

Transition to Independent Living Allowance in NSW – information for caseworkers

Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) is a one-off allowance of up to \$1,500 per person designed to help young people aged 15–25 years who are leaving statutory out-of-home care (OOHC) to make a successful transition to independent living.

To be eligible for TILA, the young person must have a leaving care plan.

Procedures for caseworkers

Caseworkers assisting the young person must:

- ensure the young person has an approved leaving care plan
- assess whether the young person is eligible for TILA (see below)
- complete the application form and email it to Southern Youth and Family Services at tilansw@syfs.org.au or fax it to (02) 4228 4613.

Southern Youth and Family Services

TILA is provided by the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) and in NSW is administered by Southern Youth and Family Services (SYFS).

When SYFS has received the application, they will:

- gain approval for the TILA expenditure from DSS
- provide to DSS the information in Parts 1, 3 and 4 of the application form
- send you the cheque which is made out to the goods or services supplier listed on the application.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for TILA, the claimant must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent Australian resident who resides in Australia at the time of application for TILA
- be aged 15–25 years at the time of the application
- have been in, or is currently in, statutory OOHC on a court order
- have left the care of the state department* after the age of 15 years and was last in the department's care for a continuous period of at least six months
- either be getting ready to leave (within 12 weeks of applying), be currently in the process of leaving, or already left statutory OOHC

- have a leaving care plan
- have not received the full amount of TILA assistance previously (i.e. have not already received \$1,500)
- have agreed with the caseworker that the proposed use and timing of TILA is appropriate.

*NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) or NGO OOHC provider authorised by FACS.

Appropriate and inappropriate uses of TILA

TILA is used to support the needs and goals identified in the young person’s transition to independence plan. It is not designed to be used on an ad-hoc basis for crisis assistance.

Contact information

Agency	Phone	Email	Website
Southern Youth and Family Services	1300 761 961	tilansw@syfs.org.au	www.syfs.org.au
Department of Social Services	1300 653 227	tila@dss.gov.au	www.dss.gov.au/tila
NSW Department of Family and Community Services	9716 2222		www.community.nsw.gov.au