

## IMPORTANT LEAVING CARE STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Did you know that there are supports in place for young people who exit out-of-home care (either when they become independent, their court orders expire or they turn 18)?**

This information sheet explains what transition from care plans are (leaving care plans), and what should go into a plan. It gives you extra information about the supports, rules and processes in Queensland (QLD).

**Q. What does the law say about young people leaving care?**

- A. In QLD there is legislation called the *Child Protection Act 1999*, this says how laws on transitioning from care are put into practice. The law is made effective by government policy and procedures. The procedures relating to Transitioning from Care are included in chapter 5 of the Child Safety Practice Manual.

You can view this document at <http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/practice-manual>

**Q. Who is responsible for Transition from Care planning; who do I talk to if I don't have a plan?**

- A. Child Safety Officers are responsible for developing your Transition from Care plan. If you don't have an assigned CSO you can still contact your local Child Safety Services office, your carer or youth worker (if you have one) to say that you'd like to start planning. The phone number for your local Child Safety Services Centre is available at [www.childsafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au) or by calling 1800 811 810.

**Q. At what age does the Transition from Care planning start?**

- A. Government policy says that planning should begin from at least age 15.

**Q. What happens after I turn 18?**

Once you have left care your plan should describe the supports in place for you, and who is responsible. If you have left care, and you need extra support that's not in your plan, you can apply for what is called a Support Service Case – ask your CSO about these.

**Q. What if nothing happens when I ask for a plan? (making a complaint)**

- A. Sometimes these things take time. However, your plan is VERY important! If you have not had a response within a week, you could try writing the worker a letter, sending an email or ringing. It's good to keep records of how you tried to contact your worker and the date.

If your worker has not contacted you to set a meeting time within a month you should ask to speak with a Team Leader or Manager, telling them the steps you've taken, and saying you would like their help to set a date for planning.

1800 655 105

[www.create.org.au](http://www.create.org.au)

If after *all* of this you still have not been involved in developing your transition plan then you can give feedback or make a complaint directly to your Community Visitor or contact the Commission directly at:

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

**T** 1800 688 275 or (07) 3211 6700,  
**SMS** 0418 740 186  
**A** PO Box 15217 Brisbane City East, Qld 4002  
**E** info@ccypcg.qld.gov.au, or via post to  
**W** www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au

**What other supports should I know about?**

You might want to check out the Community Services website at [www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au](http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au) where there is some information for young people leaving care.

**TILA**

The Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) is a national, one-off payment of up to \$1500 that helps people 15 to 25 pay for things like utility connections, moving expenses, appliances, education etc.

Visit [www.tila.org.au](http://www.tila.org.au) or ask your case worker for more information

**These are some state-wide helplines which might be useful**

- Lifeline – 131 114
- Housing And Homelessness Service – 1300 880 882
- Kids Helpline – 1800 551 800
- Headspace: 07 5509 5900

If you are a young person with a disability you may be eligible for support from Disability Services Queensland, contact via telephone: 1800 177 120 or TTY: (07) 3896 3471

**There are also heaps of links and information about leaving care at  
[www.createyourfuture.org.au](http://www.createyourfuture.org.au)**

We hope this information and the 'What's the Plan?' calendar have given you some handy hints about leaving care. As you move towards 18 you might have some more questions....

To make contact with your case worker call: 1800 811 810 or 07 3224 8045 and ask to speak with you worker. You will need to know their name.

If you have a question for CREATE, or need some more  
call us on 1800 655 105, or 07 32553145

Email [qld@create.org.au](mailto:qld@create.org.au) or visit [www.create.org.au](http://www.create.org.au) and [www.createyourfuture.org.au](http://www.createyourfuture.org.au)