

## Factsheet for young people

### Allowances to support Care Leavers – indexation increases

November 2025

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DCJ Allowance rates to support young people have increased from 1 July 2025. This includes the following Allowances:

- Independent Living Allowance (ILA)
- Staying on Allowance (SOA) (paid to carers)
- After Care Allowance
- Post Care Education Financial Support (PCEFS) (paid to carers).

Payments will be backdated to 1 July 2025.

You can find the latest rates and more information on the [DCJ website](#).

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### Why did my allowance go up?

The increase is a little boost to help keep up with rising costs – like food, transport, rent and other everyday things. This is called ‘indexation’ and is based on the *Consumer Price Index*. It helps make sure your government allowances keep up with the cost of living.

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### What is indexation?

Indexation refers to adjusting payments to keep up with rising prices. Every year, things like food, transport, and rent can get more expensive – that’s called the cost of living. So the NSW Government increases allowances to help cover those changes. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) helps to work out how much prices have gone up – and that’s what indexation is all about!

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### Managing money

Think about the best way to use any back payment or allowance you receive to achieve your goals. You can find information about budgeting and saving on the [moneysmart website](#).

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### Where can I get more information?

Talk to your caseworker about financial support for goals like learning to drive, studying at TAFE, or help managing fines or gambling. DCJ can review or update your aftercare plan if your needs or circumstances have changed.

Visit the [NSW Government Youth Hub](#) online for more links and information.

You can also contact the Care Leavers Line on 1800 994 686 or [careleavers@dcj.nsw.gov.au](mailto:careleavers@dcj.nsw.gov.au) for advice and assistance.