

Policy: After Care Support

Policy Purpose

To ensure that young people who have left the care of the Chief Executive Officer are provided with assistance and support as they transition to independent living.

Policy Statement

Section 85A of the [Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#) (the Act) defines Territory Families' responsibilities to assist young people to transition to independence. This includes providing appropriate services and financial support. Approval for financial support must be provided by the appropriate *Financial Delegate*.

Territory Families also recognises that young people may require assistance at various stages of their life after they have left care (as defined in s68 of the Act).

The young person's *My Leaving Care Plan* should adopt a long term view to identify their needs and the support they will require until the age of 25. The plan should articulate the level of practical or financial support that Territory Families will provide to meet these needs. Planning must be focussed on the young person's circumstances and the support required to develop essential life skills. The intent of after care support is to assist the young person to reach their full potential as independent adults.

If a young person in care turns 18 while undertaking education or training, Territory Families must assist them to maintain their current living arrangements (including any financial assistance needed) until they have completed the course.

Young people aged 15 to 25, who have left care, are able to access the services and supports that have been identified during their transition from care planning at any time. This includes all relevant Territory and Commonwealth government services and entitlements.

Additional 'unplanned' practical or financial support can be provided to a young person up to the age of 25 years when they contact Territory Families seeking assistance. An assessment is undertaken by a Transition from Care Officer, or an allocated Territory Families' staff member to determine the young person's needs at the time, having regard to their circumstances, safety and wellbeing.

Legislative Basis

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)

Authorised by:		HPRM (TRIM):	61:F2020/4778
Executive Leadership Group		27/05/2020	Active from: 19/06/2020
Version 1.0	Replaces <i>Policy: Leaving Care and After Care Support</i> . Separation of After Care Support and Transition to Independence material. Policy now only informs Territory Families staff about After Care Support. Separate policy available for Transition to Independence.		
Review due:	May 22	Maintenance:	tf.policy@nt.gov.au