



## Additional Carer Support Package: Frequently Asked Questions

### Why is the Additional Carer Support Package being introduced?

Following the introduction of the Permanency Support Program (PSP), FACS undertook a review of children<sup>1</sup> formerly in Intensive Foster Care. The review recommended changes to the PSP funding model to better support children with a range of diagnosed needs and behaviours that require additional carer capacity and case responsiveness.

In response a new specialist package, Additional Carer Support (ACS), is being introduced.

### What will the ACS Package fund?

The additional funding allows Funded Service Providers (FSPs) to:

- conduct additional carer recruitment and matching to reflect the additional support needs of children
- provide additional financial support, training and respite to carers
- provide additional hours of casework support for each child every week.

### Who can get the ACS Package?

Eligibility for the package is determined on a case by case basis. FSPs must complete the application form to demonstrate the child requires additional carer capacity and casework responsiveness to address their needs.

### Will the ACS Package fund additional therapeutic behaviour supports for children?

In recognition of their additional level of need, the child will also be eligible for the **High** Child Needs Package to ensure that a greater level of wraparound supports are available. In exceptional circumstances, the child may also receive a complex needs payment.

### When will the new package be introduced?

The package will be available from 1 July 2019.

### Will Intensive Foster Care still exist?

No, Intensive Foster Care does not exist under the PSP. A final supplementary payment was made to eligible FSPs for the period ending 30 June 2019, while the IFC review took place.

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

**Are children case managed by FACS eligible for an ACS package?**

No, only a child who is placed with, and case managed by, an FSP are eligible.

**Is the ACS package a 'one-off' payment?**

Funding is ongoing but subject to an annual review. Funding will discontinue when the child's needs change, and additional carer and casework support is no longer required.

**Are children in Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) eligible for the ACS package?**

No, however this package may enable a child to step down from ITC where a suitable foster care arrangement is available.

**Will FSPs need to apply for the new package for children assessed as eligible by the IFC review?**

No, these children will automatically receive the new package.

**Where should ACS package applications be sent?**

Applications for an ACS Package, along with supporting evidence/documentation, should be sent to your Child and Family District Unit (CFDU).