



Additional Carer Support Package: Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Additional Carer Support Package being introduced?

Following the introduction of the Permanency Support Program (PSP), FACS undertook a review of children¹ formerly in Intensive Foster Care. The review recommended changes to the PSP funding model to better support children with a range of diagnosed needs and behaviours that require additional carer capacity and case responsiveness.

In response a new specialist package, Additional Carer Support (ACS), is being introduced.

What will the ACS Package fund?

The additional funding allows Funded Service Providers (FSPs) to:

- conduct additional carer recruitment and matching to reflect the additional support needs of children
- provide additional financial support, training and respite to carers
- provide additional hours of casework support for each child every week.

Who can get the ACS Package?

Eligibility for the package is determined on a case by case basis. FSPs must complete the application form to demonstrate the child requires additional carer capacity and casework responsiveness to address their needs.

Will the ACS Package fund additional therapeutic behaviour supports for children?

In recognition of their additional level of need, the child will also be eligible for the **High** Child Needs Package to ensure that a greater level of wraparound supports are available. In exceptional circumstances, the child may also receive a complex needs payment.

When will the new package be introduced?

The package will be available from 1 July 2019.

Will Intensive Foster Care still exist?

No, Intensive Foster Care does not exist under the PSP. A final supplementary payment was made to eligible FSPs for the period ending 30 June 2019, while the IFC review took place.

¹ Throughout this document 'child and/or young person' is shortened to 'child'; 'children and/or young people' is shortened to 'children'.

Are children case managed by FACS eligible for an ACS package?

No, only a child who is placed with, and case managed by, an FSP are eligible.

Is the ACS package a 'one-off' payment?

Funding is ongoing but subject to an annual review. Funding will discontinue when the child's needs change, and additional carer and casework support is no longer required.

Are children in Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) eligible for the ACS package?

No, however this package may enable a child to step down from ITC where a suitable foster care arrangement is available.

Will FSPs need to apply for the new package for children assessed as eligible by the IFC review?

No, these children will automatically receive the new package.

Where should ACS package applications be sent?

Applications for an ACS Package, along with supporting evidence/documentation, should be sent to your Child and Family District Unit (CFDU).