#

# $1500 boost for extracurricular activities

**Frequently Asked Questions for Carers and Guardians**

#### **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 a 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.

**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.

**What activities does this include?**

Extracurricular activity is any activity that promotes a child’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.

#### **How will the $1500 boost be provided to carers?**

Family based carers will receive a biannual payment of $750 for each child and/or young person in their care on the reference dates of 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, 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.

#### **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.

**For children on active shared care arrangements or approved short break dual care 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.

Short break carers will only receive the boost payment in circumstances where the child or young person does not have a primary carer, and the child or young person is in their care on the reference dates.

#### **When will 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.

This means carers and guardians will receive the first payment from 15 July, based on care arrangements in place on 1 July 2025. Payment will be made automatically and should be received the day after their normal fortnightly care allowance payment is received. The second $750 payment will follow in January 2026.

If there is a delay in providing the normal fortnightly care allowance for 1 July, there will also be a delay in the boost payment. For eligible care arrangement, the boost and normal fortnightly care allowance payment should be received together and if delayed should therefore be received the following fortnightly payment period.

#### **What should carers and guardians do if they do not receive the payment?**

Carers who believe they should have received the boost payment for care provided on 1 July 2025 and did not receive any boost payments in July can contact their Child Safety Service Centre. Individual payments can be made in August 2025 on a case by case bases once eligibility is confirmed.

#### **Will carers need to provide receipts when they receive the allowance?**

Consistent with other long standing care allowance policies, carers do not provide receipts against allowances.

#### **Who receives the payment if a child moves between 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.

Consistent with other long standing care allowance policies, carers do not provide receipts against allowances. Accountability is maintained via placement agreements and case plans with carers.

**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 mechanism 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 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 carer is currently receiving financial support for extracurricular activities?**

If a carer is already 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.

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

If participation in extracurricular activities costs more than $1500 annually, additional child related costs may be accessed with prior approval from the CSSC Manager for those children and young people living in family-based care.

**Will the $1500 be affected if I access Fair Play vouchers or other government or non-government supports?**

No.

The $1500 boost will complement other Queensland Government programs available to children and young people in care. Accessing other universal supports will not impact the child or young person’s eligibility for the $1500 funding boost.

**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](https://www.sport.qld.gov.au/sport/funding-programs/play-on)

 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 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](https://www.families.qld.gov.au/our-work/child-safety/resources-publications).

Information for carers is also available on the [Connecting with Carers](https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/foster-kinship-care/information-for-carers/money-matters/carer-allowances) webpage.