

## PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

From age 15 you will have a 'leaving care plan'. It contains information about you and the support you need to meet your own goals, including financial assistance.

Planning ahead generally makes things easier, this also goes for planning for your future. Talk to your caseworker about your future goals.

**Have a say in your plan!** The more you contribute to the plan, the more it will become personalised to you.

*Your plan is unique because it's about YOU and YOUR FUTURE.*

What do you want to do when you turn 18?

**If you don't have a copy of your plan or don't know about it, speak with your caseworker**

**After turning 18 you can still get support and financial assistance to help with expenses**

Have you thought about study at University or TAFE?  
Can you continue living where you are or do you need to live somewhere else?  
What about training or a course?  
Or would you like to get a job?

Financial assistance may be available to benefit your goals after turning 18 when you legally 'leave care'.

## 18 AND OVER

Care leavers with assessed need can get support and financial assistance up to age 25 to help with expenses like:



Studying and training, including scholarships and fee free Smart and Skilled courses



Accessing health services not covered by public health (for example dental treatment)



Finding a place to live



Obtaining legal advice



Finding a job



Developing life skills such as learning to drive



Counselling



And more...

Your plan can change after 18 to meet your changing needs.

## HOW TO GET ASSISTANCE JUST ASK FOR IT.

Contact your caseworker or your local Community Services Centre (Communities and Justice). It can be for something already agreed in your plan or something new. Whether it's small like buying books for a course or a significant event such as having a baby, they can arrange support and financial assistance to help you.

Remember, when things change ask for assistance!

You may be  
entitled to an  
allowance

## ALLOWANCES

[Transition to Independent Living Allowance \(TILA\)](#) can be arranged through your Agency or Communities and Justice. TILA is up to \$1,500 to help with costs like furniture, white goods, clothing, bedding, study expenses such as a laptop or paying for rental bond and more.

[Centrelink](#) allowances are paid directly to your bank account. You may be entitled to the Youth Allowance, Newstart, Rent Assistance or other allowances from Centrelink. Speak with your caseworker or a Specialist Aftercare Service, or refer to [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au)

[Aftercare Allowance](#) can help you if you are over 18 and in full-time education or training but facing homelessness. Used to secure a stable, affordable place to live.

## VICTIMS SERVICES

Ask about recognition payments from Victims Services. You might have money in trust for you when you turn 18. You can see if you are eligible for this help at any time.

## YOUR PERSONAL RECORDS

If you don't already have them, ask for official documents like your birth certificate or Medicare card and access to records about your time in care.

## MORE INFORMATION

- ✦ Contact the **careleavers line** on 1800 994 686 (9am – 4.30pm weekdays) or email [careleaversline@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:careleaversline@facs.nsw.gov.au)
- ✦ Search [Finance support and entitlements](#) on [facs.nsw.gov.au](http://facs.nsw.gov.au) or go to [you.childstory.nsw.gov.au](http://you.childstory.nsw.gov.au)
- ✦ **Specialist Aftercare Services** can help in circumstances where you are unable to contact your previous agency. Search [Support after care](#) on [facs.nsw.gov.au](http://facs.nsw.gov.au) for a contact list.

Everyone needs  
assistance from  
time to time,  
speak up,  
you have a voice and  
you will be heard