

grand carers support

Today there are more children in NSW being cared for by their grandparents than there are children in foster care. We refer to grandparents in this situation as 'Grand Carers'.

WHO ARE GRAND CARERS?

Here on the NSW Far North Coast with our larger than State average ageing population it means we have a growing number of seniors stepping up and becoming the primary carers of their grandchildren.

Grandcarers take on the role of parenting out of love and concern for the two generations involved and often at great personal cost.

The care they provide may be for short, intermittent or long periods and under a formal or informal arrangement. Formal arrangements can include those where the care of the child is mandated by a welfare authority or a family law parent and/or court order. Informal arrangements are those where the family members have come to a private agreement about who cares for the child or children.



Grandcarers are eligible for a number of benefits from Commonwealth, State and Local governments and community support services. Listed below are the key entitlements.

Department of Human Services - Centrelink

If you're a grandparent or a non-parent caring for a child, you may be able to receive financial assistance, such as Family Tax Benefit or a Foster child Health Care card. Some grandparents with primary care of a grandchild may also be eligible for Grandparent Child Care Benefit. The care of the child may be under a formal or informal arrangement.

Grandparents and other non-parent carers who are caring for children and live in the same house as a parent are generally not eligible to receive help. If you're in this situation please contact Human Services to discuss your circumstances – www.humanservices.gov.au

Grandparent and non-parent carers

You may be a grandparent or non-parent carer if you:

- provide ongoing care for children, and
- are not their legal parent

Being a grandparent or non-parent carer is more than helping the parents with babysitting or school pick-ups.

If you're a grandparent or non-parent carer, you may get extra help such as child care payments and Medicare services.

If you're paid to babysit while the parents work, you may be able to become a registered carer.

Phone Human Services - Families: 136 150

Family Tax Benefit Part A helps Grandcarers with the cost of raising children. Payment is assessed on the family's combined income and is paid per child.

Family Tax Benefit Part B provides extra assistance to single parents, non-parent carers, including grandparents and some couple families with one main income earner.

Double Orphan Pension can help you care for children who are orphans. You may also be eligible if:

- One parent has died and the other parent can't care for the child due to special circumstances, or
- The child is a refugee who can't be cared for by their parents.

Grandparent Child Care Benefit A Grandcarer may be eligible to receive up to 50 hours of Child Care Benefit each week. Grandcarers who are on an income support payment such as a pension will receive Grandparent Child Care Benefit. This covers full cost of approved child care up to 50 hours a week.

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<p>Carer Payment can provide you with income support if you are unable to support yourself through substantial paid employment while you are providing care to a child (under 16 years) with a severe disability or severe medical condition.</p>	
<p>Carer Allowance (under 16 years) is a supplementary payment which you can get either a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a fortnightly payment plus a Health Care Card for the child, or • a Health Care Card for the child. 	
Support Details	Contact
<p>Medicare Safety Net The Medicare Safety Net provides families and individuals with financial assistance for high out-of-pocket costs for out-of-hospital Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) services.</p>	<p>Medicare Safety Net: 132 011 www.humanservices.gov.au</p>
<p>The Supported Care Allowance Grandcarers may be eligible for the Supported Care Allowance where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the relative has Parental responsibility via a Court Order, or • an assessment by Community Services (DoCS) has determined the child or young person to be in need of care and protection and is unable to safely remain with one or both of their parents. <p>Teenage Education Payment Carers of 16 and 17-year-olds in out-of-home care who are engaged in education and training may be eligible for this payment. Payments are made over four terms.</p>	<p>NSW Government Family & Community Services Community Services (DoCS) Ballina: 02 6686 1999 Clarence Valley: 02 6641 2400 Lismore: 02 6623 4900 Tweed Heads: 07 5506 4600 www.community.nsw.gov.au Parents Carers & Families</p>
<p>Legal Aid assists socially and economically disadvantaged people to understand and protect their rights. Grandcarers can access Legal Aid to assist them in legal matters regarding their grandchildren</p>	<p>Legal Aid: 02 6621 2082 www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au</p>
<p>Since 2005 the Back-to-School Program “(the BTS Program)” a joint project between DAISI and NRCF (Northern Rivers Community Foundation) acknowledges the contribution and role of Grandcarers on the NSW Far North Coast by providing a \$50.00 Target gift voucher for each school-aged grandchild in the care of their grandparents to help pay for back to school expenses. The program is funded by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)</p> <p>The vouchers are distributed through local primary and secondary schools. To receive a voucher the Grandcarer needs to contact their grandchild’s school. The school provides the number of Grandcarers and grandchildren to DAISI to enable provision of the Target vouchers. This program is rolled out in Term 1 of each School year.</p>	
	