



VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS FOR CARERS 2026



Families,
Fairness
and Housing



GPV/KCV acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin nation as the traditional owners of our great land and offers respect to Elders, past and present.

GPV/KCV acknowledges that Aboriginal culture existed in Australia before European settlement and consisted of many community groups. Further, we acknowledge the Indigenous peoples of this land as the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

GPV/KCV acknowledges that laws and policies of the past have inflicted grief and suffering on our fellow Australians and regrets the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

GPV/KCV believes that a society that is inclusive of all is crucial to individual and community wellbeing and will behave with respect towards all irrespective of their race, religion, sexuality, gender or socio-economic background.

GPV/KCV acknowledges 13th of February as National Apology Day, the anniversary of then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, delivering the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples in 2008.

GPV/KCV will take steps that promote a happier and healthier future for Indigenous Australians, particularly the children and young people.

GPV/KCV contact information:

Ph: 0499 969 234

Email: admin@kinshipcarersvictoria.org

www.grandparentsvictoria.org.au

www.kinshipcarersvictoria.org

CARE ALLOWANCE

Direct carer payment: Contributes to day-to-day costs incurred while providing home-based care. Five care allowance levels available based on assessment of child's needs and ongoing specialist or support costs.

More information can be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/support-carers>

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE

School Attendance Allowance - Quarterly payment, paid in arrears to eligible carers of children between the ages of 5 and 18 years to contribute to meeting the educational costs.

More information can be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/support-carers>

HOME STRETCH HOME-BASED CARER ALLOWANCE

Direct carer payment: Contributes to the day-to-day costs incurred caring for a young person aged 18 yrs-21 years (i.e. accommodation, utilities, telephone and internet).

More information can be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/home-stretch>

CLIENT EXPENSES

Support to purchase: items/services that exceed the day-to-day costs of the care allowance contribution, including costs to facilitate access between children and their families.

More information can be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/support-carers>

KINSHIP CARE PLACEMENT SUPPORT

Support to purchase: Time-limited or one-off supports required to establish or stabilise kinship care placements.

More information can be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/support-carers>

PERMANENT CARE

Support to purchase: Flexible funding to meet the extraordinary needs of children transitioning to a permanent care order or on a permanent care order.

More information care be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/support-carers>

KINSHIP CARERS WELCOME PACK

Resources and information available to kinship carers, including advice on where to get information about kinship care and the child protection system in Victoria.

More information can be found at: <https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2017-11/manual-for-kinship-carers.docx>

CARE SUPPORT HELP DESK

Provides support to foster and statutory kinship carers. Initiates applying for critical documents for children in care (Medicare, Birth Certificate) and provides carers with letters to access Centrelink supports.

More information can be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-10/Care%20Support%20Help%20Desk-Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

KINSHIP ENGAGEMENT WORKERS

Placement support for kinship placements, including conducting kinship finding activities to identify potential kinship or respite options.

More information can be found at:

<https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/kinship-care>



STATE SCHOOLS' RELIEF

Provision of non-branded school clothing and footwear free of charge, or subsidised branded uniforms. Also provides free or subsidise materials, learning devices, educational resource and 30-day travel passes.

More information can be found at:

<https://stateschoolsrelief.org.au>

CAMP, SPORTS AND EDUCATION FUND

Contributes to cost of school trips, camps, incursions, outdoor education programs, sporting activities and graduations for children attending a gov or non-gov Victorian primary or secondary school.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

VICTORIAN CARER CARD

Provision of concession fares, free weekend travel and free travel during Carers week for carers. Also provides discounts at a range of retailers.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.carercard.vic.gov.au/>

COMPANION CARD

Provision of free entry into participating venues and events for carers who provide care for eligible children with disability.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.carersvictoria.org.au/benefits/companion-card/>

RESPITE

Funded time-limited placement where child is placed away from the primary kinship or foster carer.

More information can be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/support-carers>

VICTORIAN MANAGED INSURANCE AUTHORITY

Provision of insurance to the property of volunteer caregivers, in the event it is damaged by people in their care.

More information can be found at: <https://www.vmia.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-07/CSO-Volunteer-Care-Givers-property-Policy-Wording-2025-2026.pdf>

DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES VICTORIA

Support for eligible children aged 0-12 to receive some free dental services.

More information can be found at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/dental-health/access-to-victorias-public-dental-care-services>

EDUCATION SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

Delivered by Dept of Education, the program offers one-on-one tutoring support to children and young people who are not engaged, or are showing signs of not being engaged, in school.

More information can be found at: <https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/education-supports-children-care>

YOUTH ACCESS INITIATIVE

Initiative to reduce training costs and waiving TAFE student tuition fees for eligible young people (Young people on child protection orders, youth justice orders and those residing in Victorian Education First Youth Foyers)

More information can be found at:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/youth-access-initiative>



DFFH FUNDED SUPPORTS PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

FIRST SUPPORTS BROKERAGE

Brokerage from First Supports providers to purchase items or services that will assist in maintaining or sustaining the new kinship placement.

More information can be found at: <https://fac.dffh.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Appendix%20B%20-%20First%20Supports%20brokerage%20guide.docx>

CARER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

Free, short-term counselling to eligible carers across Victoria.

More information can be found at:
<https://www.fcav.org.au/cap>

FIRST SUPPORTS PROGRAM

Delivered by CSOs and ACCOs to support new kinship placements, expected to last three months or longer.

More information can be found at: <https://fac.dffh.vic.gov.au/kinship-care-first-supports-program-guidelines>

CARER KAFE

Free online and in person learning and development sessions for Victorian statutory kinship, permanent and foster carers.

More information can be found at:
<https://www.carerkafe.org.au/>

KINSHIP CARERS VICTORIA (KCV)

KCV advocate for and support kinship carers. They provide a free Support and Help Line, and Carer support groups. KCV also provide online fact sheets and resource booklets for carers on a range of topics as well as information on accessing relevant services and supports.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/>

PERMANENT CARE & ADOPTIVE FAMILIES (PCAF)

PCAF's purpose is to give families financial, support, services & advice that supports permanent care and adoptive families to help their children to thrive. PCAF support access to peer support, Carer Assistance Program (CAP), flexible funding and Better Futures & Homestretch.

More information can be found at:

<https://pcafamilies.org.au/>

grandparents
VICTORIA



**Kinship
Carers**
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