



Aftercare Assistance

Your Choice, Your Future



Your Choice, Your Future allowances



Have a Question?
Have Feedback?
Have a Complaint?
Need Help?

**Care
Leavers
Line**

1800 994 686

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- The **Independent Living Allowance** and **Staying On Allowance** were introduced in February 2023.
- The allowances support care leavers aged 18-20 years old.
- They are intended to primarily assist with housing and living costs due to the increasing forces of vulnerability and a tough rental market for young adults.
- Leaving care planning (with financial support) is still a critical part of preparation. These allowances walk alongside that.

Allowances to 21

DCJ Care Leavers Line are centrally processing applications for:

Staying On Allowance for those young people aged 18-20 years staying on with their carer. It provides \$568 per fortnight (to the carer), which steps down to \$418 per fortnight (year 2) and then \$261 (year 3)

Online: dcjnsw.info/SOA

Independent Living Allowance of \$261 per fortnight to age 21 for those living independently to assist with rent and housing needs or other living expenses

Online: dcjnsw.info/ILA



Data snapshot – ongoing promotion

- As of January 2024, **1815** young people have benefited from the allowances since implementation. This figure includes young people who have since aged out when they turned 21 years of age.
- We estimate around **2100** care leavers are eligible for the allowances at any given time.
- Currently, **1512** care leavers are receiving support. This includes **992** care leavers supported through ILA and **520** carers receiving SOA to support a care leaver remaining in their care.
- We continue to work to increase visibility and awareness of the allowances. The YCYF project team are working with DCJ Senior Executives and the Care Leavers Line to directly contact eligible care leavers and encourage them to apply.

Insights

Care leavers have let us know they are using the allowances to:

- Help with increased rent/housing costs
- Move from shared rental to live by themselves
- Allows them to remain in their current suburb, close to existing supports
- To help address debt
- Assist with further study costs
- Increased budgets for food, bills and travel
- Extra support for young families

“Support us so we
won’t need your support”



Ongoing promotion and evaluation

Communication and engagement to continue to promote the allowances

- Engaging young people, carers and the sector about the new assistance
- Briefing and collaborating with the Care Leavers Line and the My Forever Family Carer support line
- Recognise turn over of caseworkers so requires persistent engagement with Districts and the sector
- Build on the launch phase

Evaluation

- Evaluate the allowances and consider how they are working
- Interviews with young people, caseworkers and carers
- Data and reporting insights – timing so we have ‘long term’ recipients
- Linkages with other studies, such as the POCLS Aftercare sub-set study
- Interim report anticipated early to mid 2025

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