



Teenage Education Payment Questions and answers for carers

If you are a carer or guardian of a young person aged 16 to 18 years who is studying at school or training, you may be eligible for the Teenage Education Payment (TEP).

What is the Teenage Education Payment?

We recognise that education is important for every young person to reach their full potential. As a carer or guardian, you play a critical role supporting and encouraging the young person you care for to remain engaged in school or other education as they transition to adulthood.

In recognition of this, the TEP provides eligible carers and guardians of young people aged 16-18 years in out-of-home care (OOHC) with up to a total of \$12,000 (\$1,500 a term for 8 terms) to support young children to remain engaged in school or training.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible for the TEP if you are a carer (statutory and supported) or guardian who is:

- caring for a young person aged 16 to 18 years who is in full time or part-time (subject to approval) school, education and/or training. Please see the [TEP guidelines](#) for a list of approved education/training.

Note: If you have been caring for the young person since they were 15 years old, you must be receiving the [Family Tax Benefit Part A](#), or equivalent income (income test requirement is \$56,137 or less). A pension card can be provided if there is no Family Tax Benefit A documentation available.

If the young person came into your care when they were 16 years or older then you do not need to be receiving the Family Tax Benefit A or equivalent income.

- Caring for a young person in placement for more than 3 months.
- An authorised NSW carer of a young person aged 16 to 18 with a **current** NSW Care Order (Statutory or Supported) and reside in NSW or interstate.
- An authorised NSW guardian caring for child or young person placed by DCJ outside NSW, or DCJ has supported a move by the carer with the child or young person interstate prior to seeking a guardianship Order.
- Residing in NSW but the education and/or training is located interstate



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Please note that respite carers cannot receive TEP payment, nor Guardians who move to reside interstate after a Guardianship Order is finalised without support and approval of DCJ.

You can obtain a copy of the income statement by visiting <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/centrelink>

How do I apply for the TEP?

When the young person in your care is around 15 and a half, your caseworker should send you a TEP application form in the mail or by email. You can also access it online yourself [here](#).

As part of the application process, you will be required to provide confirmation of:

1. The [Family Tax Benefit A](#) such as income statement from Centrelink, end of financial year reconciliation letter or a photocopy of both sides of your pension card if the young person was in your care before turning 16
2. School/ training attendance of the young person in your care. This could be an email or letter from the school or educational institution.

Once you complete the [application form](#), return it to your caseworker. You will be contacted if you need to provide more information, and to be informed if you are eligible for the payment or not. If you disagree with the decision around your eligibility, you should raise your concerns with your caseworker and their Manager in the first instance, followed by the organisation's complaints or appeals process – which your caseworker should be able to tell you about.

What can the TEP be used for?

Funding can be used for a range of education-related assistance including, but not limited to, supplies and uniforms, driving lessons, additional tutoring, leadership or social skills programs, school holiday programs, music tuition, sport registrations fees, and pre-employment training. For more information see the [TEP Guidelines](#), which are available on the Department of Communities and Justice website at <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/>.

How the payment works

You will be paid \$1,500 each term, ideally at the beginning of the school term, for a maximum of 8 terms (4 terms per year). You will need to continue to provide confirmation of the young person's attendance at school every six months. This can be an email or letter from the school.



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Will I continue to receive the TEP payment if the young person in my care turns 18?

Guardians will cease receiving TEP payments when the young person turns 18.

Yes, if a young person is under a Care Order (Statutory or Supported) and has turned 18 while they are completing Year 12 or equivalent full-time study, carers may continue to receive the TEP payment for the rest of that year, while they are still studying. Part time completion of year 12 is subject to approval. TEP may only be paid after the young person turns 18 if it is included in their [Leaving Care Plan](#).

Can I still apply for TEP if the young person in my care receives Youth Allowance?

Yes. The receipt of Youth Allowance by 16 and 17 years olds will not affect the ability of carers and guardians to apply for or receive the TEP.

How do I get more information about TEP?

The [TEP Guidelines](#) can be accessed on the [Department of Communities and Justice website](#). These have more information for carers about eligibility, the application process and how the funding works. Carers can also ask their caseworker for further information and advice.