



\$1500 boost for extracurricular activities

Frequently Asked Questions for Child Safety Staff

What is the \$1500 funding boost?

The Queensland Government is increasing the yearly allowance for each child and young person living in a care arrangement by \$1500, to fund extracurricular activities.

This boost will complement other Queensland Government programs available to children and young people in care, such as Play on vouchers. Accessing other universal supports will not impact the child or young person's eligibility for the \$1500 funding boost.

When does it commence?

From 1 July 2025.

Who is eligible?

Every child and young person under 18 years who is living in a care arrangement, either in family-based care or nonfamily-based care. This includes any young person under 18 living independently.

What activities does this include?

Extracurricular activity is any activity that promotes a child or young person's health, creativity, learning, wellbeing, cultural connection, or social, emotional or physical development.

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 funding boost can support participation in activities such as swimming lessons, playgroups, and sensory and development classes.

The \$1500 boost can be used to support club memberships, enrolments, the purchase of equipment or other resources children and young people may need to participate.

The extracurricular activities are determined by the child or young person based on what is important to them and do not need to be part of an organised lesson or event to be considered for the boost payment.

Does this include Interim Orders, Temporary Assessment Orders, Court Assessment Orders and guardianship orders?

Yes.

All children and young people subject to orders granting custody or guardianship to the Chief Executive (on interim or final orders) or being cared for by long-term guardians or permanent guardians in accordance with the *Child Protection Act 1999*, will be eligible.

How will the \$1500 boost be provided to family-based carers?

Foster carers, kinship carers and guardians will receive a biannual payment of \$750 for each child and/or young person in their care based on the reference dates of 1 July 2025 and 1 January 2026.

Payments will be provided alongside, and in addition to, existing fortnightly care allowances. Payments will be made directly to the primary carers and guardians, in whose care the child or young person has been placed, for those carers and guardians to administer and facilitate access to the extracurricular activities.

Two central payment rounds are planned to follow each reference date and timed with the normal fortnightly care allowance payment cycle to make sure all eligible care arrangements are captured. If a care arrangement is late being recorded, they will be paid in the second payment round.

Which family-based carers will be provided the boost?

The biannual boost payments will be provided to the primary carers and guardians, in whose care the child or young person has been placed based on the reference dates of 1 July 2025 and 1 January 2026.

This includes approved foster and kinship carers, provisionally approved carers as well as long term and permanent guardians.

What tasks does the child safety service centre need to undertake to facilitate the \$1500 boost payment to family-based carers?

The payment to family-based carers will be administered centrally using Unify carer information, however, to ensure that the payment of the boost proceeds efficiently the child safety service centres (CSSCs) need to undertake the following tasks prior to the CarePay cut-off date in which the reference date falls:

- Business Support Teams or the responsible CSSC Administration Officer complete any outstanding tasks in the aged CarePay report that may delay the payment.
- Child Safety Officers update Unify care arrangement information to ensure the care arrangement dates for children and young people placed in family-based care on the reference dates is accurate.

Primary carers and guardians are paid based on the care arrangement dates in Unify if they fall within the boost reference dates. If the Unify information is not updated the carers may not receive the payment or be incorrectly paid.

What if an eligible family-based carer is not paid the \$1500 boost?

Another payment of the boost will be administered centrally the next fortnightly caring allowance payment cycle after the reference date to capture the carers that may have missed out on receiving the boost due to incorrect Unify information.

If a carer is missed during the first and second payment cycle, CSSCs will be responsible for identifying any eligible carers by checking SAP against the placement report. Any cases identified are to be referred to carerboostpayment@dcssds.qld.gov.au for processing.

How long will the CSSC have to identify eligible carers or guardians who did not receive the boost payment?

After two fortnightly caring allowance payment runs have occurred CSSCs have a further month to identify eligible carers or guardians who did not receive the boost payment in the first two payment cycles and notify the responsible business area.

For children or young people on active shared care arrangements or a short break care arrangement that is approved as a dual payment how will the \$1500 boost payment be allocated?

Payments will be made to the primary carer. There will be no dual payment of the boost payment for carers.

When will family-based carers and guardians expect to receive the payments?

The extracurricular boost payment will arrive as close as possible to the day a carer or guardian's fortnightly care allowance payment is scheduled following the reference dates of 1 July 2025 and 1 January 2026.

For July 2025, this means the majority of carers will receive the boost payment in the week commencing 14 July. The subsequent boost payment run will be made in the week commencing 28 July.

Who receives the payment if a child moves between family-based carers on the reference dates?

The carer where the child or young person is moving to will receive the boost. Unlike other carer allowances that are paid in arrears, the allowance for extracurricular activities will be paid in advance to help carers budget expected extracurricular care costs.

Will family-based carers need to provide receipts when they receive the allowance?

No. Consistent with other long standing care allowance policies, carers do not provide receipts against allowances.

Will payments transfer to new carers if a child or young person moves placement or enters family-based care after 1 July?

No. Financial support needed for children and young people in family-based care in between biannual payments will be met via other existing financial support mechanisms such as Child Related Costs.

Some payments if previously paid and used (i.e. tutoring, sport equipment or club membership) will follow children and young people to subsequent care arrangements. When this is not possible, existing support mechanisms, such as Child Related Costs, will be used.

Will existing family-based carer supports be affected by the \$1500 boost?

No.

The \$1500 boost does not replace or substitute any existing allowances or financial supports. It is provided in addition to other allowances. Existing carer supports will continue even when the allowance is provided.

What if a family-based carer is currently receiving financial support for extracurricular activities?

If a carer is receiving high or complex support needs allowance or is being reimbursed through child related costs for any extracurricular activity this support will continue as approved, and the boost will be provided in addition to these existing supports.

How will children and young people in nonfamily-based care access the \$1500 boost?

For children and young people in nonfamily-based care reimbursement of extracurricular expenses up to \$1500 per child or young person per annum will be made through existing child-related costs mechanisms.

For any young people under 18 living independently or a child or young person placed with a parent under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, [section 82\(2\)](#), the same supports will be available and provided via child-related costs mechanisms.

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 nonfamily-based care services. This pre-approved payment is on top of existing funding already provided to services to support a child or young person's participation in activities.

Who is considered a nonfamily-based care provider?

Nonfamily-based care providers are organisations who hold an authority to care for children and young people in care and include residential care service providers, supported independent living services, safe houses, emergent accommodation as well as other entities under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, [section 82\(1\)\(f\)](#).

How will a young person living independently or a child or young person placed with a parent under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, section 82(2) access the boost?

For young people living independently the boost will be accessed as a pre-approved child related cost reimbursement. The boost will be administered similar to existing processes for child related cost reimbursement for this group. They will not be provided payments directly instead the payment will be provided to an organisation or business entity and purchases will be made on their behalf. The child or young person's Child Safety Officer can submit the application on their behalf.

What is the timeframe for nonfamily-based providers to lodge a claim?

Claims for children and young people in residential care services, supported independent living services and safe houses must be lodged with Child Safety for processing as soon as possible to the date of the purchase being made to ensure an accurate record is kept on the available funding for the child or young person.

What is the timeframe for Child Safety to process the claims?

Child Safety will process claims for extracurricular activities as part of the \$1500 boost as soon as possible after the claims being lodged to ensure an accurate record is kept on the available funding for the child or young person.

What happens if a child or young person uses the boost and moves to another service provider?

The \$1500 boost is provided per child or young person per annum. If a child or young person has spent part of the boost and moves to another nonfamily-based care provider the new provider will only have to access to the remaining funds for the child or young person.

If all the boost funding has been spent for the child or young person additional funds may be provided at the discretion of Child Safety on a negotiated basis considering the services' existing funding and normal child related cost budget considerations.

What happens if a child or young person moves from family-based care where they have received the \$1500 boost to nonfamily-based care?

If a child or young person moves from family-based care where their carer or guardian has received the \$1500 to a nonfamily-based care provider the child or young person can still access the \$1500 boost. Before purchasing any goods or service for extracurricular activities the nonfamily-based care provider must contact Child Safety to confirm how much funding is available.

How will nonfamily-based care providers know how much funding is available?

Before purchasing any goods or services for extracurricular activities the nonfamily-based care provider must contact Child Safety to confirm whether the child or young person may have previously accessed the \$1500 with a previous nonfamily-based care provider during the financial year. Child Safety will advise how much funding is available to be spend.

What if the cost of extracurricular activities is more than \$1500 annually?

For nonfamily-based care, additional funds may be provided at the discretion of Child Safety on a negotiated basis considering the services' existing funding and normal child related cost budget considerations.

Will the extracurricular activities be included in the case planning process?

Yes.

Carers and care services will work together with Child Safety Officers as part of case planning, capturing the areas of interest to a child or young person for enrolment in their chosen activity.

Will the child and young person views be sought?

Yes.

The child or young person's views and aspirations will guide decisions about what extracurricular activities are important to them.

Carers, guardians and 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.

Where can I find information on local sports and recreation activities to enrol a child or young person?

The [Play On! Queensland | Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games](#)

provides the ability to search a list of approved activity providers that accept fair play vouchers by location. Additionally, most councils list their sport and recreational facilities, and some also have community directory lists that incorporate sporting club.

How will the extracurricular activities be recorded?

Discuss the child or young person's participation in extra-curricular activities, including the need for additional financial support, during the placement meeting and document the agreed, planned arrangements that will be covered by the boost payment in the placement agreement.

For a child or young person with a long-term or permanent guardian, there is no requirement to document the planned use of the boost payment.

The child related cost payments for nonfamily-based care will be copied directly from the application form submitted and recorded in the SAP line items descriptor exactly as it appears in the application form. Please refer to the example below.

How it appears in the application form

CHILD DETAILS (first name, last name initial)		ACTIVITY		ACTIVITY TYPE (Enrolment = Enr, Equipment = Equip)		ACTIVITY DETAILS		CSSC CODE
JohnB	-	Arts	-	Equip	-	Paint brushes	-	REDCS

How it should be recorded in the SAP Line descriptor

JohnB, Arts, Equip, Paint brushes, REDCS

How can we find out more?

Forms and guidelines about the \$1500 boost for extracurricular activities can be accessed from the following link: [Resources and publications | Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety](#).

Information for carers is also available on the [Connecting with Carers](#) webpage.