



# **\$1500 boost for extracurricular activities**

## **Frequently Asked Questions for nonfamily- based care providers**

### **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.

### **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)*.

### **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 children in nonfamily-based care access the \$1500 boost?**

For children and young people in nonfamily-based care, including residential care services, supported independent living services and safe houses reimbursement of extracurricular expenses up to \$1500 per annum will be made through existing child-related costs mechanisms.

For any young people under 18 living independently, 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.

### **How will children in nonfamily-based care access the \$1500 boost?**

Nonfamily based care providers can make an application by accessing and completing the [Application for Extracurricular Activities](#) boost for children and young people in nonfamily-based care form. This one-page form is emailed to the Child Safety Service Centre with case management responsibility for the child or young person. A list of the Child Safety Service Centre mailboxes is found at the end of the application form.

### **What is the timeframe 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 then 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.

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

Before purchasing any goods or service 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 unspent.

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

If a child or young person moves from family-based care arrangement where they have 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.

### **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.

Nonfamily-based care providers 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 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.