Permanency Support



Permanency Support Program (PSP) Packages: Eligibility Rules and Inclusions

Foster Care, Supported Independent Living, Interim Care and Intensive Therapeutic Care



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This document should be read in conjunction with the PSP Program Level Agreement (PLA) <u>Schedule 3</u> and <u>PSP Rates</u>.

1 PSP Packaged Care Service Model

The Permanency Support Program (PSP) funds PSP providers to deliver services to children and young people¹ in out-of-home care (OOHC).

The PSP packaged care service model is comprised of a case plan goal package, baseline package and child needs package. Specialist packages are available depending on the child's circumstances and eligibility.

The packages are provided to cover the cost of case management, services and supports required to address the individual child's needs across the continuum of care.

Figure 1 shows how the packages 'build up' to meet a child's needs. The model enables flexible options that meet the individual needs and circumstances of children in OOHC and their families. This enables critical elements such as casework hours and therapeutic supports to increase and build up depending on the goal, level of need and circumstances of a child.

For most children, the PSP provider will receive one case plan goal package, one baseline package and one child needs package but can receive multiple specialist packages, depending on the child's circumstances². There are some exceptions outlined in Section 6 and 7 for Intensive Therapeutic Care Homes, Intensive Therapeutic Care – Significant Disability, Interim Care and Intensive Therapeutic Transitional Care.

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

² For information on current PSP service package rates refer to the <u>PSP Rates</u>

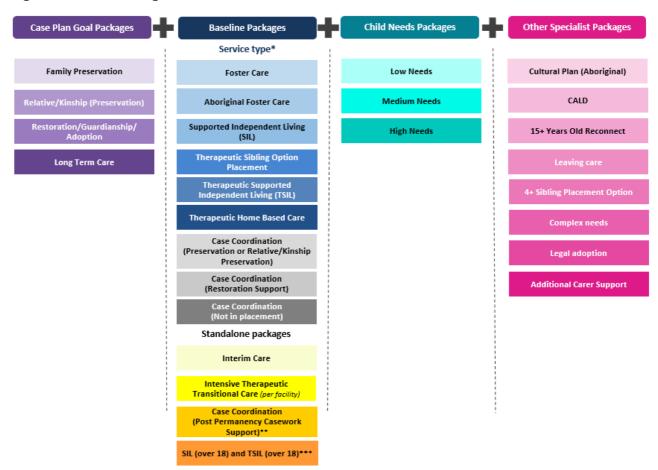


Figure 1: PSP Package Model

* Intensive Therapeutic Care Homes (ITCH) and Intensive Therapeutic Care Significant Disability (ITC-SD) are separate to this funding model **A standalone package available on a case-by-case basis for up to six months ***These packages come into effect from 1 July 2023

The above PSP package model does not apply to funding for ITC Homes (ITCH) and ITC Significant Disability (ITC SD) homes. Refer to Section <u>7</u> for the ITCH and ITC SD funding model.

For information relating to PSP Family Preservation refer to the <u>PSP Family Preservation</u> <u>Packages Business Rules</u> and the <u>PSP Family Preservation Package Program Framework</u>.

An overview of the services and/or supports that are funded under each package are outlined in Sections 2-7 – see package inclusions table. The inclusions outlined are not exhaustive and do not cover every single task or possible service. They are a guide to the types of casework, services and supports funded within each package.

Funding for casework is included across all packages and builds up across the packaged care model.

2 Case plan goal packages

Case plan goal packages fund the services required to achieve the child's case plan goal, that is, restoration, guardianship, adoption or long term care.

The package is generated automatically in a child's primary placement in ChildStory based on the current approved case plan goal recorded in the child's OOHC Case Plan record.

Case plan goal packages are mutually exclusive and commence from either a placement (for entries into care) or an approved change in the case plan goal. When a child enters care, and until a case plan is recorded (within 30 days), the default case plan goal is Assess Restoration, and the default case plan goal package is Restoration.

Children who do not have a recorded Case Plan on ChildStory will default to a Restoration case plan package where they are on an interim order, and the Long Term Care package where they are on a final order. For children in long term care it is important that prior to any placement change the case plan and case plan goal is accurately reflected in ChildStory.

Proposals to change a child's OOHC case plan goal must occur through a permanency consultation. See the <u>Permanency Case Management Policy</u> for further information. Refer to the <u>Review OOHC Case Plan and OOHC Case Plan Goals</u> knowledge article for more information.

DCJ may determine, on a case-by-case basis, that it is appropriate and in the best interests of the child and their family, to make a dual referral to a funded program (such as NEWPIN) and a PSP provider for a case plan goal package. This may be necessary because some funded programs do not provide case management or specific services to promote placement stability.

Note: The authority to make a referral to both a PSP Provider and a funded restoration program sits with DCJ as the commissioner of services.

• DCJ referrals to PSP Providers and funded restoration programs follow negotiations with relevant district staff, including the DCJ Contract Manager.

All children in OOHC have an open case with DCJ. Referrals will come from the relevant DCJ unit (CSC or CFDU) and will likely vary from district to district.

Two year timeframe for permanency goals

For Restoration, Guardianship and Adoption achievement of permanency is required to occur within two years³. The two year time frame for permanency starts at the commencement of the case plan goal. The two year time frame is not impacted by who holds primary case responsibility. Funding of the Case Plan Goal Package is also time-bound for up to two years.

Where a child has a period of time at a permanency goal, changes to another goal, and then reverts back to the original permanency goal, the timeframe to achieve permanency recommences from where it left off. The two-year timeframe does not re-start from the

³ KPI 303 Children and young people with an approved case plan goal of restoration, guardianship or adoption achieve permanency within two years.

beginning. The only exception to this is where a child has successfully achieved permanency (and there are no longer any orders in place) and re-enters OOHC.

Where permanency has been progressed (but not achieved) within the required two-year period (where the goal remains in the best interests of the child), funding reduces to the rate of the long-term care package. In exceptional circumstances an extension may be applied for - see <u>Permanency Progress Review and Case Plan Goal Package Extension Policy</u>.

Children with a Case Plan Goal Package of Restoration or Guardianship or Adoption will have their Case Plan Goal Packages cease at the earlier of either:

- 1. two years from the start of the Case Plan Goal Package or
- 2. the date that DCJ and the PSP Provider agree the Case Plan Goal is achieved or
- 3. the date that the child's care order, placing them in the Parental Responsibility of the Minister is varied, expires or is rescinded.

Case plan goal packages

Restoration	
Description	The Restoration case plan goal package supports PSP providers to deliver intensive support to a family so that their child can achieve permanency by returning safely home.
Eligibility	The child:
	 is in care under a Temporary Care Arrangement and being restored to their parent/s or,
	 is in statutory OOHC (interim order or final restoration order) and restoration is being assessed or,
	 is in statutory OOHC and restoration has been approved by the Children's Court as the permanency plan for the child
	Note: To receive the restoration case plan goal package there must be an approved case plan with a goal of assess restoration or restoration in ChildStory.
Inclusions	All inclusions under the Long Term Care Case Plan Goal Package (below) and:
	 Intensive family support including such things as family action planning and review, consultations and meetings with other services involved with the family
	Family time
	Permanency progress review (min every 6 months)
	Restoration assessments

	 Independent assessments (including urinalysis to support a proposed change to a child's case plan goal or safe contact arrangements) as part of everyday casework⁴
	 In home support (such as evidence-based parenting programs and wraparound services)
	Relationship counselling
	Brokerage services
	 Support of Children's Court proceedings (such as affidavits, reports and giving of evidence)
	Stepping down of services.
Guardia	nship
Description	The Guardianship case plan goal package supports a PSP provider to undertake intensive casework with a child, carer(s) and family to achieve permanency for a child through a guardianship order.
Eligibility	The child is in statutory OOHC (interim or final order)
	The pre-assessment guardianship checklist and associated casework has been completed
	Guardianship has been determined as the most suitable permanency case plan goal
	Note : To receive the guardianship case plan goal package there must be an approved case plan goal of Guardianship in ChildStory.
Inclusions	All inclusions under the Long Term Care Case Plan Goal Package (below) and:
	 Permanency progress review (min every 6 months)
	• Family time (contact) including the development of a contact plan that supports connections between the child and their family and those important to them (including kin/community), that are in best interests of the child, both now and into the future
	Guardianship application
	Guardianship/independent assessment reports
	Obtaining consent as required

⁴ DCJ funds assessments such as drug and DNA tests during Children's Court proceedings including when a s90 has been filed. Service providers fund these from the package at all other times, including in preparation for a s90. See the <u>Permanency Case Management Policy</u> for further information.

	• Support of Children's Court proceedings (such as affidavits, reports and giving of evidence).		
Adoption	Adoption		
Description	The Adoption case plan goal package supports a PSP provider to undertake intensive work with a child, carer(s) and family to achieve permanency for a child through an adoption order.		
Eligibility	The child:		
	 is in statutory OOHC (interim or final order) 		
	 has had all the adoption pre-enquiry casework tasks completed (for agencies being supported by DCJ adoption team) 		
	 adoption has been determined as the most suitable permanency case plan goal 		
	Note: To receive an adoption case plan goal package there must be an approved case plan with a goal of adoption in ChildStoryPSP providers should refer to either DCJ or the relevant accredited adoption service providers' process to ensure any additional pre-requisite tasks have been completed prior to seeking approval for a case plan goal of adoption.		
Inclusions	All inclusions under the Long Term Care Case Plan Goal Package (below) and:		
	 Permanency progress review (min every 6 months) 		
	Tasks required by the Adoptions Act		
	• Family time (contact) including the development of an adoption plan that provides for opportunities to support connections between the child and birth family, that are in best interests of the child, both now and into the future		
	Application to adopt including security checks		
	Adoption/independent assessment reports		
	Delegates approval to formally commence adoption action		
	Relationship counselling		
	Once an adoption order is made:		
	- Casework to notify all relevant family members		
	- Payments/adoption allowance in place		
	- New Medicare card and amended birth certificate available		
	- Families linked to other services (as required)		

Support of Court proceedings (such as affidavits, reports and giving of evidence)

Note: The adoption case plan goal package will commence from the date DCJ approves a change to the child's case plan goal. This is to be the same date they commence at the formal enquiry stage as per the approved OOHC Adoption process. The package should be backdated to the date approval was given to change the case plan goal

If the adoption process is on hold, in most cases a child who meets the on hold policy (under 6 months) continues to receive the adoption case plan goal package. This is determined on a case-by-case basis, noting the packages are time limited.

Any case on hold for extended periods outside of the policy timeframe should receive the long term care case plan goal package and be reviewed at the end of the on hold period to determine the most appropriate case plan goal.

Long Term Care	
Description	The long term care case plan goal package supports a PSP provider to undertake casework to promote stability and healing for a child who needs to remain in long term statutory OOHC.
	As part of annual case planning, alternative permanency outcomes must be considered ⁵ .
Eligibility	The child is in statutory OOHC (interim or final order)
	 It has been determined that long term OOHC is in the child's best interests and restoration/guardianship/adoption is not suitable at this time.
	Note : To receive a long term care case plan goal package there must be an approved case plan with a goal of Long Term Care in ChildStory
	Children and families can still be referred to a funded program (such as Intensive Family Preservation for placement stability services) while receiving services under a Long term care case plan goal package.
Inclusions	Case plan review (min every 12 months)
	Genealogy/family and community connection including identifying and adding a father's name to the child's birth certificate
	Ongoing Cultural support planning
	Victim of Crime support and referral (if applicable)

⁵ Section 150, Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

 Family time (contact) including the development of a contact plan that supports regular positive connections between the child, birth family and siblings
 Life story work (including preparation of a comprehensive life story from the day the child is born)
Carer training in child-specific trauma informed practice
Behaviour support plans developed by a specialist
Respite
Health and Education plans developed within 30 days of entry to care
 Everyday casework to identify and find family/kin to expand and build children's networks of support
Interpreter or language services as needed
Support and participation of Court proceedings
• Dispute resolution including mediation, family group conferencing, Aboriginal family led decision making as part of everyday casework.

3 Baseline packages

In addition to the case plan goal package, the PSP provider receives a baseline package to support costs relating to overheads, administration, carer allowances, property and other service provisions. The package also includes the recruitment, assessment and training of prospective carers.

Baseline packages are mutually exclusive. Baseline packages are driven by the 'Service Type' selected in a child's primary placement record.

Foster Care	
Description	The Foster care baseline package is for PSP 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.
Eligibility	 The child: is in statutory OOHC with a current active primary placement recorded on ChildStory is placed with authorised carers, relative/kin carers, prospective guardians or prospective adoptive parents.
Inclusions	 Carer on-costs (such as recruitment, assessment, training, and authorisation⁶) Case management Other staff commitments (including overheads) Household expenses and child related costs (such as immediate placement needs, housing, utilities, food, transport, recreation, medical, general dental, clothing, education, personal care, copies of birth certificates⁷). Development and implementation of all required plans for the child⁸ Planned absences and respite Management/administration overheads Carer allowance⁹ (age related) Foster care caseworker training including child specific trauma informed practice

⁶ If more than one carer assessment within the same financial year is required additional funding can be sought through complex needs. It must be accompanied by supporting evidence of the casework undertaken and need for multiple assessments.

⁷ DCJ funds the original birth certificate. Additional copies are funded by the service provider.

⁸ Including OOHC case plan, health plan, education plan, behaviour plan, leaving care plan.
⁹ The minimum carer allowance paid to carers must be in line with the <u>DCJ standard care rate.</u>

	Recruitment of specialist carers for children who step down from ITC.
Aborigin	al Foster Care
Description	The Aboriginal foster care baseline package is for PSP providers who are Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver to supports to children in statutory OOHC where they are placed with an authorised foster carer or relative/kin carer, prospective guardian or prospective adoptive parent.
Eligibility	 The child: is in statutory OOHC is placed with authorised foster carers or relative/kinship carers and is case managed by a PSP Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation.
Inclusions	 All services provided by Foster Care Baseline Package (above) Community education (for example attending training around health and wellbeing, training local carers on Aboriginal matters) Community programs and connections (such as NAIDOC, Sorry Day, Community relationship building) Community level family work (preventative) (such as providing advice,
Support	ed Independent Living (SIL)
Description	The Supported Independent Living (SIL) baseline package is for PSP providers approved to deliver SIL 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.
Eligibility	 Young people aged 16 to 17 years old at entry and assessed as Low-Medium Needs who: are in statutory OOHC, or are exiting their Permanency Support Program or DCJ OOHC placement to live independently or who have left a Permanency Support Program placement or DCJ OOHC placement but who require further support to successfully transition to independence, and have been assessed by the Child and Family District Unit (CFDU as having the capacity to be placed in a supported independent living

	program and will have the capacity to live independently after a period of tailored support
	The maximum amount of time a young person can remain in SIL is 24 months.
	Ongoing placement for young people over 18 years (up to the 24 month package timeframe) is subject to ongoing DCJ monitoring and approval.
Inclusions	Flexible staffing support
	Case management
	Furnished accommodation
	Rental charges
	• Training and support for young person such as living skills, self-care, home management, budgeting, parenting
	Assistance with access to education, training, vocational and employment assistance
	Other staff commitments (including overheads)
	Household expenses and child related costs (such as housing, utilities, food, transport, recreation, medical, dental, clothing, education, personal care, copies of birth certificates)
	Management/administration overheads.
Young people	Is for SIL are managed by DCJ's Child and Family District Units (CFDU). referred must not require therapeutic care for SIL eligibility – see <u>SIL/TSIL</u> urther information.
From 1 July 2023, over 18s in SIL will receive an over 18s SIL baseline package only. Prior to 1 July 2023, over 18s in SIL will receive a SIL baseline package, case plan goal and child needs package.	
package a lev household exp	023 OOHC casework is no longer applicable, although in the baseline rel of casework is assumed for transitional support. The funding for penses is reduced, with an expectation that the young person will start to hese costs as they move to independence.

Therapeutic Sibling Option Placement (TSOP

Description The Therapeutic Sibling Option Placement (TSOP) baseline package is for ITC providers¹⁰ to support children in statutory OOHC where they are placed in a TSOP placement.

¹⁰ ITC providers are also PSP providers. However for clarity, they are referred to as 'ITC providers' in this document.

	TSOP placements are for siblings or related groups of children (with at least one child with high and complex needs). Care is provided by permanent authorised live-in carer/s in a house maintained by an ITC provider. The amount of TSOP funding for each sibling group is determined on a case-by-case basis.
Eligibility	 Provide for a minimum of three children and young people who are part of a sibling/relative group when at least one or more of the children and young people meets the eligibility criteria for ITC.
	Children under 12 years of age and/or with an assessment of Low and Medium Needs can be placed in this service type if it is required to keep a sibling/relative group and where at least one child is eligible for ITC together.
Inclusions	Case management
	 Carer on-costs (such as recruitment, assessment, training including mandatory training outlined in Schedule 1 of the PLA)
	Carer allowance
	Respite
	 Carer access to therapeutic specialist, specialist support practitioners and services
	Other staff commitments (including overheads)
	 Household expenses and child related costs (such as housing, utilities, food, transport, recreation, medical, dental, clothing, education, personal care)
	Management/administration overheads.
Therape	eutic Supported Independent Living (TSIL)
Description	The Therapeutic Supported Independent Living (TSIL) baseline package is for PSP providers approved to deliver ITC to support children in statutory OOHC where they are placed in TSIL. Funds young people to successfully acquire independent living skills through the provision of accommodation, casework and structured and individualised life skills programs.
Eligibility	Young people aged 16 to 17 years old at entry and assessed as High needs who: • are in statutory OOHC, or

	• are exiting the Permanency Support Program to live independently or who have left a Permanency Support Program placement but who require further support to successfully transition to independence, and
	 have been assessed by the DCJ Central Access Unit as having the capacity to be placed in a supported independent living program and will have the capacity to live independently after a period of tailored support
	The maximum amount of time a young person can remain in TSIL is 24 months. Ongoing placement for young people over 18 years (up to the 24 month package limit) is subject to ongoing DCJ monitoring and approval.
Inclusions	Flexible staffing support
	Case management
	 Staff training, including mandatory training outlined in Schedule 1 of the PLA
	Provision of services by a therapeutic specialist
	Furnished accommodation
	Rental charges
	• Training and support for young person such as living skills, self-care, home management, budgeting, parenting
	Assistance with access to education, training, vocational and employment assistance
	Other staff commitments (including overheads)
	 Household expenses and child related costs (such as housing, utilities, food, transport, recreation, medical, dental, clothing, education, personal care, copies of birth certificates)
	Management/administration overheads.
only. Prior to 1	July 2023, over 18s in TSIL will receive an over 18s TSIL baseline package 1 July 2023, over 18s in TSIL will receive a TSIL baseline package, case child needs package.

From 1 July 2023 OOHC casework is no longer applicable, although in the baseline package a level of casework is assumed for transitional support. There are reduced household expenses, with an expectation that the young person will start to contribute to these costs as they move to independence.

Therapeutic Home Based Care (THBC)

Description	The Therapeutic Home Based Care (THBC) baseline package is for ITC 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 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.
	Children in THBC are automatically eligible for the Additional Carer Support Specialist Package.
Eligibility	The child is:
	 in statutory OOHC and aged 12 years or over¹¹
	assessed as having High Needs
	 able to be safely cared for in a home-based placement with the provision of therapeutic care services.
	THBC is primarily for individual placements but in limited circumstances may apply to related groups or kin.
Inclusions	Case management
	 Carer on-costs (such as recruitment, assessment, mandatory training outlined in Schedule 1 of the PLA)
	Therapeutic specialist
	Carer allowance
	Respite
	 Permanent live-in carers 24 hour care 7 days (in accordance with the Program Level Agreement)
	Carer access to therapeutic specialist, specialist support practitioners and services
	Other staff commitments (including overheads)
	 Household expenses and child related costs (such as housing, utilities, food, transport, recreation, medical, dental, clothing, education, personal care)
	Management/administration overheads.

¹¹ Children under 12 will be considered in exceptional circumstances

Description	The Case Coordination - Restoration Support baseline package is for PSP providers to provide casework support to a child and their family, where they have been restored to their parent/s, in accordance with a Court approved restoration plan ¹² , but are still under parental responsibility to the Minister.
	This package is paid with the case plan goal, child needs and any eligible specialist packages for up to 12 months.
Eligibility	The child:
	• is under the parental responsibility of the Minister and has a court approved permanency plan for restoration, and
	• is living full time with their parent/s no earlier than 12 months prior to the date set out in the permanency plan (care plan), and
	• the previous primary placement with a PSP Provider has been closed, and
	 has an approved case plan with a permanency goal of restoration in ChildStory.
Inclusions	Caseworker training in child specific trauma informed practice
	Management/administration overheads
	Case management
	Other staff commitments (including overheads).

Note: The Case Coordination - Restoration Support package commences once the child has been transitioned in accordance with their approved restoration plan; where the foster care placement is no longer required to be kept open; and the child is placed full time with their parent/s. Where additional support is required to enable a sustained restoration (for example short term placement / respite) the child's placement and service packages should be adjusted as needed. DCJ and the PSP provider work collaboratively during this time.

Where a child self-places with a parent prior to a section 90 application being lodged the 'Away from placement' or 'Not in placement' payments may be available.

Case Coordination – Not in Placement

Description

The Case Coordination - Not in Placement baseline package is available to PSP providers to work towards returning the child to an authorised

¹² Section 78 & 78A, Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

	placement or another care arrangement approved by DCJ and/or the Children's Court. Refer to the <u>Away from Placement</u> policy for more information.
	A child is not in placement when the child:
	 does not return to their primary placement (during the away from placement period) and
	does not transition to another placement arranged and supervised by the PSP provider and
	• is referred to and accepted by the local district's complex needs panel (or equivalent) for monitoring and oversight.
Eligibility	The child:
	is in parental responsibility of the Minister
	 has had their authorised placement closed after expiry of the Away from Placement¹³ period (including extensions) or
	 cannot or will not return to their primary placement or another authorised placement.
Inclusions	Case management
	Other staff commitments (including overheads)
	Caseworker training in child specific trauma informed practice
	Management/administration overheads
	Outreach activities, travel and brokerage.

Note: PSP Providers complete an initial away from placement Whereabouts record on ChildStory Partner Community¹⁴.

Away From Placement period is up to eight weeks for a child in foster care or up to four weeks for a child in a placement other than foster care.

Initial approval of Case Coordination Not in Placement for a period of up to 6 months, is delegated to the DCJ Director Community Services or above and is usually facilitated via the Complex Needs Panel.

Approval of an extension for an additional period of up to six month, is delegated to the DCJ Executive District Director or above.

A Case Coordination (Not in Placement) package is also paid when a PSP Provider continues to hold primary case responsibility, when a child is placed in an Intensive Therapeutic Transitional Care (ITCH) home, Interim Care or in a Short Term Emergency

¹³ Away from Placement is a temporary period when a child leaves an authorised placement and the authorised placement remains open until they return.

¹⁴ See <u>Create and close a whereabouts record Knowledge Article.</u>

(STEP) placement. In this case, the PSP Provider will continue to receive the relevant Case Plan Goal Package, Child Needs Package and Other Specialist packages for the child¹⁵.

4 Standalone Baseline Packages

Interim Care (ICM)	
Description	Funds the Interim Care provider (agency with Supervisory Responsibility ¹) to support children (9-14 years) in statutory OOHC that have low or medium needs. Funding is time-limited (up to 3 months) for this short term temporary placement. Eligible cohort for entry into ICM are children currently placed in Alternate Care Arrangement's (ACA), Individualized Placement Arrangement (IPA) or are at risk of entering into an ACA or IPA.
	Paid at daily rate:
	 per child in a 3-bed home per child in a 4-bed home Interim Care providers may also receive a:
	 vacancy payment per vacancy to meet the fixed costs of running the home
	 one-off Placement Establishment Payment to assist with costs of establishing a new house
	Complex Needs, in extraordinary circumstances.
Eligibility	Children and young people who:
	 are in statutory OOHC or temporary care of the Secretary¹⁶
	have low or medium needs
	 are aged between 9 to 14 years¹⁷
	 are in or would otherwise be at imminent risk of entering an Alternative Care Arrangement or Individualized Placement Arrangement
	have been assessed as suitable by DCJ.

¹⁵ Refer to <u>Schedule 3 section 3.1 (k)</u>

¹⁶ Children in temporary care of the Secretary, including Temporary Care Arrangements, can be considered in exceptional circumstances.

¹⁷ In some circumstances, children and young people outside this age range (including sibling groups) may be considered.

	There is a maximum of up to four children and young people in an Interim Care home.		
Inclusions	Supervisory Responsibility ¹⁸		
	Direct care and support in a home-like environment		
	• Staffing as described in the service requirements including two direct care staff during the day when the child is home and one overnight staff.		
	House Parent		
	Other staff commitments (including overheads)		
	 Household expenses and child related costs (such as housing, utilities, food, transport, recreation, medical, dental, clothing, education, personal care, copies of birth certificates) 		
	Management/administration overheads.		
Intensiv	Intensive Therapeutic Transitional Care (ITTC)		
Description	The Intensive Therapeutic Transitional Care (ITTC) baseline package is for ITC 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.		
	Paid at a daily rate per home.		
	ITTC providers may receive a one-off Placement Establishment Payment to assist with the costs of establishing a new house.		
Eligibility	A child:		
	 is in statutory OOHC and Aged 12 years or over¹⁹ 		
	 is assessed as having High needs 		
	 will benefit from a suite of assessments and evidence-based interventions within a program of intensive therapeutic support 		
	In extraordinary circumstances, children under Temporary Care Arrangements may be considered for ITTC.		

¹⁸ Primary Case Responsibility does not transfer to the Interim Care service provider (with supervisory responsibility). Primary Case Responsibility is maintained by the referring agency. If this is a PSP provider, they are eligible to receive Case Plan Goal Packages, Baseline – Case Coordination (Not in Placement), Child's Need Packages and Other Specialist Packages as applicable.

¹⁹ Children under 12 years can be considered for ITC in very limited circumstances

Inclusions	Staff training, including mandatory training outlined in Schedule 1 of the PLA
	Supervisory Responsibility ²⁰
	Provision of services by a therapeutic specialist
	• Care and assessment services including therapeutic and allied health staff in the multidisciplinary team
	• Staffing per service requirements including, as a minimum, two staff 24 hours per day including two active overnight staff
	House Manager
	Caseworker to support the process of entry, assessment, plan development, implementation and transition
	• Provision of intensive casework and interventions to address child/young person's behavioural, emotional, psychological, cultural, educational and physical needs
	Evidence informed interventions
	Referral to specialist services
	Plan, support and facilitation of transition to next placement
	 Household expenses and child related costs (such as housing, utilities, food, transport, recreation, medical, dental, clothing, education, personal care, copies of birth certificates)
	Management/administration overheads.

Case Coordination - Post Permanency Casework Support

²⁰ Primary Case Responsibility does not transfer to the ITTC provider (with supervisory responsibility). Primary Case Responsibility is maintained by the referring agency. If this is a PSP service provider, they are eligible to receive Case Plan Goal Packages, Baseline – Case Coordination (Not in Placement), Child's Need Packages and Other Specialist Packages as applicable.

Description	The Case Coordination - Post Permanency Casework Support baseline package is a standalone package for up to six months for PSP providers to provide casework support to a child and their family where the child has been restored, or become subject to a Guardianship or Adoption Order (if eligible); is no longer in the parental responsibility of the Minister; and where additional time-limited casework supports are required 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
	Package is available for up to 6 months. Extensions for 6 months may be granted by DCJ for restoration matters only.
Eligibility	The child:
	 has achieved their permanency case plan goal of restoration, guardianship or adoption
	is no longer under the parental responsibility of the Minister, and
	• requires time-limited casework support to continue the stepping down of services to maintain the child living safely in their permanent 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.
	Note: It is unlikely that post permanency casework support will be required post adoption or guardianship orders as both require a demonstration that the long term needs of the child will be met without case management support, however:
	• For guardianship, in unforeseen circumstances, PSP providers may request this package if additional short term casework support will be required.
	For adoption if:
	 Additional short-term 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 to an adoption plan and additional short-term casework support is required to carry out the provisions of the plan.
Inclusions	Case management
	Other staff commitments (including overheads)
	Caseworker training in child specific trauma informed practice

• Management/administration overheads.

Notes: For restoration cases a supervision order or court order is not required to be eligible for this package.

PSP Providers can request this package during Permanency Progress Reviews where eligibility requirements have been met. Packages are approved on a case by case basis by the relevant DCJ Manager Casework with any extension request approved by the DCJ Executive District Director. The approved package is manually added to ChildStory by the CFDU.

For restoration case plan goals only - where a supervision/court order is in place extensions a six month extension may be granted by a Manager Casework or above (for a total period of 12 months) only in the case where ongoing support is required and in the best interests of the child

5 Child Needs packages

The Child Needs Package supports a child to access a range of health and wellbeing services to support their individual needs. DCJ will apply the Child Assessment Tool (CAT) to determine the level (low, medium or high) of child needs package required.

For children entering care a default value is 'Low' until the CAT is completed (and back dated).

While the services provided across low, medium and high child needs packages are the same, they differ in the intensity required to support the child's needs. For children and young people with a disability, services/supports are provided through a comprehensive NDIS plan (according to eligibility).

Where a child is in foster care and assessed as having high needs, additional supports are accessible through the Additional Carer Support or Complex Needs specialist packages.

Where a child in foster care receives a CAT outcome of high a referral may be made to the CAU to determine eligibility and suitability of entry to ITC - for example if the carer is finding they are unable to meet the child's needs, or it is compromising the care of other children in the home.

The CAT can be re-applied during a child's time in care. Where a child's needs change, a re-CAT can be sought.

Childs needs (low, medium, high)	
Description	The child needs package funds low, medium or high intensity services or supports (based on the outcome of the CAT) to address a child's individual needs.
Eligibility	The child:
	 is in statutory OOHC and receiving services through a case plan goal and baseline package.
	 has been assessed as either low, medium or high needs through the Child Assessment Tool (CAT).
Inclusions	 Clinical services (such as counselling, psychology, behaviour therapy, psychiatric care)
	 Educational supports and special education support for children and young people, where required
	General allied health provision
	Mentoring for all children and young people.

6 Specialist packages

Specialist packages are 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.

For Children in ITC Homes and ITC-SD Homes the Child (baseline) package replaces the Case Plan Goal, Baseline, Child Needs and Specialist packages (except for Complex Needs). Refer to Section 7 for ITC Home and ITC SD home funding model.

Cultural Plan (Aboriginal) – Establishment Cultural Plan (Aboriginal) - Ongoing

Description	Provides support for cultural planning for Aboriginal children in additional to ongoing funding provided within the Case Plan Goal and Baseline packages.
	for a comprehensive and holistic cultural care plan and genealogy work to support connection to family, community and culture for every Aboriginal child and young person in OOHC.
	No application form is required.
	The package includes:
	A one-off payment (Establishment) intended for all Aboriginal children entering care
	 An annual support payment (Ongoing) in each subsequent financial year to support the review of the cultural plans and participation in cultural activities.
Eligibility	The child is:
Eligibility	The child is:Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
Eligibility	
Eligibility	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
Eligibility	 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in statutory OOHC but not in an ITCH or ITC-SD placement Note: For the package to be automatically triggered the child's Aboriginal
	 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in statutory OOHC but not in an ITCH or ITC-SD placement Note: For the package to be automatically triggered the child's Aboriginal status is required to be correctly recorded in ChildStory. Development, establishment and implementation of an individual

15+ yea	rs 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. Annual payment for up to 3 years.
Eligibility	 The young person is: 15 years or more in statutory OOHC but not in an ITCH or ITC-SD placement.
Inclusions	 Reconnect sessions between young person and significant others/community members for example, a teacher, former carer, elder Additional caseworker hours for preparation of reconnect sessions Additional family contact visits Ancillary and supervisory hours to provide support to caseworkers for family contact visits.
Leaving	Care
Description	Provides additional caseworker hours for PSP providers to support a young person to begin developing the knowledge and skills they will need to be more independent once they turn 18. Annual payment up to 3 years
Eligibility	 The child is: in statutory OOHC and not in an ITCH or ITC-SD placement aged 15 years old or more (based on their DOB recorded on ChildStory).
Inclusions	 Development, implementation and ongoing review of leaving care plan, including access to relevant entitlements and services Brokerage services for leaving care planning Living skills program and education and training pathways.

CALD	
Description	Provides extra support to undertake targeted recruitment, training and support to carers who wish to work closely with a child, and their family, from diverse cultural backgrounds. ²¹
	This is a one off payment for a child, paid either on the entry into care or following a child's cultural background being identified during their time in care.
	No application form is required.
Eligibility	The child is:
	• from a CALD background ²²
	in statutory OOHC but not in an ITCH or ITC-SD placement
	Note: for the package to be automatically triggered the child's cultural background is required to be correctly recorded in ChildStory.
Inclusions	 Specialist cultural training and development for carers (specific to the child's culture)
	 Contribution to the cost of specialised staff responsible for the development of cultural care plans and development and oversight of CALD program initiatives.
	Staff attendance at workshops and training programs
case responsik package is not	ablishment package is paid only once for children entering care. If primary pility is transferred from one PSP provider to another PSP provider the re-funded. In exceptional circumstances, where a child is transferred to a nd no activities have been completed that would be covered under this

package, a decision could be made to make the payment again if required.

²¹ Note that ongoing cultural planning is included within the Case Plan Goal package.

²² Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) is a broad and inclusive descriptor relating to a person's country of birth, their ancestry, the country of birth of their parents, what languages they speak and their religious affiliation. (ref. 'Cultural Diversity in Australia' ABS 2016). CALD people are those who are born either overseas or in Australia who have a non-English speaking ancestry. (Ancestry is an indication of the cultural group that a person most closely identifies with. (ref 'Cultural Diversity in Australia' ABS 2016).

4+ Siblings placement options	
Description	Supports flexible options to maintain four or more siblings (biological or psychological) in a placement together. This package is paid once per sibling group and paid against the eldest child.
Eligibility	There are 4 or more children in statutory OOHC in the same foster care placement, and
	• The children were siblings (biological or psychological ²³) at the time they entered the placement.
	Note: The definition of siblings is inclusive and recognises the kinship structure of Aboriginal families.
	In rare circumstances where a carer is supporting a large sibling group, consideration may be given to providing more than 1 package.
	This package is not available to support large foster care placements where the children are not related. The exception is where a new placement is required and the children are now considered psychological siblings and support is required to establish a placement option for the children to continue to be placed together.
Inclusions	Increased infrastructure
	Increased carer costsWrap-around supports to meet the needs of families.

Note: This package may be applied flexibly where additional supports are required upfront to support establishing or maintaining a placement for 3 or more siblings to promote placement stability in a foster care arrangement. Approval by the relevant DCJ Executive District Director is required.

Where the oldest child turns 18 years old ahead of the payment, the PSP provider continues to receive the annual lump sum payment unless the child turns 18 in the quarter of the payment being due. If there are more than 4 siblings in the placement the payment will then go against the next oldest child until there are not 4 siblings under 18 years in the placement.

²³ In circumstances where children do not share a biological parent but have grown up together, share a very strong bond and/or self-identity as siblings, they are considered psychological siblings and are eligible for this package.

Complex Needs			
Description	Supports extraordinary circumstances for a child in statutory OOHC. Applications must be approved by DCJ prior to the engagement of a service or expenditure of funds. The package is a one-off or time-limited payment. <u>Application form required</u>		
Eligibility	See the <u>Complex Needs business rules</u> for eligibility and category information.		
Inclusions	 There are four categories for complex needs requests Therapeutic behaviour support Disability care Additional rostered staff (ITC/ICM only) Discretionary extraordinary placement support. 		
Legal A	Legal Adoption		
Description	The Legal Adoption package is a fixed payment for legal adoption work undertaken by the Accredited Adoption Service Provider for a child with a Case Plan Goal of adoption where legal work has been undertaken.		
Eligibility	 The child: has an approved case plan goal of adoption and is at the 'approved' stage is in receipt of the adoption case plan goal package has primary case responsibility allocated to an accredited adoption service provider preparing the legal work for an adoption application. 		
Inclusions	Additional staff hours (casework/legal) for preparation of legal work.		
Note: No application form is required. The payment is triggered at the commencement of the court action and only applies to Accredited Adoption Service Providers. Accredited Adoption Service Providers 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 to DCJ Adoption Services and the DCJ Contract Manager and it will be added to the system.			

Additional Carer Support				
Description	The ACS package provides additional funding where enhanced carer capacity and casework responsiveness is needed to meet the needs of children.			
	Increased carer capacity and casework support enables children with additional needs to receive innovative, specialised, tailored foster care arrangements that promote placement stability and avoid escalation to Intensive Therapeutic Care (ITC). For children in ITC, this additional support allows them to 'step down' to foster care.			
	PSP providers may flexibly allocate package funding towards carer support or caseworker availability as required. The package may be used to fund additional:			
	 recruitment, matching and training of carers to reflect the additional support needs of these children 			
	 respite to carers – in addition to the existing allowance of 24 nights (or equivalent) per annum provided by standard PSP packages 			
	 caseworker availability to provide direct, individualised support to carers and increased relationship-based interventions with the child or advocacy (for example, accessing the NDIS). 			
	 provision of a higher carer allowance to reflect the additional capacity required of carers. 			
	The package also includes provision for additional therapeutic and behaviour support for the child equivalent to a high child needs package.			
	The package will be paid annually in a lump sum.			
	PSP Providers must complete the <u>ACS package application form</u> to access the package. Approval is delegated to the relevant DCJ Director ²⁴ .			
Eligibility	The child:			
	is in statutory OOHC			
	is in foster care or relative/kinship care, THBC placement			
	THBC placements are automatically eligible for Additional Carer Support and are not required to demonstrate the below eligibility requirements.			
	PSP Providers must demonstrate that four or more of the following criteria are needed to meet the additional needs of the child, demonstrating additional carer support required (over and above that which is funded by standard PSP packages):			

²⁴ DCJ Director Community Services or Director Statewide Contracts, or Director Commissioning and Planning or Director Operations

	The carer:
	 is likely to require a minimum 12 nights (or equivalent) respite per annum in addition to the 24 nights provided by the PSP packages (a total of 36 nights per annum minimum) in response to the child's additional needs.
	 is or will participate in developing and enacting the child's behaviour support plan and participate in its monitoring and review by a psychologist (or similar discipline).
	has or is developing advanced additional skills in relation to trauma- informed care and/or other relevant accredited, specialist training.
	• is or will be required to provide the child with additional assistance in bathing and showering, toileting, dressing/undressing, and participates in the monitoring and review by an occupational therapist (or similar discipline).
	• is or will be required to provide the child with additional assistance in play, peer relationships, achieving developmental milestones and learning, and participates in the monitoring and review by an occupational therapist (or similar discipline).
	• is or will be required to provide a special diet to the child (as recommended by a relevant professional) and/or assistance with feeding, and participates in the monitoring and review by a dietician (or similar discipline).
	• is or will be required to participate, with the child's teachers and school staff, in the regular, ongoing monitoring and review of a student behaviour support plan.
	 is or will be required to attend the child's school for a minimum of 6 hours per week to support the child's behaviour and/or academic learning.
	PSP Providers must also demonstrate that support of the placement always requires:
	• Additional casework availability/responsiveness to the carer and or child to provide, for example, support, mentoring, coaching, capacity to attend clinical appointment.
Inclusions	 Additional recruitment, matching and training of carers to reflect additional support needs.
	Increased carer allowance
	Additional respite to carers
	• Additional caseworker availability to provide direct, individualised support to carers and increased relationship-based interventions with the child or advocacy (for example, accessing the NDIS).

Notes: This package may be applied flexibly where the eligibility cannot be met. This may be where significant additional time-limited supports are required to enable establishing or maintaining a placement to promote placement stability in a foster care arrangement. This includes where a child is being supported to step down from an Alternative Care Arrangement, Individual Placement Arrangement, Interim Care Model or Intensive Therapeutic Care placement into a foster care placement. The package can only start when the child is in the foster care placement. Approval by the relevant DCJ Executive District Director is required.

The ACS package is paid individually for each eligible child. If there are multiple eligible children in a household, each eligible child receives an ACS package.

PSP Providers need to advise DCJ annually that the eligibility criteria is still met in order for the package to be renewed but an additional application form is not required. Note: The application form does not need to be resubmitted each year however the Additional Carer Support package needs to be re-added annually within ChildStory. DCJ may review eligibility for the ACS package when circumstances change.

7 Intensive Therapeutic Care Homes (ITCH) and Intensive Therapeutic Care – Significant Disability (ITC-SD)

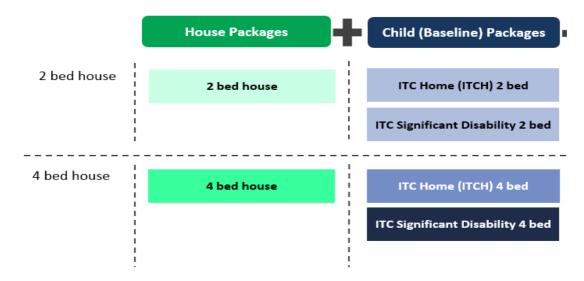
Unlike most other service types in PSP, funding for ITCH and ITC SD is made up of a combination of a:

- House package a payment per two or four bed house
- Child (baseline) package per child in placement a single package for each child in placement.

In extraordinary circumstances, additional funding through Complex Needs specialist package may be considered. Refer to the Complex Needs Business Rules.

The payment provisions are outlined in Schedule 3 of the PSP Program Level Agreement.

The following tables are a guide to the types of inclusions anticipated in the packages. It is important to note that the inclusion lists are not exhaustive **and** do not cover every single task or possible inclusion.



Intensive Therapeutic Care Homes (ITCH)

Description

Funds ITC providers to deliver time limited, intensive therapeutic care in a safe and home-like environment that has a dedicated in-house care team guided by an overarching therapeutic philosophy of care.

ITCH funding is made up of a:

- House package payment per two-bed or four-bed house (see note 1)
- Child (baseline) package per child in placement a single package for each child in placement

Paid at a daily rate.

ITCH providers may also receive:

- a one-off Placement Establishment Payment to assist with the costs of establishing a new house
- Complex Needs in extraordinary circumstances

Eligibility

- In statutory OOHC
- Aged 12 years or over (see note 2)
- High needs

There is a maximum of either two or four children and young people in an ITC home.

2-bed House Package inclusions	4-bed House Package inclusions	
 1 house manager per house 	1 house manager per house	
 Staffing as described in Schedule 1 of the PLA including direct care 	 Staffing as described in Schedule 1 of the PLA including direct care staff: 	
staff:	- 2 staff during the day	
 1 staff member during the day when 1 child is in placement, increasing to 2 staff members when two children are in placement (see note 3) 	 Flexibility of Awake night shift when required based on risk assessment (funded using "40/60 assumption" – that is, awake night shift funded 40% of the time) 	
 Flexibility of Awake night shift when required based on risk 	1 Therapeutic Specialist per 12 children and young people	
assessment (funded using	• 1 caseworker per 6 children and young people	
"40/60 assumption" – that is,	Case management	
awake night shift funded 40% of the time)	 Staff training, including mandatory training outlined in Schedule 1 of the PLA 	

1 Therapeutic Specialist per 12 children and young people	 Other staff commitments (including overheads) Management/administration overheads
1 caseworker per 6 children and young people	Transport
Case management	
 Staff training, including mandatory training outlined in Schedule 1 of the PLA 	
 Other staff commitments (including overheads) 	
 Management/administration overheads 	
Transport	

Child Package (baseline) inclusions

- Child-related living expenses such as food, recreation, medical, dental, clothing, education, personal care
- Case plan goal package (see Section 2 for inclusions)
- Child needs package (see section 5 for inclusions)
- Specialist packages excluding complex needs (section 6 for inclusions)
- Permanency needs to continue to be a focus: ITC continues to be a placement under the PSP program and providers will be required to maintain a continued focus on achieving permanency outcomes where possible. Funding in the child package has been weighted to support all case plan goals across the case-mix, including restoration, guardianship and adoption.

Notes

- 1. When a 2-bed house is vacant (when there are no children placed in the home), the 2-bed house package payment is not applicable.
- 2. Children under 12 years can be considered for ITC in very limited circumstances.
- 3. The second direct care staff is funded through the 2-bed child package.

Intensive Therapeutic Care – Significant Disability (ITC SD)

Description

Funds an ITC provider to support a child in statutory OOHC where they are placed in an ITC significant disability placement.

ITC SD funding is made up of a:

- House package payment per two-bed or four-bed house (see note 1)
- Child (baseline) package per child in placement a single package for each child in placement

Paid at a daily rate.

ITC SD providers may also receive:

- a one-off Placement Establishment Payment to assist with the costs of establishing a new house
- Complex Needs in extraordinary circumstances

Eligibility

ITC SD is a specialist ITC service type that has strict eligibility criteria and is designed for children and young people who have extremely high support needs related to disability or multiple disabilities.

- In statutory OOHC
- Aged 12 years or over (see note 2)
- High needs
- Must meet permanency of disability criteria
- Meet the impact on adaptive functioning domains
- Meet the managing and meeting needs criteria

For more information see <u>Schedule 1, section 8.6</u>

2-bed House Package inclusions	4-bed House Package inclusions
1 house manager per house	1 house manager per house
• Staffing as described in Schedule 1 of the PLA including direct care staff:	 Staffing as described in Schedule 1 of the PLA including direct care staff:
 1 staff member during the day when 1 child is in placement, increasing to 2 staff members when two children are in placement (see note 3) 	 2 staff during the day Flexibility of Awake night shift when required based on risk assessment.

 Flexibility of Awake night shift when required based on risk assessment (funded using "40/60 assumption" – that is, awake night shift funded 40% of the time) 1 Therapeutic Specialist per 12 children and young people 	 Funded using an Awake night shift all the time when 3 or 4 children are in the home. Funded using "40/60 assumption" when 1 or 2 children are in the home – that is, awake night shift funded 40% of the time)⁴
 1 caseworker per 6 children and young people 	1 Therapeutic Specialist per 12 children and young people
Case management	1 caseworker per 6 children and
Staff training including mandatory	young people
training outlined in Schedule 1 of the PLA	Case management
 Other staff commitments (including overheads) 	 Staff training, including mandatory training outlined in Schedule 1 of the PLA
 Management/administration overheads 	 Other staff commitments (including overheads)
Transport	 Management/administration overheads
	Transport

Child Package (baseline) inclusions

- Child-related living expenses such as food, recreation, medical, dental, clothing, education, personal care
- Case plan goal (see Section 2 for inclusions)
- Child needs package (see section 5 for inclusions)
- Specialist packages excluding complex needs (section 6 for inclusions)
- Permanency needs to continue to be a focus: ITC continues to be a placement under the PSP program and providers will be required to maintain a continued focus on achieving permanency outcomes where possible. Funding in the child package has been weighted to support all case plan goals across the case-mix, including restoration, guardianship and adoption.

Notes

- 1. When a 2-bed house is vacant (when there are no children placed in the home), the 2-bed house package payment is not applicable.
- 2. Children under 12 years can be considered for ITC in very limited circumstances.
- 3. The second direct care staff is funded through the 2-bed child package
- 4. The additional funding for an awake night shift is funded through the 4-bed child package