

# Carer Payment Rates and Loadings

Effective from 1 July 2025

	0 - 4 years	5-12 years	13-15 years	16-17 years	18+ Years
Term Base Rate per night	\$36.56	\$39.71	\$53.77	\$62.30	\$62.30
Term Base Rate per fortnight	\$511.80	\$556.00	\$752.80	\$872.20	\$872.20
Respite Rate per occasion*	\$73.11	\$79.43	\$107.54	\$124.60	N/A
Respite Rate per occasion (occasions 8 - 21)**	\$36.56	\$39.71	\$53.77	\$62.30	N/A

\* Where respite is for less than 7 continuous occasions

\*\* Where respite extends beyond 7 continuous occasions. Special Needs Loading paid to respite carer from 8th continuous occasion if applicable

## Carer Payments and Loadings (for children with special needs)

Loading calculated as: Loading percentage multiplied by capped loading rate

Capped Loading Rate	0 - 4 years	5-12 years	13-15 years	16-17 years	18+ Years
Carer Payment rates used to calculate loadings (wk)	\$148.30	\$171.70	\$207.90	\$254.00	N/A
Capped Loading Rates used to calculate loadings (fn)	\$296.60	\$343.40	\$415.80	\$508.00	N/A

Loading by percentage and age groups	0 - 4 years	5-12 years	13-15 years	16-17 years	18+ Years
25% loading (fn)	\$74.20	\$85.90	\$104.00	\$127.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 25% capped loading (fn)	\$586.00	\$641.90	\$856.80	\$999.20	N/A
50% loading (fn)	\$148.30	\$171.70	\$207.90	\$254.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 50% capped loading (fn)	\$660.10	\$727.70	\$960.70	\$1,126.20	N/A
75% loading (fn)	\$222.50	\$257.60	\$311.90	\$381.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 75% capped loading (fn)	\$734.30	\$813.60	\$1,064.70	\$1,253.20	N/A
100% loading (fn)	\$296.60	\$343.40	\$415.80	\$508.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 100% capped loading (fn)	\$808.40	\$899.40	\$1,168.60	\$1,380.20	N/A
125% loading (fn)	\$370.75	\$429.25	\$519.75	\$635.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 125% capped loading (fn)	\$882.55	\$985.25	\$1,272.55	\$1,507.20	N/A
150% loading (fn)	\$444.90	\$515.10	\$623.70	\$762.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 150% capped loading (fn)	\$956.70	\$1,071.10	\$1,376.50	\$1,634.20	N/A
175% loading (fn)	\$519.10	\$601.00	\$727.70	\$889.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 175% capped loading (fn)	\$1,030.90	\$1,157.00	\$1,480.50	\$1,761.20	N/A
200% loading (fn)	\$593.20	\$686.80	\$831.60	\$1,016.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 200% capped loading (fn)	\$1,105.00	\$1,242.80	\$1,584.40	\$1,888.20	N/A
225% loading (fn)	\$667.40	\$772.70	\$935.60	\$1,143.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 225% capped loading (fn)	\$1,179.20	\$1,328.70	\$1,688.40	\$2,015.20	N/A
250% loading (fn)	\$741.50	\$858.50	\$1,039.50	\$1,270.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 250% capped loading (fn)	\$1,253.30	\$1,414.50	\$1,792.30	\$2,142.20	N/A
275% loading (fn)	\$815.70	\$944.40	\$1,143.50	\$1,397.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 275% capped loading (fn)	\$1,327.50	\$1,500.40	\$1,896.30	\$2,269.20	N/A
300% loading (fn)	\$889.80	\$1,030.20	\$1,247.40	\$1,524.00	N/A
Term Base Rate + 300% capped loading (fn)	\$1,401.60	\$1,586.20	\$2,000.20	\$2,396.20	N/A

Placement Start-Up Payment	0 - 4 years	5-12 years	13-15 years	16-17 years	18+ Years
	\$120.00	\$157.00	\$186.00	\$236.00	N/A

Education Grant (per term)	0 - 4 years	5-12 years	13-15 years	16-17 years	18+ Years
	\$82.00	\$222.00	\$288.00	\$288.00	\$288.00 <small>*conditions apply</small>

Activity Grant 2025	0 - 4 years	5-12 years	13-15 years	16-17 years	18+ Years
	\$112.00	\$112.00	\$112.00	\$112.00	N/A

\*Conditions for 18+ Education Grant: Remains enrolled and participating in full time secondary or tertiary education (including VET and FLO) or is undertaking the full time components of an apprenticeship. Contact the Carer Payments Team for more information on: (08) 8226 6666.



# Carer Payments Examples

## Example 1

Sally is a general foster carer currently caring for two children, Jack (6 years of age) and Emma (3 years of age).

Sally's ongoing fortnightly carer payments would be:

	Jack	Emma
Base rate	\$556.00	\$511.80
Total fortnightly carer payment	\$556.00	\$511.80

The fortnightly carer payment is a reimbursement to help cover the day-to-day costs of caring for a child or young person. For example, a carer may wish to use the payment to assist with expenses such as food, clothing, recreation, entertainment, basic medical costs, travel etc.

Sally may also be entitled to the following additional periodic payments:

	Jack	Emma
Education grant*	\$222.00	\$82.00
Activity grant**	\$112.00	\$112.00

\* The Education grant is paid quarterly at the beginning of each term, eligibility criteria must be met for a child or young person 18 years or over to be able to continue to receive an education grant as part of the over 18 education initiative (refer to pages 7 – 8 of the [Carer Support Payments \(Family Based\) Procedure \(childprotection.sa.gov.au\)](#) for further information).

\*\* The Activity grant is paid annually and empowers carers to make decisions around the children and young people's attendance at various activities, including the Royal Adelaide Show or other recreational or social activity of their choosing. The current payment as at July 2024 is \$109.00 for each child or young person in a carer's placement. The Activity grant is paid to carers in around August of each year.



## Example 2

### Start-up Placement

Peter is a kinship carer and his niece Isabella has just entered his care. Isabella is 14 years old. Peter will receive an initial start-up payment of \$181 within the first 48 hours of the placement commencing and then the ongoing fortnightly base rate for Isabella. Isabella has special needs and has been assessed to receive a Special Needs Loading (SNL) of 150% in addition to the base payment.

Peter will receive within 48 hours:

Placement start-up payment	\$186.00
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Peter's ongoing fortnightly payments would be:

Base Rate	\$752.80
SNL 150%	\$623.70*

Total Fortnightly Amount	\$1,376.50
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\* The Special Needs loading is an additional payment for children with special needs and is based on the capped carer payment rate for the age of the child, in this case being \$405.60 per fortnight. 150% of \$405.60 is \$608.40. The capped rate is indexed annually (refer to page 9- 10 of the [Carer Support Payments \(Family Based\) Procedure \(childprotection.sa.gov.au\)](http://childprotection.sa.gov.au) for further information).

Peter may also be entitled to the following additional periodic payments:

Education grant**	\$288.00
Activity grant***	\$112.00

\*\* The Education grant is paid quarterly at the beginning of each term, eligibility criteria must be met for a child or young person 18 years or over to be able to continue to receive an education grant as part of the over 18 education initiative (refer to pages 7 – 8 of the [Carer Support Payments \(Family Based\) Procedure \(childprotection.sa.gov.au\)](http://childprotection.sa.gov.au) for further information).

\*\*\* Activity grant is paid annually and empowers carers to make decisions around the children and young people's attendance at various activities, including the shows or other recreational or social activity of their choosing.



# Pocket Money & Presents

## Pocket Money

It is expected that pocket money for children is covered as part of the fortnightly carer payment. A suggested guide to pocket money rates is available at [pocket-money-and-present-rates.pdf \(childprotection.sa.gov.au\)](https://childprotection.sa.gov.au/pocket-money-and-present-rates.pdf)

## Christmas and Birthday Presents

Carers are expected to provide a gift for special events, birthdays, and special parties for the child when they occur. This should be covered by the fortnightly carer payment. The case manager will also purchase a birthday and Christmas present for the child. DCP may contribute towards the cost of gifts from the child to birth parents or sibling where assessed as being necessary particularly during reunification. This is assessed on a case-by-case basis. DCP contribution towards gifts can be found at [pocket-money-and-present-rates.pdf \(childprotection.sa.gov.au\)](https://childprotection.sa.gov.au/pocket-money-and-present-rates.pdf)