

Specialist Workers for Children and Young People

FAQs

Updated April 2023



Communities
& Justice

Specialist Workers for Children and Young People aims to break the cycle of disadvantage and improve client outcomes for children and young people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and who have been impacted by Domestic and Family Violence.

These FAQs answer the commonly asked questions about this new program and will continue to be updated as it is implemented.

Question	Answer
What is Specialist Workers for Children and Young People (SWCYP)?	<p>SWCYP supports the employment of specialist workers in priority refuges in 2022/23.* These workers will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify children and young people who require specialist support• Provide direct services to identified children and young people that are trauma informed, family centred and culturally appropriate• Support identified children and young people to access mainstream and specialist services and ensure they are connected with education/training, community, culture, family and country. <p>* Approval has been granted to continue providing the service during 2023/24 using existing unspent funds</p>
What are the eligibility requirements for accessing SWCYP?	<p>Accompanied children and young people who reside at a priority refuge and have experienced domestic and family violence are eligible. Young people who are unable to reside with their family at the refuge due to intake policies are also eligible for support and service providers should facilitate their access to the program.</p> <p>Where capacity exists, children and young people of an accompanying adult who have experienced domestic and</p>

	family violence, who are receiving outreach support from the refuge are also eligible.
What support does the SWCYP deliver?	Specialist workers will assess the physical, social, psychological and educational needs of resident children and young people and develop an individualised case plan aimed at supporting individuals and families achieve their goals.
Can the funding be used for brokerage?	No, this funding has been provided to support the employment of specialist workers for children and young people and cannot be used for brokerage.
Can the funding be used for accommodation costs, such as head leasing?	No, this funding has been provided to support the employment of specialist workers for children and young people and cannot be used for accommodation costs.
How do I access specialist supports for children and young people if the funding can't be used as brokerage?	There are a number ways to deliver specialist support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly employ specialist workers to deliver the program within the refuge, such as case workers, social workers, children's therapists, program coordinators, team leaders etc. These workers cannot be employed via a third party. • Coordinate with local services to employ a specialist worker one day a week/fortnight/month e.g. counsellors, therapeutic play therapists • Refer to locally available services.
Do children and young people need to be referred to SWCYP?	SWCYP is being delivered by Specialist Homelessness Services which all operate under a 'No Wrong Door' policy. This means all* children and young people staying at a refuge that is delivering this program will be eligible for support under this program (*including young people who are separated from their family at the refuge due to intake policies)
What are the reporting requirements for providers delivering the SWCYP?	Service providers will be required to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Identify the services as SWCYP</u> When creating a support period in CIMS for a child or young person accessing this program, select "Specialist Workers CYP" from the Program field drop down in the record. Providers who do not use CIMS will need to provide DCJ with a list of clients being supported and include the SHS agency ID, Support Period Identifier and the letters of the client's given name and last name, sex and date of birth (details to create an SLK). This list must be provided to DCJ on a quarterly basis via a Kiteworks email to youth.homelessness@facns.nsw.gov.au. 2. <u>Submit quarterly reports and case studies</u> Complete the reporting template and submit two case studies every quarter using the case study template provided by DCJ. The reporting template asks about the refuge name, service areas, the number of children and young people accessing

	<p>this program, the number of workers delivering the program and the role titles of all workers delivering this program each quarter.</p> <p>3. <u>Financial acquittal</u> All SWCYP providers have approval to retain unspent funds and to continue providing the service throughout 2023/24. All funds must be fully expended by 30 June 2024, after which any unspent funds will need to be returned to DCJ.</p>
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For more information

Refer to the *Specialist Workers for Children and Young People Service Specifications*. Service providers delivering SWCYP can get advice and support by emailing youth.homelessness@facs.nsw.gov.au