

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 South Australia (SA).

Q. What does the law say about young people transitioning from care?

A. In SA there is legislation called the *Child Protection Act 1993*; this says how laws on transitioning from care are put into practice. The law is made effective by government policy. The policy relating to Transitioning from Care is called the *Transitioning from Care Policy*.

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

A. Case workers are responsible for developing your Transition from Care plan. If you don't have an assigned case worker you can still contact the Supervisor of your local Families SA office to say that you'd like to start planning. The phone number for your local office is available at www.dfc.sa.gov.au or by calling the head office on 08 8226 7000

Q. At what age does the leaving care planning start?

A. Planning should begin from at least age 15. In South Australia there are services that are there especially to support you with transitioning from care, they are called Youth Support Services. Your case worker can refer you to this service after your 15 birthday.

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 go back and ask for help until you reach the age of 25.

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 Supervisor 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

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 to either:

Families SA Customer Relations

T 1800 003 305 or 08 8226 6930

OR

The Guardian for Children and Young People

T 1800 ASK OOG or 1800 275 664

A Level 4, East, 50 Grenfell Street Adelaide

W www.gcyp.sa.gov.au

What other supports should I know about?

- You might want to check out the Families SA website at www.dfc.sa.gov.au where there is some information for young people transitioning from care.
- *Post Care Services*: 1800 188 118 (freecall) or 08 8207 2653
- *Youth Support Services*: are services that especially support you with transitioning from care.

The services are:

Northern Youth Support Team

T 08 8256 2756

A 9 Bayer Road, Elizabeth South SA 5112

Southern Youth Support Team

T 08 8371 1984

A 52 Pleasant Avenue, Glandore SA 5160

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 or ask your case worker for more information

**There are also heaps of links and information about leaving care at
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 contact your case worker call the Department on
(08) 8226 7000 or 1800 003 305 and ask to speak to them directly.

If you have a question for CREATE, or need some more information you can call us on
1800 655 105 or 08 8223 6603

Email: sa@create.org.au or visit www.create.org.au and www.createyourfuture.org.au