

Child Safety POLICY

Title: Child related costs – placement funding

Policy No: 628-1

Policy Statement:

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (Child Safety) will deliver an effective and efficient care system aimed at meeting the daily protection and care needs of children, and achieving positive outcomes for children. Where a child requires care to meet his or her protection and care needs, this will occur in accordance with the legislated Statement of Standards (*Child Protection Act 1999*, section 122) and the Charter of Rights for a Child in Care (*Child Protection Act 1999*, Schedule 1).

The primary means of providing placements to children is through departmentally supported and grant-funded non-government placement services. Where children require placement in care, but no appropriate placement is available through departmental or grant-funded placement services, the department may utilise child related costs to fund placements. Child Safety will exhaust all other options for placing a child before considering the use of child related costs – placement funding.

Principles:

- The safety, wellbeing and best interests of a child, both throughout childhood and the rest of the child's life, are paramount.
- A child's family has the primary responsibility for the child's upbringing, protection and development and the preferred way of ensuring a child's well-being is by supporting the child's family.
- The department will only place children in care as part of an integrated child protection response when assessment indicates that separation of the child from their family is unavoidable to ensure the child's safety or wellbeing.
- Placement in care is a means of providing a safe and therapeutic care environment for children.
- If a child is removed from the child's family, the department will give consideration to placing the child, as a first option, with kin.
- If a child is removed from the child's family, the child should be placed with the child's siblings, to the extent that it is possible.
- A child should have stable living arrangements, including arrangements that provide for a stable connection with the child's family and community, to the extent that it is in the child's interests; and for the child's development, educational, emotional, health, intellectual and physical needs to be met.
- The preferred placement option for a child aged 11 years and younger is in a family-based model of care.

- The long-term effect of a decision on an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child's identity and connection with the child's family and community will be taken into account in decision making.

Objectives:

This policy and associated procedure provide Child Safety staff with guidance in circumstances where it is identified that a particular placement type is best suited to meeting the specific care needs of a child but a placement of that type is not available through departmental or grant funded placement services.

Scope:

Child related costs may be utilised to fund placements for children subject to an assessment order, a care agreement or a child protection order granting custody or guardianship to the chief executive.

Child related costs is a funding source that can be used in restricted circumstances to augment current grant funded placement capacity in order to support a flexible and efficient care system. In circumstances where it is identified that a particular placement type is best suited to meeting the specific care needs of a child and the demand for that placement type exceeds the grant funded capacity, the placement may be funded through child related costs.

The types of out-of-home care placements that may be funded using child related costs include:

- kinship care
- foster care
- intensive foster care
- residential care
- supported independent living
- specific response care
- emergent accommodation.

Policies and procedures relevant to each of these placement types are to be followed when a placement is funded through child related costs.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Roles and responsibilities related to the use of child related costs – placement funding are outlined in the associated procedure.

Roles and responsibilities related to out-of-home care placements are contained in the *Child Safety Practice Manual*.

Authority:

Child Protection Act 1999

Financial Accountability Act

2009 Child Protection

Regulation 2011 Disability

Services Act 2006

Delegations:

Delegations for approval of child related costs – placement funding are outlined in the associated procedure.

Records File No.: CHS/20150
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Office: Operational Support, Child and Family Operations
Help Contact: Operational Support

Links:**Legislation**

Child Protection Act 1999

Financial Accountability Act 2009

Policy and procedure

Case planning (263)

Child related costs – carer support (597)

Child related costs – client support and family contact (598)

Child related costs – education (599)

Child related costs – in-home support (630 and procedure)

Child related costs – medical (596)

Child related costs – outfitting (600)

Child related costs – placement funding (628 and procedure)

Child related costs – placement support funding (629 and procedure)

Child related costs – travel (595)

Complex Support Needs Allowance (612)

Expenses – fortnightly caring allowance and interstate foster payments (365) High support needs allowance (296)

Placement of children in care as part of an integrated child protection response (578) Residential care (606)

Specific response care (603) Therapeutic residential care (577)

Child Safety Practice Manual

Forms

CRC funding application
CRC funding budget submission
CRC funding approval schedule

Rescinded policies

Transitional placements (including emergent accommodation) and flexible funding (602)

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