

Between 19 and 25 years of age and need financial assistance?

You can apply for financial assistance to improve your successful transition to adulthood.

Funds may be approved for young care leavers who were in care for two years or more from the age of 14 years to:

- Undertake further education or training;
- Improve employment opportunities;
- Develop and maintain relationships with family members;
- Improve links to the wider community;
- Access counselling services; and
- Participate in sporting and creative activities.

The maximum amount of assistance is \$2,500 per year: There are limited funds and approval of the maximum level over a number of years will only be possible in specific circumstances.

If you are living in Tasmania you should contact your local area office to obtain a funding application form.

If you are living outside Tasmania, you should contact the After Care Support Program on (03) 6233 2273 or 1300 654 588.

After Care Support Program

Level 3, 86 Murray Street, Hobart

Phone: (03) 6233 2273

or 1300 654 583

Fax: (03) 6223 1343

Email: Adoption.Service@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Postal Address: GPO Box 538, Hobart, Tas 7001.

CREATE Foundation

A national body that provides a voice for children and young people in care and care leavers up to the age of 25 years.

260 Macquarie Street

HOBART TAS 7000

Phone: (03) 6224 9822

Free Call: 1800 655 105

Web: www.create.org.au



CLAN — Care Leavers Australia Network

A national support and advocacy group for adults who were in orphanages, childrens homes and foster care, including those placed privately.

PO Box 164 Georges Hall NSW 2198

Mobile: 0425 204 747

Email: support@clan.org.au

Web: www.clan.org.au

Tasmanian Adult care leavers can contact CLAN on 1800 008 774



AFTER CARE SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Were you a Ward of the State or Under Guardianship?
- Were you in out of home care in Tasmania?
- Would you like a copy of your file?
- Would you like to find members of your family?
- Are you aged between 19 and 25 years and need financial assistance to get ahead in your life?

Department of
Health and Human Services



MARCH 2011

What is out of home care?

Out of home care refers to the placement of children by State authorities away from their immediate family. It is sometimes referred to as State care. It currently includes placements in foster care, family group homes and cottage care. Previously it included receiving homes, children's homes and orphanages.

These children were known as **wards of the state** but now the term **under guardianship** is used.

What is a personal file?

The Department records information about the circumstances of all children and young people who are in out of home care in departmental files, known as personal files.

How to obtain a copy of your personal file

You can apply for a copy of your personal file by lodging a Privacy Request form with your local area office. To obtain a copy of the form phone:

South: (03) 6230 7650

North: (03) 6336 2376

North West: (03) 6434 6246

If you are not living in Tasmania, you can contact the After Care Support Program to obtain a copy of your file.

Would you like some help reading your file and understanding the information in your file?

There are many reasons why people need help reading their file. The file may contain information that is sensitive or difficult to understand. There may be legal and departmental terms that need explaining. You may be unsure about why some information was recorded. There may be gaps in information.

If you would like to discuss any of the information contained in your file, you can arrange a meeting with the After Care Support Program. This will enable an experienced departmental worker to explain the information and answer any questions.

Phone the After Care Support Program on **(03) 6233 2273** or **1300 654 583** to make an appointment to discuss the information contained on your personal file.

The program is located in Hobart. However, if you have difficulties in travelling to Hobart it may be possible to arrange a meeting in a more convenient location.

Would you like assistance to find members of your family?

Some people who spend long periods of time in care lose contact with members of their family, including brothers and sisters. If you need assistance to find a member of your family, contact the After Care Support Program on **(03) 6233 2273** or **1300 654 583**.

Do you need additional assistance?

Everybody needs some assistance during the transition to independence. It takes time and effort to successfully manage the many challenges of standing on your own two feet. Many young adults who have grown up in out of home care need additional assistance, especially if they do not have the support of their carers or family.

There are many services within the community that provide assistance for those who need it. Organisations such as CREATE and CLAN support people who have been in out of home care.

Sometimes it is a case of not knowing where to find assistance. The After Care Support Program is able to refer you to departmental and community services such as education, housing and health services. This will only be done in discussion with you and providing that you agree to the referral.