Permanency Support

NSW GOVERNMENT

Business Rules:
Eligibility criteria for PSP Service Packages

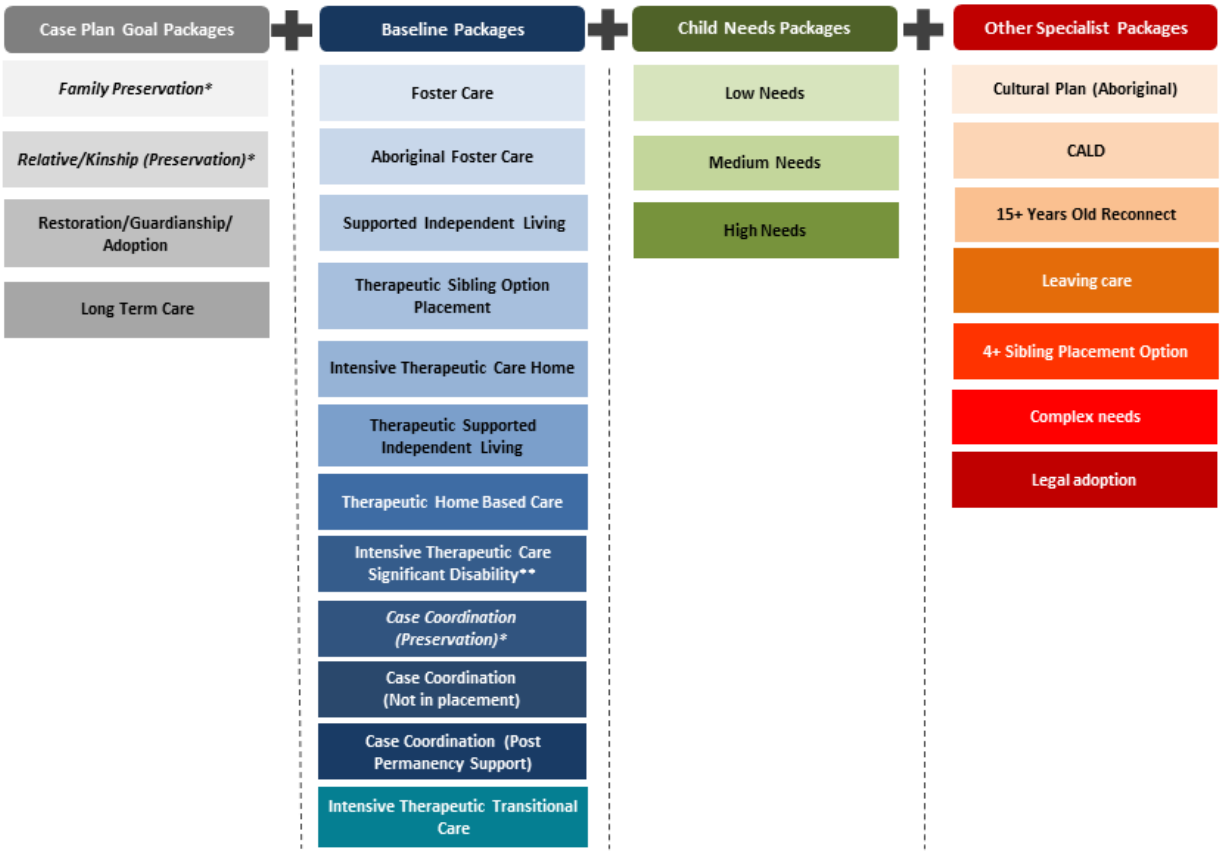
1 Packaged Care Service Model

1.1 Overview

The Permanency Support Program (PSP) packaged care service model is composed of a **case plan goal package**, **baseline package** and **child needs package**. **Specialist packages** are also available depending on the child or young person's[1] circumstances and eligibility. In extraordinary circumstances, an additional specialist package of **complex needs** may also be added.

The service design can be thought of as a 'build-up' approach whereby flexible options can be selected to meet the needs of children, young people and their families, and achieve the overall case plan goal.

From 1 July 2018, full service delivery commenced and the below packaged care service model applies.



1.2 Case management to funded service providers

Under PSP, children and young people are placed with a non-government service provider who has case management responsibility. The service provider receives funding via the PSP packages to cover the cost of providing case management as well as services and supports to address the needs of children and young people in their care.

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

* Business rules for Preservation will be incorporated into this document in future. In the interim, please refer to the PSP Family Preservation Packages Business Rules and PSP Family Preservation Package Program Framework.

** The Intensive Therapeutic Care Significant Disability Package commences on 1 July 2019.

1.3 Approval of service packages

Approval processes may differ across FACS districts. The delegation for approval is FACS Manager Casework or above unless otherwise stated in the eligibility and business rules below. As set out in the *Permanency Case Management Policy*, PSP service packages are to be negotiated in line with district structures including Commissioning and Planning.

1.4 Implementation of the PSP and relationship to other FACS funded programs

1.4.1 Background

The implementation of PSP packages is occurring alongside other FACS funded programs. This includes Intensive Family Preservation (IFP), Intensive Family Based Service (IFBS), NEWPIN, Multi-Systemic Therapy – Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN®) and Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare (FFT-CW®).

1.4.2 Referring families for restoration

Other FACS funded restoration programs must be fully utilised (where it is in the best interests of the child and meets the family's needs) prior to accessing PSP packages. However, in some circumstances, a funded program may not be suitable due to the family's cultural needs, a child's disability, or level of intensity required to support the child's case plan goal.

In some instances, FACS may determine that it is appropriate, and in the best interests of the child and their family, to refer them to both a funded restoration program (such as NEWPIN) and refer them to a PSP service provider for a restoration case plan goal package. This may be necessary because some funded programs do not provide case management or specific services to promote placement stability.

2 Case plan goal packages

2.1 Overview

A service provider will receive a case plan goal package (alongside a baseline and child needs package) based on the child's approved case plan goal in ChildStory. Case plan goal packages are mutually exclusive (each child can only have one case plan goal package at a time) and must be approved by FACS.

As the case plan goal package is paid together with a baseline and child needs package, the child must be eligible to receive all three packages for the service packages to apply.

Service providers are no longer eligible to receive this service package if:

- the child's case plan goal has been achieved[2]
- a child exits statutory OOHC
- FACS and the service provider agree services are to cease due to other reasons (ie. when the child's case plan goal is changed).

Service providers cannot receive a case plan goal package (for restoration, guardianship or adoption) beyond two years unless it has been reviewed and approved for extension. This approval is delegated to an Executive District Director.

[2] Please refer to the Permanency Case Management Policy for additional information.

2.2 Minimum review periods

Minimum review periods have been established for each case plan goal package. These reviews will allow service providers[3] and FACS to jointly consider the progress made towards the child's case plan goal, and determine whether it is still appropriate or if there is an alternate permanency goal that would best meet the needs of the child.

2.3 Changing and approving the case plan goal package

While case management sits with the service provider, the decision to change a child's case plan goal is made by FACS as:

- the commissioner of the permanency support service (whether or not the child or young person is in OOHC) and
- the agency with statutory responsibility for exercising parental responsibility for children in OOHC.

The case plan goal package is triggered by the approved case plan goal in the child's OOHC case plan in ChildStory.

The only way to change the case plan goal package is to update, and for FACS to approve, a change to the child's case plan goal. Service providers can make a service request to change the case plan goal through the ChildStory Partner Community. Refer to the Quick Reference Guide in ChildStory for more information.

Where a child does not have a case plan goal recorded the default package is restoration. For children in long term care it is important that prior to any placement change the case plan goal is accurately recorded so it does not automatically default to the restoration package.

The below table outlines which case plan goals in ChildStory are associated with each case plan goal package.

OOHC Case Plan Goal in ChildStory	Corresponding case plan goal package triggered in ChildStory
Determine permanent care	Restoration
Restoration	Restoration
Guardianship	Guardianship
Adoption	Adoption
Permanent Care	Long Term Care
Leaving Care	Long Term Care
Case Plan Goal missing or incomplete	Default package - restoration

2.4 Eligibility criteria

Restoration	
Description	The *Restoration case plan goal package* supports service providers to achieve permanency for a child by returning them to their parents(s) or a relative/kin. $26,984 per annum Minimum review period: 6 months

[3] Throughout this document, 'service provider' refers to a PSP funded service provider unless otherwise indicated.

Eligibility	The child: • is in statutory OOHC (either an interim order or final restoration order) • has a case plan goal of restoration approved by FACS in ChildStory • is not receiving services from a funded restoration program unless approved by the relevant FACS Manager Casework or above • has not previously received services funded under a Restoration case plan goal package unless it has been reviewed and approved to extend beyond the two year duration • is also eligible to receive a baseline and child needs package.
Guardianship	
Description	The *Guardianship case plan goal package* supports service providers to achieve permanency for a child by supporting a guardianship order. $26,984 per annum Minimum review period: 6 months
Eligibility	The child: • is in statutory OOHC (interim or final order) • has a case plan goal of Guardianship approved by FACS in ChildStory • has not previously received services funded under a Guardianship package unless it has been reviewed and approved to extend beyond the two year duration • is eligible to receive a baseline and child needs package.
Adoption	
Description	The *Adoption case plan goal package* supports service providers to achieve permanency for a child by supporting an adoption order. $26,984 per annum Minimum review period: 6 months
Eligibility	The child: • is in OOHC (interim or final order) • has a case plan goal of adoption approved by FACS in ChildStory • has not previously received services funded under an adoption case plan goal package unless it has been reviewed and approved to extend beyond the two year duration • is eligible to receive a baseline and child needs package.

Long Term Care	
Description	The *Long term care package* is designed to promote stability and healing for children who need to remain in long term statutory OOHC. $11,308 per annum for the required period Minimum review period: 12 months As part of annual case planning, alternative permanency outcomes must be considered[4].
Eligibility	The child: • has been in statutory OOHC for 2 or more years, or where it has been determined that OOHC is in the child's best interests and restoration/guardianship/adoption is not suitable at this time • has a case plan goal of Long term care or Leaving care approved by FACS in ChildStory. Please note: Children and families can still be referred to a funded program (i.e. Intensive Family Preservation for placement stability services) whilst receiving services under a Long term care case plan goal package.

3 Baseline packages

3.1 Overview

In addition to the case plan goal package, the service provider will receive a baseline package of either foster care or Aboriginal foster care.

If a child is not under the parental responsibility of the Minister, a case coordination (post permanency casework support) package may be available to support the family after achievement of the child's permanency outcome.

For children in statutory OOHC who are not in an authorised placement, service providers may be able to access a case coordination (not in placement) package where applicable.

3.2 Eligibility criteria

Foster Care	
Description	The *Foster care baseline package* is for service providers to support a child in statutory OOHC where they are placed with an authorised foster carer, relative/kin carer, prospective guardian or prospective adoptive parents. $40,120 per annum

[4] Section 150, *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*

Eligibility	The child: • is in statutory OOHC • is placed with authorised foster carers, relative/kin carers, prospective guardians or prospective adoptive parents • is case managed by the service provider.

Aboriginal Foster Care

Description	The *Aboriginal foster care baseline package* is provided to accredited Aboriginal Community Controlled service providers to support an Aboriginal child in statutory OOHC where they are placed with authorised foster carers, relative/kin carers, prospective guardians or prospective adoptive parents. $41,580 per annum
Eligibility	The child: • is Aboriginal • is in statutory OOHC • is placed with authorised foster carers or relative/kinship carers and is case managed by the accredited Aboriginal Community Controlled Service Provider.

Supported Independent Living

Description	The *Supported Independent Living (SIL) baseline package* is for ITC service providers to support a young person in statutory OOHC in a SIL placement. SIL is an integrated accommodation and support program that aims to prepare and support young people to make a smooth transition from OOHC to independent living. $84,629 per annum
Package duration	Up to 24 months
Eligibility	The young person: • is in statutory OOHC or is exiting PSP to live independently or has left a PSP placement but requires further support to successfully transition to independence • is aged 16 to 17 years old at entry • has a CAT outcome of Low or Medium

	• is assessed as having the capacity to be placed in supported independent living program and will have the capacity to live independently after a period of tailored support. Referrals for SIL are managed by Child and Family District Units (CFDU).
Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) Homes	
Description	The *ITC Home baseline package* is for ITC service providers to support a child in statutory OOHC where they are placed in an ITC Home. ITC Homes provide a safe and home-like environment, with a dedicated in-house care team guided by an overarching therapeutic philosophy of care. $287,021 per annum
Eligibility	The child: • is in statutory OOHC • is aged 12 years old or above* • has a CAT outcome of High* • is assessed eligible by the Central Access Unit. There is a maximum of four children and young people in an ITC Home. *Children under 12 or with a Low or Medium CAT outcome will be considered in exceptional circumstances
Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) Therapeutic Supported Independent Living	
Description	The *Therapeutic Supported Independent Living (TSIL) baseline package* is for ITC service providers to support a young person in statutory OOHC in a TSIL placement. TSIL supports young people to successfully acquire independent living skills through the provision of accommodation, casework and structured and individualised life skills programs integrated with therapeutic care and intervention offered within ITC. $100,714 per annum
Package duration	Up to 24 months
Eligibility	The young person: • is in statutory OOHC or is exiting PSP to live independently or has left a PSP placement but requires further support to successfully transition to independence • is aged 16 to 17 years old at entry

	• has a Child Assessment Tool (CAT) outcome of High • is assessed by the Central Access Unit (CAU) as having the capacity to be placed in supported independent living program and will have the capacity to live independently after a period of tailored support.

Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) Therapeutic Sibling Option Placement

Description	The *Therapeutic Sibling Option Placement baseline package* is for ITC service providers to support children in statutory OOHC where they are placed in a TSOP placement. TSOP placements are for siblings or related groups of children and young people (with at least one child or young person with high and complex needs). Care is provided by permanent authorised live-in carer/s in a house maintained by a service provider. Payment determined on a case-by-case basis.
Eligibility	The child is part of a sibling/relative group: • in statutory OOHC • with a minimum of three children and young people • where at least one child has a Child Assessment Tool (CAT) outcome of High and has been assessed as eligible by the Central Access Unit.

Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC) Therapeutic Home Based Care

Description	The *Therapeutic Home Based Care (THBC) baseline package* is for ITC service providers to support a child in statutory OOHC where they are placed in a THBC placement. THBC is an innovative, tailored and flexible placement option to enable children and young to step down from Intensive Therapeutic Transitional Care (ITTC), Intensive Therapeutic Care Homes (ITCH) and individual placements, as an exit from ITC that improves their safety, permanency and wellbeing outcomes. Care is provided by permanent authorised live-in carers who are supported to deliver a therapeutic approach to daily care. $133,082 per annum

Eligibility	The child: • is in statutory OOHC • is aged 12 years old or above* • has a Child Assessment Tool (CAT) outcome of High • can be safely cared for in a home based placement with the provision of therapeutic care • is assessed eligible by the Central Access Unit. *Children under 12 will be considered in exceptional circumstances

Intensive Therapeutic Care Significant Disability

Description	The *Intensive Therapeutic Care Significant Disability baseline package* is for ITC Significant Disability service providers to support a child in statutory OOHC where they are placed in an ITC Significant Disability placement. ITC Significant Disability is for a very limited cohort of children and young people who have extremely high support needs related to disability. ITC Significant Disability provides therapeutic care with disability specific supports. $330,167 per annum
Eligibility	The child: • is in statutory OOHC • is aged 12 years old or above* • has a Child Assessment Tool (CAT) outcome of High • has a disability (or multiple disabilities) that are permanent or likely to be permanent • has impairments that have a significant global impact across adaptive functioning domains, requiring ongoing intensive daily supports • has needs that are unable to be adequately met in a less intensive placement type in ITC • is unlikely to step down into a less intensive placement type within 24 months • is assessed eligible by the Central Access Unit and an Independent Support Needs Assessment. *Children under 12 years old will be considered in exceptional circumstances

Intensive Therapeutic Transitional Care	
Description	The *Intensive Therapeutic Transitional Care (ITTC) baseline package* is for ITC service providers to cover the costs of delivering ITTC services. ITTC provides time-limited (up to 13 weeks) placements with higher intensity of therapeutic care and thorough assessment of children's needs to identify and support planned transitions to less intensive placements with ongoing supports. $2,463,096 per annum per facility (six children or young people) $2,055,304 per annum per facility (four children or young people)
Eligibility	ITTC facilities are funded per facility. The child: • is in statutory OOHC • is aged 12 years old or above* • has a Child Assessment Tool (CAT) outcome of High* • will benefit from a suite of assessments and evidence-based interventions within a program of intensive therapeutic support • is assessed eligible by the Central Access Unit. *Children under 12 or with a Low or Medium CAT outcome will be considered in exceptional circumstances
Case Coordination (Post Permanency Casework Support)	
Description	The *Case coordination (post permanency casework support) baseline package* is for service providers to provide casework support to children following restoration, guardianship or adoption to: • keep the child safe and stable • support connections between the child and birth family • respond to orders made by the Children's Court, Supreme Court or other relevant Court. $16,049 per annum Packages are approved on a case by case basis, where support is needed following the achievement of the case plan goal[5].
Package duration	Up to 6 months Extensions may be granted by FACS. This approval is delegated to Executive District Director or above.

[5] Please refer to the *Permanency Case Management Policy* for information on achievement of the case plan goal.

Eligibility	**Post Permanency – Restoration** The child: • has achieved their permanency case plan goal through restoration, and • is no longer under the parental responsibility of the Minister, and • requires casework support to continue the stepping down of services to maintain the child living safely at home, and /or casework support is required to further develop connections between the child and their birth family or people who are important to them. Please note: a supervision order or court order is not required to be eligible for this package.
	Post Permanency – Guardianship order It is unlikely that a case coordination (post permanency casework support) package will be required immediately after the making of a guardianship order. Guardianship assessment criteria[6] requires that prospective guardians are able to demonstrate an ability to meet the long term needs of the child or young person without the need for case management or supervision by FACS or an OOHC agency. If a rare, unforeseen circumstance occurs for a guardian that requires post permanency support following a guardianship order, the funded service provider may apply for this package.
	Post Permanency – Adoption order The child: • has achieved their permanency case plan goal through adoption, and • casework support is required to further develop connections between the child and their birth family or people who are important to them, or • is the subject of an adoption plan and requires support to carry out the provisions of the plan.
Applying for the package and approval	Service providers should discuss the child's circumstances with the relevant FACS caseworker or Permanency Coordinator (as relevant to each district) as part of regular reviews. Service providers should advise the relevant FACS contract manager of their intention to seek case coordination and make a written request including the provision of supporting evidence, for this package. Packages are approved on a child by child basis based on the evidence submitted by the service provider in relation to the child's continuing

[6] The FACS Guide for Conducting a Guardianship Assessment outlines the applicant's suitability for becoming a guardian which is assessed on several criteria, one of which is, the prospective guardian must demonstrate an ability to independently meet the long term needs of the child or young person without case management and supervision from FACS or an Out of Home Care agency.

	support needs. Approval is delegated to a FACS Manager Casework or above.

Case Coordination (Not in Placement)	
Description	The *Case coordination (not in placement)* baseline package may be provided to service providers to continue supporting a child 'Not in placement' to work towards returning the child to an authorised placement. Refer to *the Away from Placement or Not in Placement policy* for more details. $22,911 per annum
Package duration	Up to 6 months Extensions, of up to 6 months, may be granted by FACS. Approval is delegated to an Executive District Director or above.
Eligibility	The child is under the parental responsibility of the Minister and their authorised placement has closed: • after expiry of the Away from Placement[7] period (including extensions), or • before an Away from Placement period begins, if there is immediate evidence the child cannot or will not return to the existing placement or another authorised placement. The child is subject to review and oversight by the district's Complex Case Panel. The *Not in placement* period ends when the child transitions to another authorised placement; or the child transitions to other care arrangements approved by FACS and/or the Children's Court; or case management of the child is transferred to FACS.
Approval	Packages are approved on a case by case basis where the service provider demonstrates: • strong evidence that continued case management by the service provider is in the child's best interests • strong engagement with the child and/or their parents or family/kin • they have conducted a risk assessment and undertaken a formal case plan review of the child's case plan goal, and legal arrangements, and • a thorough plan of exhaustive actions has commenced to support the child to transition to another authorised placement or another approved care arrangement. Approval delegation is by: • Director Community Services or Operations for foster care or Director Intensive Support Services or Statewide Services for ITC.

[7] *Away from Placement* is a temporary period when a child leaves an authorised placement and the authorised placement remains open until they return.

4 Child Needs packages

4.1 Overview

A service provider will receive a child needs package for a child in statutory OOHC based on the outcome of the Child Assessment Tool (CAT).

For new children entering OOHC, FACS Child and Family District Units (CFDUs) will apply the Child Assessment Tool (CAT) as per the *Child Assessment Tool User Manual* to determine the level of child needs package required. Information from the *Client Information Form* and from the referring Community Services Centre (CSC), service provider and the authorised carer (as relevant) will be used in applying the CAT.

While the services provided across low, medium and high child needs packages will largely be the same, they will differ in the intensity required to support the child's need level. For children with a disability it is expected that support will be provided through a comprehensive National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan.

4.2 Changing and approving the child needs package

The outcome of the CAT assessment in ChildStory will determine which child needs package a child or young person will receive. The CAT assessment will reflect the outcome as either low, medium or high needs.

Where a CAT assessment is not completed, the default child needs package is low.

The only way to change a child needs package is for FACS to complete and approve a new CAT assessment. If the CAT outcome does not reflect the child or young person's needs, an over-ride can be approved by a FACS Manager Casework and completed in ChildStory.

4.3 Eligibility criteria

Low Needs	
Description	The child needs package (low) funds low intensity services or supports to address a child or young person's individual needs. $4,591 per annum
Eligibility	The child: • is receiving services funded through a case plan goal and baseline package • has a CAT outcome of Low.
Medium Needs	
Description	The child needs package (medium) funds medium intensity services or supports to address a child or young person's individual needs. $7,208 per annum

Eligibility	The child: • is receiving services funded through a case plan goal and baseline package • has a CAT outcome of Medium.
High Needs	
Description	The child needs package (high) funds high intensity services or supports to address a child or young person's individual needs. $11,227 per annum
Eligibility	The child: • is receiving services funded through a case plan goal and baseline package • has a CAT outcome of High.

5 Specialist packages

Additional specialist packages will be available to address a child's assessed complex and specific needs.

Specialist packages are not mutually exclusive and children can access multiple specialist packages where eligible.

Cultural Plan (Aboriginal)	
Description	Cultural plan (Aboriginal) package is comprised of three payment categories to provide comprehensive and holistic cultural care planning and genealogy work to support connection to family, community and culture for every Aboriginal child in OOHC. • $3,500 one-off payment for Aboriginal children and young people entering care from 1 July 2018 • $1,900 one-off payment for existing Aboriginal children and young people who transitioned to PSP service packages from 1 July 2018. • $415 annual on-going payment for Aboriginal children and young people in each subsequent year in care.
Eligibility	The child is: • Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander • in statutory OOHC.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)	
Description	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) package supports service providers to undertake additional targeted recruitment, training and support of carers who can work effectively with children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. $1,421 one off payment. Please note: on-going cultural care planning has been built into the baseline package.
Eligibility	The child is: • from a CALD background[8] • in statutory OOHC.
15+ Years Old Reconnect	
Description	The 15+ reconnect package provides additional support for young people who are 15 years old or more, to reconnect with family and/or significant others (where this is safe to do so) and where they have had limited or no family connection whilst in OOHC. $1,935 per annum for up to 3 years
Eligibility	The child or young person: • is in statutory OOHC • is aged 15 years old or more • has had limited or no contact with family or significant others while in care • is supportive of reconnecting with their family or significant others • has had an assessment that reconnection is safe. Please note this package can be accessed: • where the young person has some contact with one parent/significant other however has limited or no contact with the other parent, family members or significant others • concurrently with the leaving care package.
Leaving Care	
Description	This package provides additional casework hours for service providers to support the development and implementation of leaving care planning for

[8] People of CALD background are generally defined as those born overseas, in countries other than those classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as 'English speaking countries' (UK, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Canada, USA, South Africa).

	young people in long term care who are preparing to exit from care arrangements. $1,277 per annum for up to 3 years Please note: as outlined in the Program Level Agreement, the service provider must provide after care support at regular intervals until the young person turns 25, including advocacy, assistance, advice and referral to appropriate services[9].
Eligibility	The young person is: • currently in statutory OOHC • aged 15 years old or over, and • has an approved case plan goal of Long Term Care or Leaving Care. Please note: the young person may also be eligible for the 15+ Reconnect package.
4+ Sibling Option Placement	
Description	The 4+ sibling option placement package is to support service providers to develop flexible options to maintain four or more siblings in a placement together. $20,334 per annum for the required period This package is paid per sibling group (against the oldest child). This package will be paid annually, in a lump sum and will be managed through the reconciliation and verification process. Where a delay in payment of this package would impact the placement, the service provider can request that this package be paid on the making of the placement. Requests are to be made in writing to the FACS Contract Manager.
Eligibility	The child is: • in statutory OOHC • part of a sibling group of four or more children who are all placed together.
Legal Adoption	
Description	The legal adoption package supports accredited adoption service providers to undertake legal work to progress a child's permanency goal of adoption. $11,500 one off payment

[9] Program Level Agreement Schedule 1: Permanency Support Program Service Requirements

Eligibility	The child: • has an approved case plan goal of adoption and is at the 'approved' stage • is in receipt of the adoption package • is case managed by an accredited adoption service provider preparing the legal work for an adoption application.
Approval	Accredited adoption service providers will need to submit the Supreme Court File Number, the date the adoption application was filed, and the name and date of birth of the child or young person to FACS Adoption Services and the FACS Contract Manager.

Complex Needs

Description	The complex needs payment is a one-off, time limited payment that is only accessible in extraordinary circumstances for children and young people in statutory OOHC. There are three complex needs payment categories: 1. Therapeutic behaviour support 2. Disability care 3. Additional rostered staff. In truly extraordinary circumstances, service providers may make a submission to the Deputy Secretary Northern Cluster to consider making a discretionary payment for an additional service and/or support, the absence of which would compromise a child or young person's health, safety or wellbeing; or compliance with a court order. The maximum duration for a complex needs payment is 6 months.
Eligibility	**Therapeutic behaviour support** The child or young person: • is in foster or kinship care and is exhibiting extreme behaviours that place them at risk of harm to themselves or others. **Disability care** The child or young person: • is in foster or kinship care • requires intellectual and/or physical disability services. **Additional rostered staff** The child or young person: • is in Intensive therapeutic care • requires additional short-term rostered staff to de-escalate and stabilise their care arrangement.

	Refer to the Business rules: Eligibility criteria for PSP complex needs payment for comprehensive information about this payment.
Approval	Service providers must complete a Complex needs payment application form and submit it to FACS for approval. The application must include supporting evidence such as relevant independent assessments.

Additional information

- This document should be read in conjunction with the Permanency Case Management Policy.
- For more information on leaving care, please refer to the Leaving care planning – guiding principles.
- For more information on reconnection, please refer to the Reconnection planning – guiding principles.