

Transition to Independence Program – extended support for young people leaving out-of-home care

If you continue to provide family-based care for a young person between the ages of 18 – 21 years, you may be eligible to apply for carer payments.

In June 2019, the Tasmanian Government announced an extension of the Transition to Independence Program which will provide eligible young people in out-of-home care the option of extended support from 18 to 21 years.

Carer payments to foster carers, kinship carers and third-party guardians can now be extended (for eligible young people) until the young person's 21st birthday.

The carer payment will reduce each year to reflect the young person's transition to independence over this time:

- 18 years - Existing carer/guardian payments will be maintained
- 19 years - Payment will be reduced to the base rate for foster care
- 20 years - Payment will be reduced to 50% of the base rate until the young person's 21st birthday.

NEW eligibility requirements for extended carer payments:

- The young person must be in family-based care including kinship, foster or under third party guardianship immediately prior to their 18th birthday; and
- The young person must be aged 18 to 20 years to be eligible for extended carer payments (extended carer payments stop on a young person's 21st birthday); and
- The young person agrees to continue to reside in the formally approved primary carer's home beyond their 18th birthday; and
- The formally approved primary carer agrees to the young person continuing to reside in their home beyond the young person's 18th birthday; and
- The young person must reside with their formally approved primary carer on a full-time basis (at least four nights per week).
- The 'Application for Extension of Carer Payments' form is signed by the young person and their carer; and
- If a young person (aged 18 to 20 years) returns to live with their formally approved primary carer, following a period of time living independently, then an application can be submitted/re-submitted for extended carer payments.

How to apply for the Extended Carer Payment

If you meet the eligibility criteria (see above) an 'Application for Extension of Carer Payments' form must be completed and forwarded to aftercaresupport@communities.tas.gov.au.

If the young person is 17 years old, please submit the 'Application for Extension of Carer Payments' at least 6 weeks prior to the young person's 18th birthday to ensure continuity of payments.

Timing for payments

Payments will be made once forms are processed and verified (and once the young person is 18+ years old).

Further information

For further information about the Transition to Independence Program, please contact:

After Care Support

Email: aftercaresupport@communities.tas.gov.au

Phone: 6166 0422