

# Frequently Asked Questions for NSW Carers

## 2018

**LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) PART 2**

*This document goes alongside FAQs Part 1 sent to you in May 2018*

#### **PSP FUNDING PACKAGES**

This information has been put together to help carers currently working with Life Without Barriers to understand the changes taking place across NSW as a result of the NSW Government reforms in out-of-home-care.

#### **How has the Permanency Support Program (PSP) changed funding arrangements in Foster Care?**

The aim of the PSP funding is to separate the placement costs from the child need costs and to fund the services needed to support the permanency outcome for the child or young person.

#### **What funding is available to support a child or young person in the PSP?**

The funding for the PSP is broken down into packages. These are:

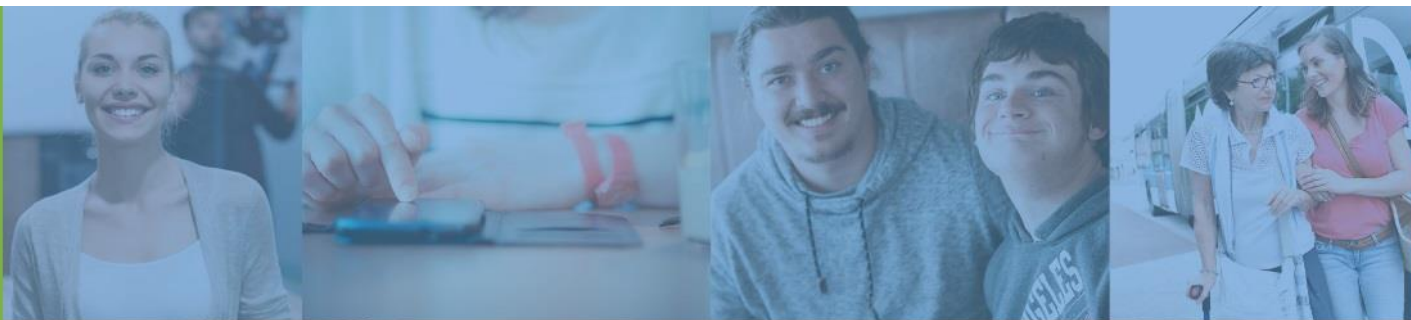
1. Baseline Package
2. Case Plan Goal package
3. Childs needs package
4. Specialist packages
5. Complex Needs Package

#### **Baseline Package**

The baseline package is designed to support LWB's costs relating to overheads, administration, ongoing staff and carer training, property and other service provision. The package includes the recruitment, assessment and training of prospective carers.

Baseline packages are mutually exclusive. For children in your care LWB will receive the baseline package of foster care which includes planned absences from the placement and carer allowances.

Case Coordination is a baseline package applicable when a child or young person has been restored to family, has a guardianship order or has been adopted. This package is to provide time limited casework services needed to support these placements.



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## Case Plan Goal Package

The case plan goal package is designed to support the achievement of permanency and in some cases will be time limited (i.e. two years for the achievement of restoration/guardianship or adoption). The packages are:

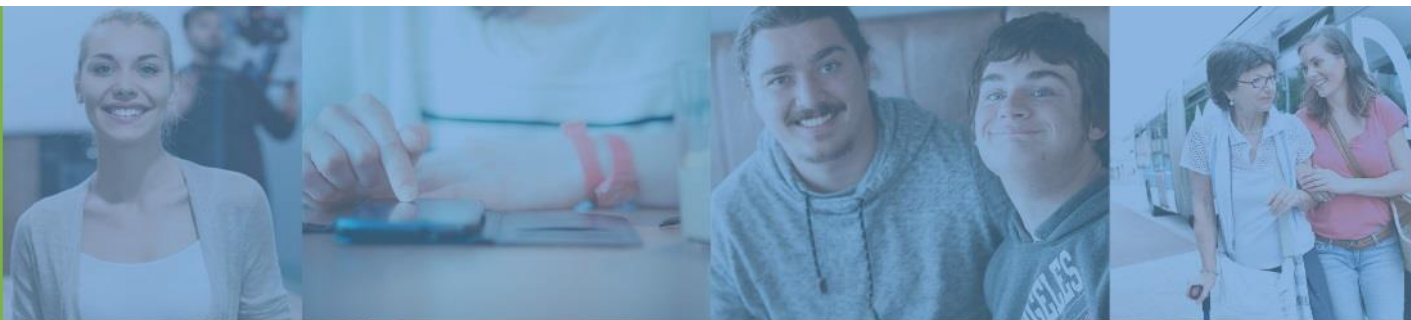
- Restoration
- Guardianship/Open adoption
- Long term Care

## Child Needs Package

This package allows for the provision of supports to meet the individual needs of the child, including educational supports, clinical services, health etc.

The Child Needs package is based on what was previously called the CAT score which is shown in the table below:

CAT LEVEL		CHILDS NEED PACKAGE
1	General Foster Care	Low
2	General Foster Care +1	Low
3	General Foster Care +2	Medium
4	Intensive Foster Care	Medium
5	Intensive Residential Care	High
6	Residential Care	High
	CAT assessment incomplete or missing	Low



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## **Specialist Packages**

There are additional specialist packages available depending on the assessed complex and specific needs of the child or young person (these are not mutually exclusive). LWB can access multiple specialist packages for children and young people where eligible, and where the package will help meet their individual needs. The packages are:

- Cultural plan (Aboriginal)
- CALD
- 15yrs+ Connect
- Leaving Care
- 4+ Sibling option

## **Complex Needs Package**

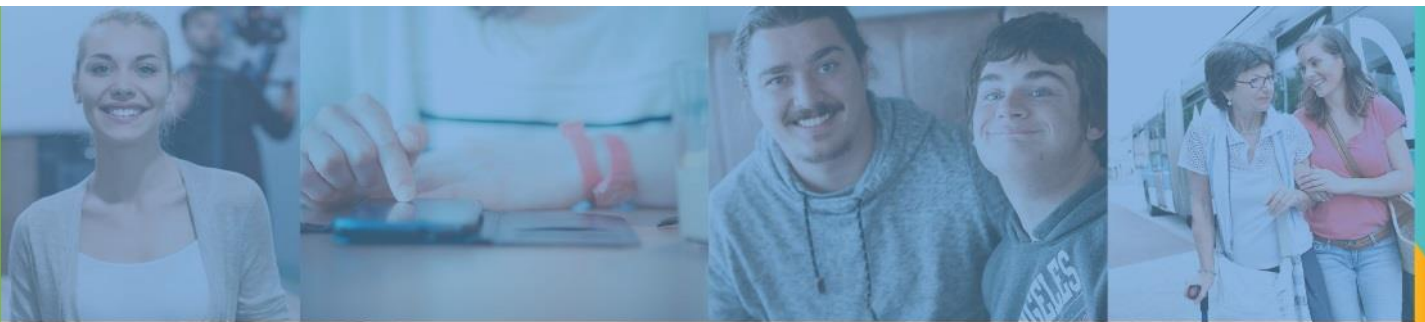
Where a child or young person has complex needs and requires extraordinary supports or services, which are unable to be covered the by the standard PSP funding arrangements, the Complex Needs Payment application process provides an avenue to seek additional funding within eligibility criteria.

There are four categories for which additional funding can be sought.

- Therapeutic Behaviour Support
- Disability Care
- Additional Rostered Staff (ITC only)
- Discretionary Exception Placement Support

## **When and why would a child or young person's funding change?**

Funding will change when the case plan goal changes, where a child or young person exits care (the baseline package of case coordination may be applied), where the CAT score has been reviewed and there is a change to the needs level and where there is a change to circumstance.



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### **Where do I find more information?**

LWB will continue to communicate with you about changes. We have a page on our website where we will be adding information about the changes which you can access at any time.

Visit: [www.lwb.org.au/nswcarers](http://www.lwb.org.au/nswcarers)

Access more information about the Permanency Support Program:

<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/permanency-support-program>

### **Who do I contact to find out more?**

If you have questions, please speak with your LWB Case Manager.