

Where support is provided

The Leaving Care / After Care Program provides support to young people in the following areas:

- Mildura Rural City Council
- Buloke Shire Council
- Gunnawarra Shire Council
- Swan Hill Rural City Council

If the young people relocate to another part of Victoria, they will be provided with information about the nearest Leaving Care / After Care provider.

How to make a referral

Referrals to the Leaving Care / After Care Program can be submitted by:

- Self-referral (the young person makes direct contact with the program)
- DHHS Programs inclusive of Child Protection, Disability Services, Housing
- Department of Justice Youth Justice Program
- Springboard providers
- Community Service Organisations
- Other community supports such as schools, mental health providers
- Family and Friends

Referral forms can be requested via MASP and submitted to the Team Leader – Placement Support Program via:

- Email: ohcpostcare@masp.org.au
- In person at MASP
- Post: MASP Po Box 1686, Mildura, VIC 3502

Once received, contact will be made with the referring agency/person to discuss the referral and make an appointment to meet the young person.

If you are eligible for the MASP Leaving Care / After Care Program and require assistance in regards to education, training and/or employment, you may be eligible for the MASP Springboard Program. Please ask for information in regards to this.



Mallee Accommodation & Support Program
140 Langtree Avenue Mildura
Telephone 03 5021 6500
Email info@masp.org.au
www.masp.org.au



LEAVING CARE / AFTER CARE PROGRAM

Leaving Care / After Care Program

The Leaving Care / After Care Program provides support to young people aged 16 – 21 years who have been subject to certain DHHS Child Protection Orders, and in most cases have resided in Out of Home Care. The aim of the program is to support eligible young people in preparing and transitioning from the Out of Home Care system, the 3 main areas of the program are:

- Case support/Case management
- Mentoring
- Brokerage (inclusive of TILA and Zero Tuition)

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Leaving Care / After Care Program a young person is required to meet the following criteria:

- Aged between 16 and 21 years
- Are currently or have been subject to a DHHS Child Protection Family Reunification, Care by Secretary or a Long-term Care order, at or after their 16th birthday

Case support/Case management

The Leaving Care / After Care Program provides support to young people and/or their care team in the following areas to ensure their transition from Out of Home Care is as successful as possible:

- Housing (applications, household items)
- Financial management (Centrelink assistance, budgeting)
- Obtaining identification documents
- Employment and training
- Support to obtain L's & P's (inclusive of driving lessons)
- Referral to other services

This can occur via direct contact, indirect contact facilitated by other professionals or secondary consult to the care team. training.

Mentoring

The mentoring component of the Leaving Care / After Care Program is currently facilitated via the MASP Kokoda Program. The aim of this program is to link young people from the community to adult community mentors. While this is voluntary, young people eligible to the Leaving Care / After Care Program are offered this opportunity and are assisted to participate.



Brokerage (inclusive of TILA and Zero Tuition)

The Leaving Care / After Care Program can provide brokerage support for young people to engage successfully in aspects of their lives such as education, training, employment and maintaining housing. However, the young persons allocated Case Worker will assess what brokerage requirements the young person may have and facilitate the provision of this.

TILA

The Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA), is provided by the Australian Government to assist young people who are leaving the Out of Home Care System. It is a single \$1500 payment that can be utilised to assist with purchasing goods to facilitate independent living. The leaving care / after care case workers can assist young people to access this funding.

Zero Tuition

The Zero Tuition initiative is provided by the Victorian Training Guarantee (VTG), and it allows the Leaving Care / After Care case worker to reduce the cost of young people's education and training course fees, for courses deemed eligible via VTG.