Fostering
It’s not just the child’s life that changes

Financial Support Information
General Foster Carer Subsidy
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Current at 1 July 2019 per child:

- 0–6 years: $397.02 per fortnight
- 7–12 years: $467.49 per fortnight
- 13–18 years: $537.95 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 child protection worker is responsible for initiating the subsidy and the foster carer may need to check that this has been completed. Make sure the Department child protection 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 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: $34.82 per day
- 7–12 years: $41.51 per day
- 13–18 years: $48.20 per day

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 child protection worker will arrange payment for these by purchase order.

Foster carers should apply to the Department child protection 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 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 16–18 years may receive pocket money. However, children aged 16 and over are encouraged to access Centrelink benefits. Department child protection 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 child protection worker. No expenditure should be incurred prior to approval by the Department child protection 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 child protection worker who will assist with the claim.