

Teenage Education Payment – Questions and answers

What is the Teenage Education Payment?

The Teenage Education Payment (TEP) is a new payment to assist authorised foster, relative and kinship carers to keep 16 and 17 year olds in their care in education or training.

The [Teenage Education Payment Guidelines](#) are on the Community Services website.

How much will eligible carers receive?

Under TEP, eligible carers will receive payments of up \$6,000 per annum. The payments will commence from the beginning of Term 3, 2012 and will be paid in quarterly instalments of \$1,500 at the beginning of each school or TAFE term. In 2012, the first payment made will include back payments for Terms 1 and 2, where applicable.

Who is eligible?

Authorised foster, relative and kinship carers from both Community Services and non-government out-of-home care agencies are eligible for TEP if:

- they have a 16 or 17 year old in their care; and
- they received **Family Tax Benefit A** when the young person in their care was 15 years old; and
- the young person is enrolled in and attending education and/or training (including apprenticeships) or a combination of both.

What is TEP for?

The payment is to provide additional assistance to carers to support young people in education and training including activities to improve opportunities for the young person. These could include but are not limited to: driving lessons, additional tutoring, leadership or social skills programs, school holiday programs, music tuition, sport registrations fees, and pre-employment training.

How do I apply?

Community Services carers will receive a TEP application form in the mail. Community Services carers who are eligible should complete the application form and return it to Community Services.

Carers with a non-government agency will need to apply for the TEP through their agency. Further information about the application process will be provided to carers by their agency.

Are self-funded retirees eligible for the TEP?

Some authorised foster, relative and kinship carers who are self funded retirees will be eligible for Family Tax Benefit A. These carers will be eligible to claim TEP based on the young person's enrolment and attendance in education and/or training. Self-funded retirees should ensure that they are receiving all Commonwealth income support to which they are entitled.

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 authorised carers to apply for or receive the TEP.

How do I get more information about TEP?

The [Teenage Education Payment Guidelines](#) are on the Community Services website. These have more information for carers about eligibility for TEP and how it will be paid.

Community Services carers can receive further information and advice from their local Community Services Centre.

Carers with a non-government agency can contact their agency caseworker for further information and advice.

Carers may also wish to contact:

- Connecting Carers NSW on 1300 794 653 or at www.connectingcarersnsw.com.au
- The Aboriginal Statewide Foster Carer Support Service on 1800 888 698 or at www.absec.org.au