



Business Rules: Eligibility Criteria for the PSP Additional Carer Support Package

ADDITIONAL CARER SUPPORT (ACS)

The ACS package provides additional funding where enhanced carer capacity and casework responsiveness is needed to meet the needs of children¹.

Increased carer capacity and casework support enables children with additional needs to receive innovative, specialised, tailored foster care arrangements that promote placement stability and avoid escalation to Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC). For children in ITC, this additional support allows them to 'step down' to foster care.

The package may be used to fund:

- additional recruitment, matching and training of carers to reflect the additional support needs of these children
- additional respite to carers in addition to the existing allowance of 24 nights (or equivalent) per annum provided by standard PSP packages
- additional caseworker availability to provide direct, individualised support to carers and increased relationship based interventions with the child or young person or advocacy (for example, accessing the NDIS).

Funded service providers may flexibly allocate package funding towards carer support or caseworker availability as required. Funded service providers may use their discretion regarding provision of a higher carer allowance to reflect the additional capacity required of carers.

The package will be paid annually in a lump sum and will be managed through the reconciliation and verification process. Funding will be withdrawn when children and carers no longer meet eligibility criteria.

To fund additional therapeutic and behaviour support, children will also receive a Child Needs (High) package..

Eligibility

The child:

- is in statutory OOHC and receiving services as part of the Permanency Support Program.
- is in foster care or relative/kinship care.
- is not eligible for Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) packages, unless the ACS package is being added to enable a child to stepdown from ITC to foster care.

¹ Throughout this document 'child and/or young person' is shortened to 'child'; 'children and/or young people' is shortened to 'children'.

In addition, the FSPs must demonstrate that **four or more** of the following criteria are needed **to meet the additional needs** of the child, **demonstrating additional carer support required (over and above that which is funded by standard PSP packages)**:

The carer:

- is likely to require a minimum 12 nights (or equivalent) respite per annum in addition to the 24 nights provided by the PSP packages (a total of 36 nights per annum minimum) in response to the child’s additional needs.
- is or will participate in developing and enacting the child’s behaviour support plan and participate in its monitoring and review by a psychologist (or similar discipline).
- has or is developing **advanced additional skills** in relation to trauma-informed care and/or other relevant accredited, specialist training.
- is or will be required to provide the child with **additional assistance** in bathing and showering, toileting, dressing/undressing, and participates in the monitoring and review by an occupational therapist (or similar discipline).
- is or will be required to provide the child with **additional assistance** in play, peer relationships, achieving developmental milestones and learning, and participates in the monitoring and review by an occupational therapist (or similar discipline).
- is or will be required to provide a special diet to the child (as recommended by a relevant professional) and/or assistance with feeding, and participates in the monitoring and review by a dietician (or similar discipline).
- is or will be required to participate, with the child’s teachers and school staff, in the regular, ongoing monitoring and review of a student behaviour support plan.
- is or will be required to attend the child’s school for a minimum of 6 hours per week to support the child’s behaviour and/or academic learning.

FSPs must also demonstrate that support of the placement **always** requires:

- additional caseworker availability/responsiveness to the carer and/or child of four or more hours per week to provide, for example, support, mentoring, coaching, capacity to attend clinical appointments.

<p>Minimum review period</p>	<p>Ongoing eligibility must be reviewed annually as part of the case plan goal review process. The FSP in collaboration with FACS should use the eligibility criteria as a checklist for determining the continued need for the package.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FACS may review eligibility for the ACS package when circumstances change. • The application form does not need to be resubmitted each year however the Additional Carer Support package needs to be re-added annually within ChildStory.
<p>Approval</p>	<p>FSPs must complete the ACS package application form to access the package. The package will require the approval of the Executive District Director or, for Statewide Contracts, the Executive Director Partnerships.</p>