

Flexible funding for permanent care

Information for carers

Flexible funding is available to meet the extraordinary needs of children and young people subject to a permanent care order to help with costs not met by the carer allowance, or other funding sources. The funding may cover partial, full, or ongoing costs and may be provided directly to a carer, a retailer, or service provider.

How to apply for flexible funding

New permanent carers – talk to your child protection worker or case manager

Flexible funding may be endorsed as part of the child's case plan when an application for a permanent care order is being made. Approved funding will be provided when the permanent care order is made. **For further information, talk to your child protection worker or case manager.**

Existing permanent carers – contact Permanent Care and Adoptive Families

Existing carers can apply for flexible funding after a permanent care order is made, and may make more than one application. Carers who received funding when the permanent care order was made can apply for this funding, as well as carers receiving the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services carer allowance for permanent placements where the child is subject to a Family Court order, or a Special Needs Adoption. **Contact Permanent Care and Adoptive Families: (03) 9020 1833 or info@pcfamilies.org.au**

What flexible funding can be used for

- to address the therapeutic needs of a child which result from trauma or negative experiences
- to support a child to access additional educational support not covered by the education allowance
- to support additional health and medical needs of the child not covered by the medical allowance, Medicare, or private health insurance
- to meet extraordinary requests associated with contact between parents, siblings, and family members
- to preserve and promote cultural identity
- to provide access to respite care
- to cover costs related to child care beyond other subsidies
- to assist with necessary and essential home and vehicle modifications
- to assist with other services essential to support the placement
- the funding cannot be used for legal costs.

Other financial support

Further information about financial support available to carers is available at www.dhs.vic.gov.au/carersupport

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