

Your Choice, Your Future – aftercare supports available now

\$100 million in extra support for young people who leave care

From 1 February 2023, young people in out-of-home care can access additional aftercare support until the age of 21, as the NSW Government delivers on its commitment to help young people secure a brighter future.

The Your Choice, Your Future package includes:

- the **Staying on Allowance** to support young people who remain with their carers until 21
- the **Independent Living Allowance** – a fortnightly payment for young people who live independently and need financial support until the age of 21
- an expansion of the **Specialist Aftercare Program** – increasing the availability and location of targeted supports for young people when they leave care
- funding for **more caseworkers** to support young people plan their transition out of care

This investment is on top of existing services and programs funded by the NSW Government to support young people leaving care, including:

- Targeted university scholarships
- Targeted traineeships with Services NSW
- Smart & Skilled TAFE – free and subsidised training
- The Ladder Program offering coaching and mentoring
- Free Safer Drivers Course and help to obtain a licence within the leaving care plan
- Foyer – a purpose-built centre located in central Sydney affordable accommodation



Your Choice, Your Future – New aftercare supports available now

Staying on Allowance

We want to support carers to continue providing a safe and stable home for young people after they turn 18, if they both choose to do so. Young people staying with their carer are now eligible for the Staying on Allowance.

This is a fortnightly payment of \$544 from the age of 18, \$400 at 19 and \$250 at 20, payable to the carer. This payment ends when the young person turns 21.

The young person must have been in the parental care of the Minister for more than 12 months until they turned 18, and they must consent to the payment going to their carer.

Scan the QR code to start an application or visit [dcj.nsw.info/SOA](https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/soa).

Independent Living Allowance

This \$250 fortnightly payment will help young people leaving out of home care with accommodation and other essential living expenses.

Young people are eligible for this payment if they:

- are 18 to 20 years old
- lived in out of home care for at least 12 months before they turned 18
- live independently
- do not own the house they live in
- need support with housing and essential living expenses

Scan the QR code to start an application or visit [dcj.nsw.info/ILA](https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/ila).

Support and more information

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/living-in-nsw/young-people/leaving-care>
[dcj.nsw.info/aftercare](https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/aftercare)

Care Leavers Line – 1800 994 686

CareleaversLine@fac.nsw.gov.au

