



# Guideline for extracurricular activities for children and young people in a care arrangement.

## \$1500 funding boost for children and young people

The Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety is committed to helping children and young people achieve their full potential, including access to and participation in extracurricular activities.

From 1 July 2025, every child and young person from birth to 18 years who is living in a family based care or non-family based care arrangement will be eligible for their carers to receive \$1500 per year towards their participation in extracurricular activities.

This includes all children and young people subject to the custody or guardianship of the Chief Executive or being cared for by long-term guardians or permanent guardians in accordance with the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

This Guideline will help carers and residential care workers prepare to access this additional support for the children and young people they care for.

## Why are extracurricular activities important?

Participation in extracurricular activities can promote a sense of belonging and achievement which can help children and young people build resilience and confidence. Extracurricular activities can be linked to positive academic, social and health outcomes.

Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, outside school tutoring, activities relating to art, sport, recreation, music, culture, citizenship, On Country programs and camps, and participation in clubs. For children under the age of five this investment can be used to support participation in activities such as swimming lessons, playgroups, and sensory and development classes. Whatever a child's age, the \$1500 boost can be used to support club memberships, enrolments, equipment or other resources children and young people may need to participate.

The child or young person's views and aspiration will guide decisions about what extracurricular activities are important to them. Carers, guardians and residential care workers will actively listen to and engage children and young people about their goals and help them pursue their aspirations, including undertaking extracurricular activities.

## How will carers and staff access the \$1500 boost?

Foster and kinship carers and guardians will receive a biannual payment of \$750 for each child and/or young person in their care on 1 July 2025 and 1 January 2026. Payments will be received alongside, and in addition to, existing fortnightly care allowances. Payments will be made directly to the primary carers and guardians, where the child is living, for those carers and guardians to administer and facilitate access to the extracurricular activities on behalf of the child or young person.

For children and young people in residential care a pre-approved child related cost reimbursements process will be available for up to \$1500. Confirmation of enrolment in extracurricular activities and costs incurred is all that is needed for the child related cost payment to be made to the residential care services. This pre-approved payment is on top of existing funding already provided to residential care services to support a child or young person's participation in activities.

If participation in extracurricular activities cost more than \$1500 annually, additional child related costs may be accessed with prior approval. For residential care workers additional funds may be provided at the discretion of Child Safety on a negotiated basis.

### **Maximising outcomes for children and young people in care**

To make full use of this additional support, it is important for carers, guardians and residential care workers to explore with children and young people what their interests are and how they can be supported to participate<sup>1</sup>. Whether this is help with getting ready for the school year and a desire to lift or maintain grades academically or pursue interests away from the classroom in sports, dance, music or movements like scouting, this new investment is here to help.

### **Next steps**

In the lead up to 1 July 2025, further communication to staff, carers and providers will be made as policies and procedures to support payments are developed and released. This will include advice on how the \$1500 boost will work alongside, and in addition to, other types of practical and financial supports.

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<sup>1</sup> Supporting participation in most types of extracurricular activities will be part of day-to-day care decisions that carers, guardians and residential care workers are responsible for making. Some extracurricular activities by their nature or the child's particular circumstances, may require additional decision-making considerations as per current departmental processes.