



Support for non parent carers

We can help all non parent carers who provide ongoing care for children. This includes:

- grandparent carers
- foster carers
- kinship carers
- other informal carers.

Non parent carers who are caring for children and live in the same house as a parent are generally not eligible for payments. If you are in this situation you can call us to discuss the services available to you.

Grandparent, Foster and Kinship Carer Advisers

Grandparent, Foster and Kinship Carer Advisers are here to help all formal and informal carers who provide ongoing care for children. They can help you with:

- arranging appointments with our specialist staff, such as social workers
- getting a referral to other government and community organisations and services
- accessing Centrelink, Medicare, and Child Support information and payments.

They are here to help, even if you are not currently accessing services or payments from us.

You can contact the Grandparent, Foster and Kinship Carer Adviser Line on **1800 245 965** or go to **servicessaustralia.gov.au/grandparentfosterkinship**

If you need an interpreter let us know, and we will arrange one for free.

Help available

There is help available if you are not the parent of the child you care for.

Centrelink

Child Care Subsidy

Child Care Subsidy helps with the cost of approved child care. You may be eligible if you:

- care for a child at least 2 nights per fortnight,
- are responsible for paying child care fees

Additional Child Care Subsidy

Additional Child Care Subsidy gives some families extra help with the cost of approved child care. You may get it if you are any of the following:

- an eligible grandparent or great grandparent getting an income support payment
- transitioning from certain income support payments to work
- in temporary financial hardship

You may also get it if you are caring for a child who is vulnerable or at risk of harm, abuse or neglect. You can ask your child care service about this as they need to apply for it on your behalf.

You may be exempt from the activity test requirements for Child Care Subsidy for your grandchild or great-grandchild. This is if you or your partner get Child Care Subsidy and do not get an income support payment,

Family Tax Benefit

Family Tax Benefit helps with the costs of raising or caring for children. You may get it if you are the carer of your child, grandchild, foster child or adopted child.

Double Orphan Pension

Double Orphan Pension helps with the costs of caring for children who:

- are orphans
- are unable to be cared for by their parents in certain circumstances.

Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme

Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme helps carers of school aged students if they either:

- live in an isolated area
- can't go to an appropriate state school daily because they have disability or special health needs.

Foster Child Health Care Card

Foster Child Health Care Card is a concession card that helps you get cheaper medicine and some discounts for children in your care.

You don't need to be a formal foster carer to be eligible. You may be eligible if you care for a child who is not your biological or adopted child.

Other payments

There are other payments to help non parent carers who provide care for a child with a disability or a medical condition. Our Payment and Service Finder helps you identify possible payments for your family. Or, you can speak to our Grandparent, Foster and Kinship Carer Advisers to find out if there are other payments you may be eligible for.

Medicare

You can claim Medicare benefits for a child you are caring for. They do not need to be registered on your Medicare card. To claim Medicare benefits for them, you need to provide us with an invoice or receipt in your name with the child listed as the patient. You will also need to provide the child's Medicare card number. Where the Medicare card number is unknown and the claim is processed at the practice, the health professional can obtain the child's Medicare card number by contacting us.

Where you have incurred high out-of-hospital medical expenses, the Medicare Safety Net may help you cover some of these costs. To be eligible to receive Medicare Safety Net benefits for a child, who is in your full time care, you must have legal authority for the child and the child must be registered in your Safety Net family. The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Safety Net can also help your family with the cost of some medicines.

Child support

If you care for a child and are not the parent, you may get child support from both parents. Any child support you receive can affect how much Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A you get.

For more information

- for more information in English go to
 - servicesaustralia.gov.au/grandparentfosterkinship
 - servicesaustralia.gov.au/nonparentcarers
- go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language
- call **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services.
- call **132 011** for Medicare and **131 272** for Child Support. Let us know if you need an interpreter, and we will arrange one for free
- visit a service centre.

Note: calls from your home phone to '13' numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers. Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services. It's your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances.