

# Child Safety POLICY

---

**Title:** Child related costs – in-home support funding

**Policy No:** CPD630-1

---

## Policy Statement:

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (the department) is committed to supporting children to safely remain in the care of their families of origin, where possible, in accordance with the principles of the *Child Protection Act 1999*.

The department may utilise child related costs to provide in-home support to children and families when a child is subject to ongoing intervention under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, to assist in meeting a child's protection and care needs, in order to prevent or reduce the risk of placement in out-of-home care or to support successful reunification.

## Principles:

- The safety, wellbeing and best interests of a child are paramount.
- A child's family has the primary responsibility for the child's upbringing, protection and development, and the preferred way of ensuring the child's safety and wellbeing is through supporting the child's family.
- A child has a right to be protected from harm or risk of harm.
- If a child is removed from the child's family, support should be given to the child and the child's family for the purpose of achieving reunification if it is in the child's best interests.

## Objectives:

- The purpose of in-home support funding is to provide timely and flexible supports to children subject to ongoing intervention and residing at home, in order to allow them to safely remain at home.
- The provision of in-home support will be for the purpose of addressing child protection concerns and strengthening the protective factors in the home.
- In-home support funding may be used to contract non-government organisations or private contractors to provide in-home support services, or to purchase or lease resources to support the child and family.

**Scope:**

In-home support funding may be utilised for families subject to ongoing intervention under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, where the child is residing at home in the care of the parents, and where the support is required to prevent or reduce the risk of more intrusive child protection intervention being required (such as placement of the child in out-of-home care). In-home support funding may be provided where the child is subject to:

- a support service case, for a child aged 0 to 17 years
- intervention with parental agreement
- a supervision order
- a child protection order, where the child has been placed with parents (under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, section 82(2)), as part of a reunification process.

In-home support funding is only to be used when all other options for providing the required support through government or grant funded non-government services have been exhausted, or are unlikely to assist the family in meeting the child's protection and care needs. These options include:

- the use of Family Intervention Services
- the provision of support through applicable child related costs account codes against the general cost centre, at the discretion of the CSSC Manager (for example, the CSSC may support the family of a child subject to intervention with parental agreement by covering the cost of having dangerous or hazardous materials removed from the home, which would otherwise impact on the child's safety and wellbeing).

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

Roles and responsibilities in relation to in-home support funding are outlined in the associated procedure.

General procedures for providing support to families subject to ongoing intervention under the *Child Protection Act 1999* are contained in the *Child Safety Practice Manual*.

**Authority:**

*Child Protection Act 1999*

*Financial Accountability Act 2009*

*Child Protection Regulation 2011*

*Disability Services Act 2006*

*Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000*

**Delegations:**

Delegations for approval of child related costs – in-home support funding are outlined in the associated procedure.

---

**Records File No.:** CHS/20150  
**Date of approval:** 03 January 2013  
**Date of operation:** 07 January 2013  
**Date to be reviewed:** 07 January 2016

---

**Office:** Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  
**Help Contact:** Child Protection Development

---

**Links:**

Legislation

*Child Protection Act 1999*

*Family Services Act 1987*

*Financial Accountability Act 2009*

Policy and procedure

Case planning (263)

Child related costs – carer support (597)

Child related costs – client support and family contact (598)

Child related costs – education (599)

Child related costs – in-home support (630 and procedure)

Child related costs – medical (596)

Child related costs – outfitting (600)

Child related costs – placement funding (628 and procedure)

Child related costs – placement support funding (629 and procedure)

Child related costs – travel (595)

Complex Support Needs Allowance (612)

Expenses – fortnightly caring allowance and interstate foster payments (365)

High support needs allowance (296)

Placement of children in care as part of an integrated child protection response (578)

Residential care (606)

Specific response care (603)

Child Safety Practice Manual

### Forms

CRC funding application

CRC funding budget submission

CRC funding approval schedule

### Rescinded policies

Transitional placements (including emergent accommodation) and flexible funding (602)

---

Michael Hogan

Margaret Allison