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| First Supports brokerage and other financial supports |
| Guide for First Supports providers |

**Note this is a guide only and does not provide an exhaustive list of items that can be purchased/provided**

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| **STAGE OF KINSHIP PLACEMENT** | **BROKERAGE/FINANCIAL SUPPORT OPTIONS** | **EXAMPLES OF WHAT CAN BE PURCHASED/AVAILABLE** | **RESPONSIBILITY** | **EXPECTED OUTCOME** |
| **Establishing a new kinship placement** | Care allowance  Commence within one working day  Contribution to the day to day costs of caring  (for further information see *Care allowance policy and procedures: foster care, kinship care and special needs local adoption*) | Food and utilities  Personal items  Clothing  Entertainment and social/recreational activities  Transport as part of regular routine | Child Protection/authorised Aboriginal agency | Meet the day to day needs of the child in the kinship placement |
| School attendance allowance  Allowance paid quarterly in arrears to contribute to education expenses | Books  Equipment and software  Fees for extracurricular activities |
| Client expenses funding  Purchase of items needed immediately to commence the placement where over and above the care allowance  (refer to the *State-wide client support funding framework*) | Cots/beds required to immediately set up the placement  Nappies and baby formula | Meet the immediate placement establishment needs |
| New placement allowance  Additional amount paid for first 6 months where the carer is receiving level 1 care allowance (not voluntary placements). | Bed linen, furniture, accessories  Personal items  Clothing  Infant bottles and sterilising equipment |
| **Maintaining the new kinship placement in the First Supports program** | First supports brokerage  Flexible brokerage allocated to First Supports providers to purchase items or services that will assist in maintaining or sustaining the new kinship placement or integrating the child into the kinship placement. | Extra furniture or larger appliances  Household maintenance connected with the needs of the child  Payment for a service, item or program that will support the placement  Items or services that support the placement to promote cultural connectedness  One off vehicle maintenance where cost is above the care allowance  Modifications required to the home, eg, security doors  Items/services that will support the child to integrate into the household. This may include family outings or social/recreational activities or play equipment where this is related to the child integrating to the placement (not to support a developmental need)  Contribution to travel/accommodation costs for family holidays/outings  School holiday programs where this is to support the placement, not the child’s development  Therapeutic support/counselling for the carer  Petrol vouchers for time limited excessive transport requirements  Babysitting/child care gap payment where accessed to support the placement and over and above Commonwealth supports  Time limited payment of utilities where this is over and above the care allowance | First Supports provider | Meet the support and stability needs of the new kinship placement |
| Kinship placement brokerage support  Funding to support existing kinship placements at risk of breakdown reasonably beyond the capacity of the First Support brokerage. | Similar to First Supports brokerage  May include the purchase of major capital items | First Supports discusses with child protection/authorised Aboriginal agency or kinship engagement team | Support the ongoing stability needs of the placement |
| Client expenses funding  Funding to address the individual needs of the child  Purchase of items or services to support the safety, developmental, material and wellbeing needs of the child irrespective of the placement type | Counselling for the child  Dental needs (where not eligible for public dental services)  Education needs (where not eligible for other subsidies or programs)  Support the child’s contact arrangements  Child care gap to support developmental needs of the child | First Supports discusses with child protection/authorised Aboriginal agency | Support the child’s safety, developmental and wellbeing needs |
| Additional child care subsidy  A payment by the Australian Government for families who need practical help with the cost of child care to support their child’s wellbeing. | Fee reduction for child care for eligible carers | First Supports to discuss with carer who will need to liaise with the child care provider | Support the ongoing needs of the placement |
| Other financial supports  (see [*Financial support guide for home-based carers*](https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/support-home-based-carers-victoria) for further information about other financial supports available) | Victorian carer card  National Disability Insurance Scheme and other disability supports  Early start kindergarten and kindergarten fee subsidies  Family support payments (Centrelink) and other Commonwealth supports  Camps, schools and excursions fund  State schools relief  Education supports  Dental and health supports | First Supports |

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