



Eligibility criteria for PSP service packages

Factsheet to assist FACS-funded service providers transition to full PSP service delivery from 1 July 2018

From 1 July 2018, full service delivery commences for the new contracts for Foster Care and Aboriginal Foster Care including the full PSP Packaged Care Service Model.

Service providers have been asked to provide information on the proposed packages for each child in their care responsibility by 1 April 2018. This will be informed by the child's case plan goal (ie. restoration, guardianship, open adoption or long-term OOHC).

FACS will allocate service packages based on the assessed need of the child and the case plan goal approved by FACS.

As set out in the [Permanency Case Management Rules and Practice Guidance \(PCMR\)](#), approval is generally by FACS Manager Casework or above. Some packages require a higher level of approval, as outlined below. Approval processes may differ across FACS districts. In the case of a dispute, service providers should use the dispute resolution/escalation process outlined in the [PCMR](#).

Case plan goal packages

A service provider will receive a case plan goal package based on the child's approved case plan goal recorded in ChildStory. Case plan goal packages are mutually exclusive (ie. each child can only have one case plan goal package at a time) and must be approved by FACS.

Payment for a child's case plan goal will end when:

- the child's case plan goal has been achieved and on expiry of any orders that support achievement of the case plan goal, ie. a shorter term care order (STCO), or on the making of a guardianship or adoption order
- a child ages out or exits statutory OOHC
- FACS and the service provider agree that services should cease for other reasons (ie. when the case plan goal is changed).

Service providers cannot receive a case plan goal package (for restoration, guardianship or open adoption) beyond two years unless it has been reviewed and approved for extension.

Restoration

Service providers will receive a case plan goal package of restoration where the child:

- is in statutory OOHC (with either an interim order or restoration order)
- has an approved case plan goal of restoration (which is recorded in ChildStory), or recently entered OOHC and a case plan goal is still being determined (in these cases, restoration is the default case plan goal and case plan goal package)
- is not receiving services from a funded restoration program including NEWPIN, IFP, IFBS, MST-CAN® or FFT-CW®.

Guardianship

Service providers may receive a case plan goal package of guardianship where the child:

- is in OOHC (with an interim or final order)
- has an approved case plan goal of guardianship (which is recorded in ChildStory).

Adoption

Service providers may receive a case plan goal package of adoption where the child:

- is in OOHC (with an interim or final order)
- has an approved case plan goal of Adoption (which is recorded in ChildStory).

Service providers should refer to either FACS or the relevant accredited adoption service providers process to ensure any additional pre-requisite tasks have been completed prior to seeking approval for a case plan goal of adoption.

Long-term care

Service providers are eligible to receive a case plan goal package of long-term care where the child:

- has been in statutory OOHC for 2 or more years, or where it has been determined that OOHC is in the child's best interests and restoration, guardianship, and adoption are currently not in the child's best interests
- has an approved case plan goal of long-term care (which is recorded in ChildStory)
- has a long-term order allocating Parental Responsibility to the Minister
- is case managed by a service provider.

Baseline packages

A service provider will receive a baseline package to support their costs relating to overheads, administration, carers, property and other service provision. The package includes the recruitment, assessment and training of prospective carers.

Baseline packages are mutually exclusive. For children in OOHC, the service provider will receive the baseline package of foster care or Aboriginal foster care (which includes planned absences from the placement including respite care).

Foster care

Service providers are eligible to receive the baseline package of foster care if the child:

- is in statutory or supported OOHC
- is placed with authorised foster carers, relative/kin carers, prospective guardians or prospective adoptive parents
- is case managed by a service provider.

Aboriginal foster care

Service providers are eligible to receive the baseline package of Aboriginal foster care if the child:

- is in statutory or supported OOHC
- is placed with and case managed by an accredited Aboriginal community-controlled service provider.

Case coordination (post permanency casework support)

The case coordination payment allows service providers to provide casework support to children following restoration, guardianship or adoption:

- to keep the child safe and stable
- to support connections between the child and birth family
- in response to orders made by the Children’s Court, Supreme Court or other relevant Court.

Eligibility

Service providers may receive the case coordination package if the child has achieved their permanency case plan goal through restoration, guardianship or adoption, and:

- is under a supervision order and requires support to keep the child safe and stable, or
- requires support to develop and/or maintain connections between the child and birth family, or
- the child is the subject of an adoption plan and requires support to carry out the plan’s provisions.

The child’s restoration, guardianship or adoption case plan goal has been achieved:

- after the child exits OOHC, and
- after the expiry of any orders that support achievement of the case plan goal, for example a supervision order or STCO, and
- upon making a guardianship or adoption order¹.

Applying for the case coordination (post permanency casework support) package

Service providers seeking the case coordination package to provide on going support to maintain a child or young person’s case plan goal should discuss their circumstances with the relevant FACS caseworker or Permanency Coordinator (as relevant to each district) as part of regular reviews. Service providers should also advise their FACS contract manager of their intention to seek case coordination.

FACS will decide if a child needs support or assistance. Packages are endorsed on a child-by-child basis. Extensions to package duration may be granted at FACS Executive Director level.

Child needs packages

A service provider will receive a child needs package for a child in OOHC based on the outcome of the Child Assessment Tool (CAT). For new children entering OOHC, FACS Child and Family District Units (CFDUs) will apply the CAT as per the [Child Assessment Tool User Manual](#) to determine child needs packages.

While the services provided across low, medium and high needs will largely be the same, they will differ in intensity. Support to children with a disability would generally be provided through a comprehensive NDIS plan.

The below table outlines which child needs package applies depending on CAT outcome. In circumstances where a child has no CAT entered or recorded in ChildStory, the service provider will receive the default low needs package.

CAT Level	Child Needs Package	
1	General Foster Care	Low
2	General Foster Care + 1	Low
3	General Foster Care + 2	Medium
4	Intensive Foster Care	Medium
5	Intensive Residential Care	High
6	Residential Care	High
	CAT assessment incomplete or missing	Low

¹ ‘Ceasing Case management’, [Permanency Case Management Rules and Practice Guidance](#), page 16.

Specialist packages

Additional specialist packages will be available to address all of a child's assessed complex and specific needs.

Specialist packages are not mutually exclusive. This means that children can access multiple specialist packages where eligible, and where the package will help meet their individual needs. These include packages for. cultural plan (Aboriginal), 15+ reconnect, and leaving care.

Cultural plan (Aboriginal)

Service providers are eligible to receive the cultural plan (Aboriginal) package if the child:

- is an Aboriginal child (which is recorded in ChildStory)
- is in statutory OOHC.

CALD

Service providers are eligible to receive the CALD package if the child:

- is from a CALD background (which is recorded in ChildStory)
- is in statutory OOHC.

15+ years reconnect

Service providers are eligible to receive the 15+ reconnect package if the young person:

- is currently in statutory OOHC
- is aged 15 years or over
- has had limited or no contact with family or significant others while in care
- is supportive of reconnecting with their family or significant others
- has had an assessment that reconnection is safe.

Note that the young person can access the leaving care package concurrently with the 15+ reconnect package.

Leaving care

Service providers are eligible to receive the leaving care package if the young person is:

- currently in statutory OOHC
- aged 15 years or over.

4+ sibling option

Service providers are eligible to receive the 4+ sibling option package if the young person is:

- currently in statutory OOHC
- part of a sibling group of four or more children in OOHC who are all placed together.

Legal adoption

Accredited adoption service providers are eligible to receive the legal adoption package if the child:

- has an approved case plan goal of adoption and is at the 'approved' stage
- is in receipt of the adoption package
- is case managed by an accredited adoption service provider preparing the legal work for an adoption application.

Accredited adoption service providers will need to submit the Supreme Court File Number, the date the adoption application was filed, and the name and date of birth of the child or young person to FACS Adoption Services and the FACS Contract Manager.

OVERVIEW OF PERMANENCY SUPPORT PROGRAM SERVICE PACKAGES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN OOHC

February 2018

This overview supports the business rules for the eligibility criteria of PSP service packages. Some packages that are available under the full PSP service model have not been included in this document (ie. Preservation and Intensive Therapeutic Care) and will be included when business rules for those programs are available.



Case Plan Goal Packages A service provider will receive a Case Plan Goal Package based on the child's case plan goal. These packages have been established to support potential movement of a child through their care journey.

Package	Description	Price	Payment Specification	Inclusions	Comments
Restoration	The Restoration package supports service providers to achieve permanency for a child by returning them to their parents(s) or a relative/kin.	\$26,984	Annual payment up to 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family contact Intensive family support Case review Restoration assessment Genealogy / family and community connection In home support (parenting programs and wraparound services) Relationship counselling Brokerage services Stepping down of services 	If not case plan goal has been selected, Restoration is the default case plan goal and case plan goal package.
Guardianship / Adoption	The Guardianship or Adoption package supports service providers to achieve permanency for a child by supporting a guardianship or adoption order.	\$26,984	Annual payment up to 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of tasks as required by the Care Act or Adoption Act Child specific trauma informed practice for carer Therapeutic life story work including preparation of a comprehensive life story, from the day the child is born Time with family including the development of a contact/adoption plan that provides for opportunities to support connections between the child and birth family, that are in the child's best interests both now and in the future Relationship counselling Genealogy / family and community connection including identifying and adding a father's name to the child's birth certificate Guardianship application / application to adopt including suitability checks Cultural consultation and planning Victims compensation assessment (if applicable) Independent assessment reports Consent to be given by those whose consent is required Delegates approval to formally commence adoption action Casework support during a contested adoption Once an adoption order is made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casework provided to notify all relevant family members Payments / adoption allowance in place New Medicare card and amended birth certificate are available Families are linked to other services (as required) 	
Long Term Care	The Long Term Care Package is designed to promote stability and healing for children who need to remain in long term statutory OOHC.	\$11,309	Annual payment for the required period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family contact Child safe organisation Case review Genealogy/family and community connection therapeutic life story work Child-specific trauma informed practice for carer 	The case plan goal is to be reviewed annually and alternate permanency outcomes, including restoration, guardianship or adoption should be considered – this activity has been incorporated into this package.

Baseline Packages A service provider will receive a Baseline Package to support their overhead costs, administration, carers, property costs and other service provision. Package includes the recruitment, assessment and training of prospective carers. For children in OOHC, the service provider will receive the Baseline Package Foster Care or Aboriginal Foster Care.

Package	Description	Price	Payment Specification	Inclusions	Comments
Foster Care	Foster Care Package is provided to non-Aboriginal service providers, to support children and young people in statutory OOHC where they are placed with authorised foster carers, relative/kin carers, prospective guardians or prospective adoptive parents (cared for in the carer's own home or rarely in a home owned or rented by a Service Provider.	\$40,120	Annual payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carer on-costs i.e. recruitment, training Case management Other staff commitments (including overheads) Household expenses / child related costs Respite allowance Management / admin overheads Carer allowance (age related) Foster care caseworker training Child specific trauma informed practice for caseworker 	<p>Delivery of support intensity is provided by Case Plan Goal and Client Needs packages.</p> <p>This package includes planned absences from the placement including respite care.</p>
Aboriginal Foster Care	Aboriginal Foster Care Package is provided to Aboriginal service providers, to support Aboriginal children and young people in statutory OOHC.	\$41,580	Annual payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All services provided by Foster Care Package Community education Community programs and connections Family work (preventative) 	<p>Only Aboriginal Service Providers will receive this Baseline Package.</p> <p>This package includes planned absences from the placement including respite care.</p>
Case Coordination (post permanency casework support)	Provision of casework support to a child or young person following restoration, guardianship or adoption.	\$16,049	6 month payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case management Other staff commitments (including overheads) Management/admin overheads Child specific trauma informed practice for case worker 	Packages are endorsed on a child by child basis.

OVERVIEW OF PERMANENCY SUPPORT PROGRAM SERVICE PACKAGES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE IN OOHC



Child Needs Packages

The Child Needs Package is based on the outcome of the Child Assessment Tool (CAT). The CAT will identify the therapeutic needs of a child as low, medium or high, which will determine the therapeutic services the child will require. While the services provided across low, medium and high needs children will largely be the same, they differ in application intensity to support the child's need level.

Package	Description	Price	Payment Specification	Inclusions	Comments
Low Needs	Children and young people with CAT scores of level one and level two, guided by the current CAT	\$4,591	Annual payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational supports Clinical Services General allied health provision Mentoring 	<p>For children and young people with a disability, it is assumed that this is provided through a comprehensive NDIS plan.</p> <p>For new children entering OOHC, FACS CFDUs will apply the Child Assessment Tool (CAT) as per the Child Assessment Tool User Manual to determine Child Needs Packages.</p>
Medium Needs	Children and young people with CAT scores of level three and level four, guided by the current CAT	\$7,208	Annual payment		
High Needs	Children and young people with CAT scores of level five and level six, guided by the current CAT	\$11,227	Annual payment		

Specialist Packages

To address for the complex and specific needs which a child may have, some additional services will be added to a child's funding using the other specialist packages. These packages will look to support the specific needs of children, where identified, and will provide the flexibility and robustness to ensure that all children's needs are met in the new service model.

Package	Description	Price	Payment Specification	Inclusions	Comments
Cultural Plan (Aboriginal)	Provision of a comprehensive and holistic cultural care plan and genealogy work to support connection to family, community and culture for every Aboriginal child and young person.	\$3,500 \$415	One-off package Following year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and establishment of an individual cultural care plan Supporting participation in cultural activities Comprehensive family finding and genealogy work including family group conferencing and participation of family and kin in establishing genealogy trees and relationship maps Implementation of the child's cultural plan 	For existing children in care on the 1 st July 2018, a payment of \$1,900 will be provided, followed by \$415 in each subsequent year.
CALD	Provides extra support to undertake targeted recruitment training and support of carers who wish to work closely with children and young people and their families from diverse cultural backgrounds.	\$1,421	One-off package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and development for carers Positions to develop cultural care plans and cultural program initiatives Positions to oversight CALD program Staff attendance at workshops and training programs 	Ongoing Cultural Care planning is built into the Baseline Packages for all plans except for Aboriginal Cultural Care Plans.
15+ Years Old Reconnect	Provides extra support for young people, 15+ years, who have had limited or no family connection whilst in care to support reconnection (where this is safe to do so).	\$1,935	Annual payment for 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconnect sessions between young person and parents/family Additional caseworker hours for preparation of reconnect sessions Additional family contact visits Ancillary and supervisory hours to provide support to caseworkers for family contact visits 	
Leaving Care	Provision of extra caseworker hours to develop and undertake the strategies to support a young person to exit from care arrangements with increased capacity to achieve independence and be linked to services that will support their futures plan goals.	\$1,277	Annual payment for up to 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of ongoing leaving care plan Brokerage services for leaving care planning Living skills program 	
4+ Sibling Option Placement	Supports the ability to develop flexible options to maintain four or more siblings in a placement together.	\$20,334	Annual payment for the required period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased infrastructure Carer costs Wrap-around supports to meet the needs of families 	This package is paid per sibling group and paid against <u>one</u> child who is considered to be the 'household head'.
Legal adoption	Supports accredited adoption service providers to undertake legal work to progress a child's permanency goal of adoption.	\$11,500	One-off package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional staff hours (casework/legal) for preparation of legal work 	