

Stability in Family-Based Care and Over 18 Education Initiative: Fact Sheet

Stability in Family-Based Care and Over 18 Education Initiative are voluntary programs in the Department for Child Protection (DCP) that help young people stay in their family-based placement after turning 18. It's all about providing young people stability and support as they transition into adulthood.

Who can apply?

To be eligible the:

- young person must have been under a Guardianship arrangement until age 18. (for example, Guardianship of the Chief Executive, Long-term Guardianship (Specific Person), Family Care Meeting Agreement, other long-term formal agreement where the Chief Executive assumed legal responsibility). Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors (UHM) are also eligible to access the program
- individual(s) responsible for the caring role must be approved carer(s) for the young person
- young person must live full-time (at least four nights/week) with their carer(s)
- young person and carers mutually agree to continue the arrangement
- best interest of the young person is to remain in the home
- young person must not be earning a wage (excluding Centrelink payments) that surpasses the basic subsidy payment
- carer must not be in an Independent Living Option (previously known as Homelink).

To access the Education Initiative, the young person must have been under the Guardianship of the Chief Executive when turned 18 years old (LTG(SP) and UHM are not eligible). The young person must be:

- enrolled in full-time education or training (such as school, VET, FLO, apprenticeships, university pathways)
- participating at a level that suits their capacity, with input from education professionals.

Not sure if you're eligible? Email the Family Based Post Care Team:

dcp18carerpayments@sa.gov.au

What support is available?

- **Basic Subsidy Payment:** Paid fortnightly to approved carer(s). This is available until the young person turns 21 years, or 26 years if the young person is studying (as per criteria).
- **Education Grant:** Paid each school term to help with education costs (if the young person is studying).

For full payment details, refer to the [Carer Support Payments Handbook](#) on the DCP website.

How it works

- Applications open at 17½ years old.
- Carer(s) and young people complete the Stability in Family-Based Care and Over 18 Education Initiative **Application Form** (available on the DCP website).

- Carer(s) and young person in collaboration with the FBPC team member complete and monitor the Stability in Family-Based Care and Over 18 Education Initiative **Program Plan**.

Ongoing support

Once the young person turns 18:

- regular case management ends, but FBPC support is provided
- FBPC team members check in as needed, help update plans and connect young people with services
- if more support is needed, referrals can be made to **Post Care Services** (Relationships Australia SA).

When does the program end?

The program ends if:

- eligibility criteria are no longer met
- either the young person or carer chooses to exit.

Your responsibilities

For carers:

- stay in touch with your FBPC team member
- complete the Program Plan and Annual Agreement
- notify DCP if the young person:
 - moves out or returns after time away
 - stops studying or reaches the income threshold.

For young people:

- stay in touch with your FBPC team member
- complete the Program Plan and Annual Agreement
- notify DCP if you:
 - move out or return to your carer
 - stop studying or reach the income threshold.

Changes in circumstances

Let DCP know within **14 days** of any changes that might affect eligibility. Even temporary changes should be reported. These may impact payments.

If either party wants to exit the program, speak with your FBPC team member to explore next steps.

Email the Family Based Post Care Team for more information: dcppost18carerpayments@sa.gov.au