

# After Care Service for young people exiting care

The After Care Service provides individual support to young people aged 17 to 21 years who are leaving or have left the care of Child Safety Services and who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Young people who are under 17 years of age, in the care of the Department of Communities and are 'self placing'\* will be considered for After Care support and funds to help them to access and maintain safe and stable accommodation on a case-by-case basis.

The After Care Service can assist young people to find a case manager and support, and meet costs associated with education, training, driving lessons, employment, other specialist services, including mental health and dental services. Young people can also receive goods and services to set-up and maintain tenancies, including household goods and furniture, connection to utilities and short-term contributions to rent, food and hygiene consumables.

The service provides one-to-one and financial support of \$3500 per young person per year to help with implementing the young person's case plan.

## Making contact with the service

Access to the After Care Service is through contact with one of the funded Youth Housing and Reintegration Service organisations administering the service (see list on following page).

Young people can make direct contact with the service or through:

- Child Safety Services
- Youth Justice Services
- Housing Service Centres
- Centrelink
- other government and non-government organisations.

With the young person's agreement, the Youth Housing and Reintegration Service will check the following information to ensure the young person meets the criteria for After Care Service:

- The young person's full name, date of birth, address and phone number
- Relevant details about the young person's case management plan
- Details of the Child Safety Service Centre that managed the young person's child protection order and consent to speak with this centre to verify information provided
- Name and contact details of the person from the referring agency (if relevant).

A decision about the assistance that can be provided to the young person will be made within two business days and the referring agency and young person will be advised of the outcome.

*\* Self-placing: where a young person who is in care, chooses not to stay at an approved Child Safety placement, instead staying in accommodation they have organised themselves (includes young people who are 'couch surfing' and are not maintaining contact with Child Safety Services).*

Assistance of more than the \$3500 yearly allocation may be considered on a case-by-case basis where extra support is required to access specialist services.

Where a young person does not live close to one of these organisations, the Youth Housing and Reintegration Service will contract an appropriate service close to the young person to provide support.

## Contact details

**Toowoomba** — covering South West Queensland region  
Australian Red Cross Society  
Phone: 4614 1600

**Townsville** — covering North and Far North Queensland regions  
Queensland Youth Services  
Phone: 4723 4213

**Rockhampton** — covering Central Queensland region  
Capricornia Training Company  
Phone: 4922 2008

**Inala** — covering Brisbane, North Coast and South East Queensland regions  
Inala Keys  
Phone: 3372 3410

## More information

For more information about the After Care Service, please contact the Department of Communities' Office for Youth on 1300 555 954 or visit [www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/youth/support-services/](http://www.communityservices.qld.gov.au/youth/support-services/)

This service is an initiative of the Queensland Government Implementation Plan for the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.