

**Table 2 / A comparison of current permanency options in Victoria and Adoption**  
(prepared by PCA Families)

	Care by Secretary Order/ Extension of Care by Secretary Order <sup>66</sup>	Long-term Care Order	Permanent Care Order <sup>67</sup>	Local Adoption with DFFH funding <sup>68</sup>	Plenary Adoption (local and intercountry) <sup>69</sup>
<b>Duration of order</b>	Maximum of 2 years	Ends at 18	Ends at 18	Lifelong	Lifelong
<b>Who applies for the order</b>	DFFH	DFFH	DFFH	DJCS	Adoptive parent
<b>Birth family consent required</b>	No	No	No	Yes, unless court ordered	Yes
<b>Inheritance rights flow</b>	Birth family	Birth family	Birth family	Adoptive family	Adoptive family
<b>Birth certificate acknowledgement</b>	Birth parents only	Birth parents only	Birth parents only	Adoptive parents	Adoptive parents
<b>Child's surname</b>	Birth parents	Birth parents	Birth parents	Adoptive parents	Adoptive parents
<b>Can the order be revoked?</b>	Yes –Can expire at term; be revoked at any time or another order can be made	Yes –Reviewed each year	Yes –Can be revoked through application by birth parent, child or DFFH i.e. if placement breakdown	No	No
<b>Supervision and assessment of placement by agency/ Child Protection post order</b>	Yes Kinship, foster and residential care	Yes Kinship and foster care	No	No	No
<b>Key parenting decisions</b>	DFFH Child Protection/ Agency	DFFH Child Protection/ Agency	PCO parents	Adoptive parents	Adoptive parents
<b>Case management to meet child's needs</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Monetary assistance (see below)</b>	Care entitlements + other	Care entitlements + other	Care entitlements + flexible fund	Limited See Table 3	No
<b>Birth family contact is arranged and supervised if required</b>	DFFH Child Protection	DFFH Child Protection	PCO parents	Adoptive parents	Adoptive parents

Note: The impact of the 2021 Home Stretch funding on Permanent Care Orders is presently not clear

66 "Kinship care," Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, modified June 24, 2021, <https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/kinship-care>.

68 "Adopt a child from Victoria."  
69 Ibid.

67 "Permanent care," Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, modified October 8, 2019, <https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/permanent-care>.

Table 3 below demonstrates the variability in support based on different legal orders.

**Table 3 / Comparison of Victorian support by permanency type (provided by PCA Families)**

	Long-term care Orders – Foster carer	Long-term care Orders – Kinship carer	Permanent Care Orders	Local Adoption with DFFH funding <sup>167</sup>	Plenary Adoption
<b>Eligibility for Level 1 care allowance</b>	Yes Level 1-5	Yes Automatic Level 1 (unless assessed differently)	Yes Automatic Level 1 (unless assessed differently)	Yes	No
<b>Increased care allowance</b>	Yes	Yes Special Negotiated Adjustment – with evidence of projected costs required	Yes Special Negotiated Adjustment – with evidence of projected costs required	Yes Special Negotiated Adjustment – with evidence of projected costs required	?
<b>New placement allowance and costs for the first 6 months</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Education and medical payments</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>School Attendance Allowance</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Eligibility for 18-21 years secondary education support (School or VCAL)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Additional funding</b>	Yes Client support funding –placement support brokerage (apply to CSO) –client expenses (apply to DFFH Child Protection)	Yes Client support funding –placement support brokerage (apply to CSO or Child Protection) –client expenses (apply to DFFH Child Protection)	Yes Flexible Funding –Pre-order to 12 mths post PCO (apply to DFFH Child Protection) –Post-12 mths (apply to OzChild and PCA Families Fund)	Yes – ad hoc grants and no more than \$5,000	No
<b>Disability support payment</b>	Yes PBS via NDIS	Yes PBS via NDIS	Yes DSIAPC via NDIS	Yes DSIAPC via NDIS	Yes NDIS
<b>Commonwealth Government Assistance (based on eligibility and challenging to access)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

167 “Adopt a child from Victoria.”