \$45.50 per day

13–17 years: \$52.83 per day

plus 10% or 20% loading for selected country regions.

Clothing

This allowance is provided to all children in placement. It is paid three times per year in January, May and September:

0–6 years: \$178.81

7–12 years: \$235.28

13–15 years: \$400.00

Clothing allowance to cease after a child turns 16.

This allowance does not cover school, sport, work and other uniforms required by the child. The Department of Communities worker will arrange payment for these by purchase order.

Foster carers should apply to the Department of Communities worker prior to seeking reimbursement.

Note: Clothing allowance will not be paid if a young person is working or receiving a Centrelink benefit. Such instances should be discussed with the young person's Department of Communities child protection worker.



Pocket Money

This allowance is provided to all children aged 6–15 years who are in placement. This is paid to the foster carer to hand to the child in conjunction with the subsidy for the foster carer.

The amount is based on age:

6–12 years: \$8.00 per fortnight

13–15 years \$20.00 per fortnight

In some circumstances children aged 16–17 years may receive pocket money; however, children aged 16 and over are encouraged to access Centrelink benefits. Department of Communities workers should facilitate such applications

Incidental School Expenditure

Any expense over and above those covered by subsidy (i.e. school camp, educational visits, equipment, music lessons) should be planned and paid for via the Department of Communities worker. No expenditure should be incurred prior to approval by the Department of Communities worker. Again, foster carers should not incur costs and then seek reimbursement.

Insurance


Foster Carer Indemnity Insurance is available to all registered foster carers. It covers accidental or intentional damage or loss by a child in placement to the carers (or any permanent member of the household), house, contents and vehicles. Any loss or damage should be reported immediately to the Department of Communities worker who will assist with the claim.

Department of Communities

Fostering and Family Care Free Call: 1800 182 178

Email: fostering@communities.wa.gov.au

www.communities.wa.gov.au

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