

Leaving and Aftercare (2022)



Leaving care

The Care Act*

Assistance to statutory care leavers from age 15 to 17 years of age ([sections 165-170](#)).

Preparing for the care order to end, often 18 years of age, when the young person is no longer in parental responsibility of the Minister.

NSW Permanency Standards

Young people have leaving care plans that support their transition from OOHC ([Standard 12](#)).

*The NSW Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

After care

The Care Act

Assistance to statutory care leavers from age 18 to 25 years of age.

Assistance including about resources and services, other assistance, counselling and support ([sections 165-170](#)).

Permanency Case Management Policy (PCMP)

PSP providers must offer support at regular intervals, until the young person turns 25 years of age ([Exiting OOHC](#)).

DCJ care leavers

DCJ care leavers are in case responsibility of DCJ, when they exit care.

DCJ continues to provide after-care planning when a young person has left care.

PSP* care leavers

PSP care leavers are in case responsibility of a PSP provider, when they exit care.

PSP providers access funding packages to help with leaving and after-care planning.

ALL care leavers have a right to a leaving care (15 to 17 years of age) or after-care (18 to 24 years of age) case plan.

Aftercare case planning and support is available to ALL care leavers, through their DCJ or PSP caseworker (18 to 25 years of age and longer in exceptional circumstances) or referral to Specialist Aftercare Program.

PSP* specialist funding packages

Leaving Care Package – enables caseworker time to plan

Support young people 15 years and older preparing to exit long term care.

Annual payment of \$1,361.78 up to three years

15+ Reconnect Package – enables caseworker time

Support reconnection with family and significant others (where safe to do so). Supporting connections.

Annual payment of \$2,063.47 up to three years.

Getting started

- Leaving care planning is not a 'tick a box' just before the young person turns 18 years of age.
- Good planning can mean the difference between young people doing well, versus experiencing isolation and crisis.
- Good planning is about helping teens build life skills and a personal support network.
- At 15 years of age, the case plan goal in [ChildStory](#)* changes to 'Leaving Care'.

* ChildStory is an information technology system used by DCJ to record information about children and families in the child protection and OOHC systems.





Conversations that matter

Building rapport with young people, assess their skills, capacity and what they need. Seek their views, ask about their hopes for the future.

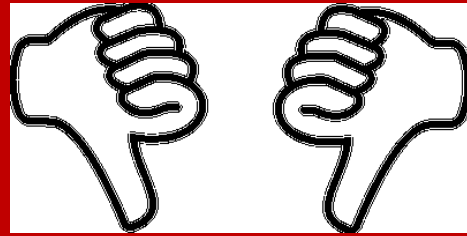
Support carers to 'lead the way' with life skills, school completion, helping young people with budgeting, saving, sexual health and safety etc. Tap into resources and videos on the DCJ website and PSP Learning Hub.

Good leaving care planning



- ✓ Is detailed and explains support and addresses gaps and needs, while in care and their goals for the future.
- ✓ Reflects strong engagement with the young person and other people in their lives.
- ✓ Taps into their strengths, skills and dreams and offers opportunities to grow, explore and be the person they want to be.
- ✓ Draws on their connection with a range of people (for example family, carers, teachers, coaches) and the building of personal support networks.
- ✓ Sets realistic and hopeful goals with steps to build life skills.
- ✓ Allows for flexibility if something changes.

Poor leaving care planning



- ✗ Is too simplistic.
- ✗ Does not provide detail around who is responsible for the actions and leaves everything to the young person alone.
- ✗ Is not tailored to the young person or thoughtful about the young person's needs and potential.
- ✗ Is static and typically not actioned.
- ✗ Is rigid and doesn't allow for changes.
- ✗ Does not explore the range of supports and entitlements, or referrals that might help prepare a young person for independence.

Entitlements and allowances

| Type | 15-17 | 18-24 |
|---|-------|-------|
| Carer allowance (paid to carer) | ✓ | ✗ |
| Teenage Education Payment (paid to carer) | ✓ | ✗ |
| Post Care Education Financial Support (paid to carer) | ✗ | ✓ |
| Transition to Independent Living Allowance | ✓ | ✓ |
| One-off contingency payments | ✓ | ✓ |
| Rent Choice Youth (Housing) | ✓ | ✓ |
| Aftercare payment | ✗ | ✓ |
| Smart and Skilled Fee Free Scholarships | ✓ | ✓ |

Supports & referrals

[Premiers
Youth
Initiative](#)

[NSW
traineeships](#)

[Safer Drivers
Course](#)

[Rise Up
\(PCYC and
NSW Police\)](#)

[Boys to The
Bush](#)

[Specialist
Aftercare](#)

[Work and
Development
Order \(WDO\)](#)

Scholarships
& University
pathways

Mentoring
Programs

Plan early for housing

Where will I live after my 18th birthday?

What other family can I live with?

What is my back-up plan, if things change?

What skills do I need to hold a tenancy by myself, or with flatmates?

What housing services can help me?



Victims of Crime

NSW Victims Rights and Support Act 2013

Victims Services work with DCJ to identify and respond to the needs of children and young people in care who have been victims of crime.

Services can include:

- counselling
- providing information
- payment for immediate needs
- financial assistance or a recognition payment



Justice
Victims Services

Specialist Aftercare Program

Specialist Aftercare services help young people who have left care with more complex needs.

- Often, they need financial assistance and help to find affordable housing.
- Positive outcomes include updating their plan, seeking financial assistance and help with housing and employment.



DCJ Leaving/Aftercare resources

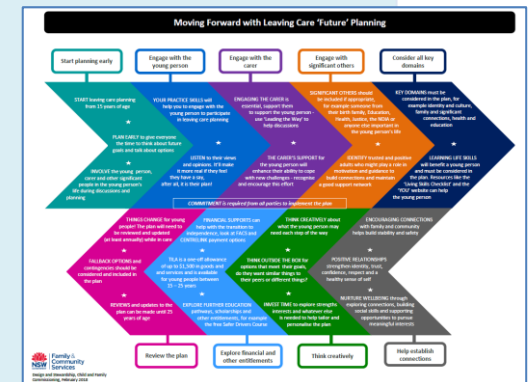
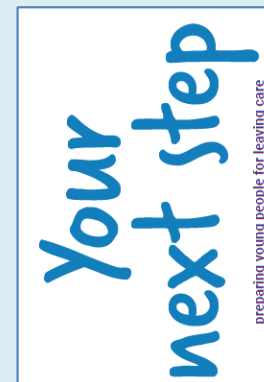
On the DCJ website

For caseworkers

- [Leaving care and aftercare resources for caseworkers](#)
- [Helping a young person prepare for leaving care](#)
- [Leaving and Aftercare Guidelines](#)
- [Leaving Care Guiding Principles](#)
- [Reconnection Guiding Principles](#)
- [Requesting a Work Development Order](#)
- [Leaving care planning & the NDIS](#)
- [Independent Living Skills Checklist](#)
- [Moving Forward with Leaving Care](#)
- [Planning for your future after care: for young people](#)

For young people & carers

- [Your Next Step: for young people](#)
- [Care Leavers' Charter of Rights](#)
- [YOU: Youth Consult for Change](#)
- [Accessing your care records](#)
- [Leading the Way: for carers](#)



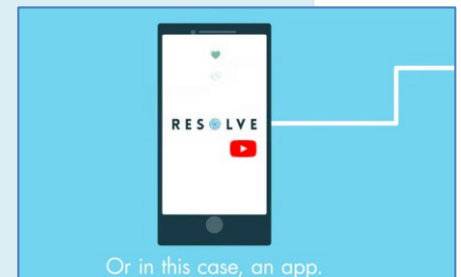
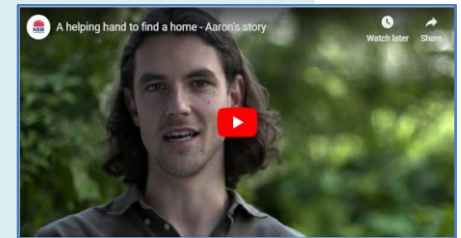
DCJ Leaving and Aftercare videos

For caseworkers, carers and young people

- [Leaving care planning: Young people with disability](#) (2020)
- [Finding community – Michael's story](#) (2020)
- [It takes a team – Jeremy's Story](#) (2020)
- [Not just my life: Warren's Story](#) (2019)
- [Our future, my way: Stephanie's story](#) (2019)
- [Skills for life: Mia's story](#) (2019)
- [A helping hand to find a home: Aaron's story](#) (2019)
- [Thanks for listening: Kiara's story](#) (2019)
- [It's your right to be involved in planning your future](#) (2016)
- [Resolve Care Leavers app](#) (2016)

For caseworkers:

- [Next Steps: Leaving Care Planning Panel Discussion](#) (2019)
- [Next Steps: Supporting care leavers, caseworker insights](#) (2019)



Leaving care and after care resources

Miscellaneous

- [Transition to Independent Living Allowance \(Commonwealth\)](#)
- [Operational Guidelines: TILA \(2022\)](#)
- [Leaving Care Planning & Aftercare Forums \(2018\)](#)
- [Supporting young people leaving OOHc \(CFCA, 2016\)](#)
- [Aftercare Resource Centre \(ARC\)](#)
- [Victims of Crime factsheets](#)

PSP Learning Hub

- [Understanding Leaving / After Care](#)
- [What Guides Leaving / After Care](#)
- [Casework Skills for Leaving / After Care](#)
- [Leaving / After Care Webinars & Podcasts](#)
- [Leaving / After Care Additional Resources](#)

Create Foundation

- [Transitioning from Care \(2021\)](#)
- [Go Your Own Way \(2018\)](#)