

TILA

Transition to Independent Living Allowance

What is TILA?

TILA is a one-off payment to young people aged 15 to 25 years who are about to leave, or have left, formal out of home care. It provides up to \$1,500 to help with the costs of starting to live independently.

We asked what you think

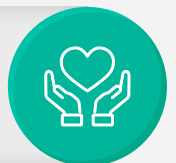
In December 2022, researchers Whereto held workshops with young people, carers and workers from child protection services and support agencies across Australia.

Participants talked about what they knew about TILA, the barriers to accessing it, and what could be done to make it easier to access.

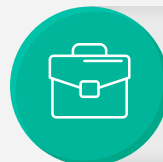
CREATE supported young people who participated in small group discussions.



21 young people



6 carers



19 workers*

*for example, caseworkers or team leaders

What you told us

Young people and non-parent carers face significant barriers to accessing information about TILA and receiving the payment.

Generally information comes from their own networks, not from child protection services. Government departments and agencies need to improve communication and relationships with the young people and carers they support.

Here is what was said ...



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'I hate that no-one has told me about [TILA]. No-one mentioned it to me.'

– Young person

'Young people might be too shy or too proud to ask about the payment. Or they don't have anyone to ask.'

– Young person

'I don't like that you can only apply [for the payment] through your case worker.'

– Young person

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Barriers

- Young people may lack contact with child protection services and agencies.
- Lack of trust and collaboration between some young people and their carers, and with workers in the sector.
- Workers may not be aware of, or tell young people and their carers about, the full range of payments available.
- Workers don't always have the knowledge or experience to support TILA applications, or they may be unclear about what is expected of them.
- There may be changes in workers and support agencies over time that lead to gaps in support for young people's TILA applications.



Our Recommendations

Improve awareness

- Government departments and agencies to share information about TILA with the services young people and their carers use, and with the services young people might access after age 18.
- Make sure workers understand their role in providing information about TILA to young people and carers.

Improve communication

- Support workers to collaborate and build trust with young people and carers.
- Develop practical communication tools for workers (for example, conversation prompts).
- Make it clear to young people, carers and workers how to apply for TILA, who can help, how TILA can be spent, and what other funding is available to young people who have left, or will soon leave, out of home care.
- Share testimonials so workers, young people and carers can understand TILA's practical, real-life benefits.

