Child Safety
POLICY

Title: Child Related Costs – Support for children who have long-term guardians and permanent guardians

Policy No. 608-2

Policy Statement:
The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, may provide financial support to approved foster and kinship carers who are subsequently granted the long-term guardianship of a child or young person under the Child Protection Act 1999, sections 61(f)(i) (ii), and the child or young person in their guardianship. In addition, financial support will be in accordance with the following criteria:

- Child related cost (CRC) reimbursement is approved for significant and/or ongoing costs that are specific to the child or young person’s individual needs over and above the financial support provided in the fortnightly caring allowance and the high support needs allowance if this is also provided. However, all other avenues of financial support must be explored first, for example, other government allowances and benefits.
- Decisions regarding access to CRC must be in accordance with the Financial Accountability Act 2009 and all goods and services purchased must be considered reasonable by the relevant financial delegate.
- All CRC expenditure is in accordance with the appropriate financial delegations and standards.
- All transactions are to be substantiated (i.e. receipts) and all reimbursement documentation is to be maintained to ensure an adequate audit trail.
- All items purchased under this category belong to the child or young person.
- When the necessary services are not publicly available, approved foster and kinship carers who are subsequently granted the long-term guardianship of a child or young person under the Act will have access to financial support for services to meet the health, educational, therapeutic, transition into adulthood and cultural needs of children and young people.

Principles:

- The safety, wellbeing and best interests, of the child or young person are paramount.
- The child or young person has a right to be placed in a care environment that best meets their needs for permanency and stability.
- Approved foster and kinship carers who are subsequently granted the long-term guardianship of a child or young person under the Act, and the child or young person in their guardianship, have the right to receive support that will contribute towards the stability and permanency of the care arrangement.
The department recognises that unforeseen circumstances may arise, and/or the needs of the child or young person subject to the long-term guardianship order may change significantly at any time following the making of a long-term guardianship order to a suitable person.

**Objectives:**

This policy aims to support the stability and permanency of long-term guardianship care arrangements, by enabling eligible guardians or the child in their guardianship to seek reimbursement of child related costs that are considered to be significant and/or ongoing in relation to the child subject to the long-term guardianship or permanent care order.

**Scope:**

This policy relates to approved foster and kinship carers who are subsequently granted the long-term guardianship of a child under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, and the child in their guardianship.

Permanent guardians will not be eligible for Child Related Costs reimbursement, except in exceptional circumstances, if the Chief Executive considers it necessary to ensure the wellbeing and best interests of a child on a permanent care order.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

The child safety officer for the child is responsible for responding to requests for support, by a child or young person or their long-term guardian.

The CSSC team leader is responsible for ensuring that the support needs of a child or young person or their guardian are appropriately responded to in a timely manner.

Following the making of a long-term guardianship order, an eligible guardian is responsible for providing information or evidence to support the application for CRCs that are not endorsed within the child or young person’s existing case plan.

If a permanent guardian requests support for a child on a permanent care order, the child safety officer will advised the permanent guardian that a Case Plan review will be required to assess the child’s current needs and ensure it meets the eligibility requirement of exceptional circumstances.

The financial delegate is responsible for approving all child related costs on behalf of the child or an eligible guardian.

**Authority:**

*Child Protection Act 1999*, section 159
*Financial Accountability Act 2009*

**Delegations:**

The officers delegated to make decisions regarding payments under this policy are outlined the associated procedure.
Records File No.:  
Date of approval: 15 December 2011  
Date of operation: 11 January 2012  
Date to be reviewed: December 2014 (Minor update 18 October 2018)

Office: Department of Child Safety Youth and Women  
Help Contact: Operational Support

Links:

Related Policies
Child Related Costs – Travel (595)  
Child Related Costs – Education support (599)  
Child Related Costs – Outfitting (600)  
Child Related Costs – Client support and family contact (598)  
Child Related Costs – Carer support (597)  
Child Related Costs – Medical (596)  
Supporting children in the care of long-term guardians (607)  
Expenses - Fortnightly caring allowance and inter-state foster payments (365)  
Regional/Remote loading for carers (379)  
Dual payment of carer allowances (289)  
High Support Needs Allowance (296)  
Complex Support Needs Allowance (612)  
Expenses – General (FSE001)  
Expenses – Payment Methods (FSE008)

Related Legislation or Standard
Financial Accountability Act 2009  
Child Protection Act 1999

Forms, Standard Letters or Memorandum
Child Related Costs Approval Form

Rescinded Policies
608-1 Child Related Costs – Long-term guardian support
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Director-General