



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 270

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Child Protection, Hon Robyn Cahill OAM MLA:

Leaving Care and Post-Care Support

1. **How many young people currently aged 15–17 in care do not have a current leaving care plan?**

Of the 214 children in care aged between 15 and 17 years, 111 did not have a leaving care plan in place.

- a. **If the absence of a leaving care plan is not itself recorded, please provide both the number of young people aged 15–17 in care and the number for whom a current leaving care plan is recorded, so that the difference can be taken.**

Not applicable.

2. **What is the standard departmental timeframe for completing a leaving care plan before a young person turns 18?**

As soon as a young person turns 15 years of age, their care planning automatically moves to Transition to Independence (TTI) care planning.

3. **How does the Department ensure young people can access their financial entitlements where no current plan exists?**

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) provides financial support and entitlements for children in care regardless of whether a care plan is in place.

DCF has TTI Practice Leaders who partner with Anglicare's Moving On program, which provides brokerage support for young people in care. This support remains accessible regardless of whether the young person has an approved plan in place or not.

4. **What accountability measures apply when statutory care planning requirements are not met?**

DCF has policy, procedure and guidance outlining the care plan requirements along with data reporting to track care plan compliance. The Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) has oversight of care plan compliance.

- a. **What action has the Government taken to ensure compliance with care planning requirements, and what additional resourcing has been allocated to guarantee young people leaving care have clear, documented access to their financial entitlements?**

DCF performance and data reporting is utilised to track compliance with care planning requirements.

As outlined in the response to Question 3, there are processes in place for young people to access both practical and financial support through TTI practice leaders and Anglicare's Moving On, regardless of whether the young person has a plan in place.

5. **How does the Department evaluate whether its transition-to-independence programs are working?**

DCF evaluates TTI effectiveness through regular provider performance reporting and monitoring of service use, transition planning, client outcomes and ongoing support needs for young people transitioning from care.

6. **What specific funding is allocated in 2026–27 to prevent young people leaving care from becoming homeless?**

Homelessness prevention activities for young people leaving care are not separately costed within output budgets.

- a. **Under which budget output is that funding recorded?**

Funding to prevent young people leaving care from becoming homeless is provided under 3 outputs, Homelessness Services, Out of Home Care (OOHC) and Family Support.

- b. **How much of that funding is additional to the amount allocated for the same purpose in 2025–26, and how much is a continuation of existing funding?**

The funding is a continuation from 2025-26, with no new funding in 2026-27 and no funding ceased.

- c. **How much of it is direct financial assistance to young people?**

Direct financial assistance, as in monies paid for young people, was \$2.853 million for the 2025-26 financial year.

- d. **What was the exact allocation for homelessness services for young people transitioning to independence in 2025–26?**

Total youth specific homelessness services funding in 2025-26 was \$13.197 million.

- e. What specific budget measures are allocated to ensure young people have access to safe housing at the point they exit care, and under which output are they recorded?**

Under the Homelessness Services output, Homelessness Programs provides \$13.197 million annually to 17 youth specific homelessness services to deliver services to young people aged 15 to 25 years.

This includes 3 supported crisis accommodation services and 5 supported transitional accommodation services, assertive outreach, youth hubs and tenancy sustainability services.

- 7. The Family Support output is funded at \$49.460 million in 2026–27. How much of this is specifically allocated to post-care support services for young people aged 18 to 25 who have exited out-of-home care, including the Moving On program delivered by Anglicare NT and the Housing for Young People program delivered by Mission Australia?**

Post-care support services for young people who have exited OOHC are not disaggregated within the Family Support output.

The 2026-27 budget for Moving On is \$827,700 (excluding GST) (Family Support Output). The Housing for Young People (HFYP) program is not funded from within the Family Support output.

- a. Please provide the exact dollar allocation for Moving On and for Housing for Young People.**

The 2026-27 budget for Moving On is \$827,700 (excluding GST) (Family Support output).

The 2026-27 budget for HFYP is \$967,126 (excluding GST) (Homelessness Services output).

- b. How many full-time equivalent positions are funded to deliver each service across the Territory?**

While the Moving On grant agreement does not specify a number of funded full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to deliver the service, the program currently employs 2 full-time staff in Darwin, one part-time staff member in Katherine and one full-time staff member in Alice Springs.

The HFYP program is funded for a part-time (0.2 FTE) Program Manager, 2 full-time Youth Tenancy Officers and 1 full-time Youth Support Worker.

- c. Please provide the breakdown by program and service provider, including the funded FTE allocation for each.**

The Moving On program is delivered by Anglicare NT and HFYP is delivered by Mission Australia. Please refer to the response to Question 7.b. for the funded FTE allocation.

- d. If post-care support is not separately costed within the Family Support output, at what level is expenditure against that output disaggregated?**

The Moving On grant is solely funded to deliver post-care support services.

- 8. What proportion of allocated funding for the Housing for Young People program is currently translating into delivery of core services (tenancy support and independent living programs)?**

85% of HFYP funding is allocated to direct service provision with management fees capped at 15% of total funding.

- a. What explains any gap between funding, contractual KPIs and actual service provision?**

There is no gap between funding, contractual KPIs and actual service provision.

- b. If delivery against allocated funding is not tracked at service level for that program, what is reported to the Department by the provider, and at what interval?**

The HFYP program is required to report service delivery through the SHS Data Collection. Data is monitored through 6 monthly contract performance management meetings.

- 9. What proportion of allocated funding for the Moving On program is currently translating into delivery of core services (financial brokerage)?**

86% of Moving On funding is allocated to direct service provision with management fees capped at 14% of total funding.

- a. What explains any gap between funding, contractual KPIs and actual service provision?**

There are no gaps between funding, contractual KPIs and actual service provision.

- 10. How many young people aged 18–25 received support through Moving On and Housing for Young People in 2025–26?**

In 2025-26, based on agency-level data, 266 young people aged 18-25 received support through Moving On, and 37 received support through HFYP.

a. How many received tenancy support?

Based on support period data available to March 2026, 15 young people aged 18 - 25 received tenancy support, comprising of 3 through Moving On and 12 through HFYP.

b. How many received financial brokerage?

Based on support period data available to March 2026, 120 young people aged 18 - 25 received financial brokerage through Moving On, with no young people recorded as receiving financial brokerage through HFYP.

c. What outcome measures are used to assess whether those programs are successful?

DCF reports 2 homelessness outcome indicators through Budget Paper No.3:

1. proportion of homelessness service presentations where clients were housed at the end of support
2. proportion of at-risk clients who received assistance and avoided homelessness.

These measures monitor both exits from homelessness and the prevention of homelessness.

HFYP also has service specific homelessness outcomes measured using client data reported through the SSHS Collection (SHSC), including housing status, accommodation needs, case management goals, income, employment and education outcomes at the commencement and conclusion of support.

11. Has the Department undertaken financial modelling of the broader fiscal impacts of youth homelessness (ages 18–25) on other government agencies?

No formal financial modelling has been undertaken by DCF.

a. Can a breakdown of those estimated costs by agency — including health, justice, housing and child protection — be provided?

No formal modelling has been undertaken.