Investing in their future

Supporting children and young people in care to access across government services

Safe and well

Supporting families, protecting children
The South Australian Government is committed to achieving better outcomes for children and young people in care.

*Investing in their future* builds on the Rapid Response initiative introduced in 2005 to highlight initiatives for children and young people. It aims to assist children in care to receive the highest priority access to services in order to achieve better outcomes in their health, education and wellbeing.

*Investing in their future* signifies a re-branding of Rapid Response, which better reflects the intent, aspirations and desired outcomes for children and young people. It reaffirms the government’s commitment to providing essential services to South Australia’s most vulnerable children and young people as detailed in the whole of government child protection strategy, *Safe and well: Supporting families, protecting children*.

We want to see children and young people in care not only have all their basic needs met, but to thrive across all life domains. By investing early, our government aims to see children flourish and help break intergenerational contact with the child protection system.

Everyone has a responsibility for protecting children. By working together to achieve the outcomes outlined in this framework, it is my aim that the disadvantage experienced by children in care is reduced and that they reach their full potential in life.

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**Minister’s foreword**

Hon Rachel Sanderson MP  
Minister for Child Protection

**Message from the CE**

We want to give children and young people in care the best start in life so they can be successful adults who can contribute to their community in ways that best suit their individual abilities and needs.

This may include supporting engagement in their education, accessing the workforce, having social connections, and making a positive contribution to their community, however this is achieved.

The initiatives identified through *Investing in their future* would not have been possible without whole of government support. This work acknowledges that the needs of children and young people in care can only be met with the assistance of a number of partners.

Although *Investing in their future* is a State Government response to improving the outcomes for children and young people in care, there are a range of other organisations that are also playing a vital role in achieving positive outcomes for children and young people in care.

These include a number of peak bodies, statutory authorities, commonwealth agencies and non-government agencies. This shows the commitment across the state to providing positive outcomes for children and young people in care.

Cathy Taylor  
Chief Executive, Department for Child Protection
What is Investing in their future?

*Investing in their future* is an initiative that assists children and young people in care to access a range of services to enable them to thrive and reach their full potential.

It is a key initiative in *Safe and well: Supporting families, protecting children*, which outlines the whole of government commitment across three key focus areas: supporting vulnerable families, protecting children in care and investing in their future.

*Investing in their future* reflects the actions taken by the State Government in the ‘Investing’ space, which acknowledges the efforts we make now are critical in setting children and young people up for success and helping break intergenerational cycles of trauma, abuse and neglect. This also includes supporting carers and parents of children in care.

Its aim is to:

- improve the long term outcomes and lives of children and young people in care and post care across education, health and development, life skills, identity and culture, relationships, connection to community and general wellbeing
- provide the framework for children and young people in care to receive improved access, or a dedicated service response, to a range of culturally appropriate services and initiatives to assist them in reaching their full potential
- facilitate improved coordination across government services resulting in a strong and supportive system that works together and fosters creativity in providing services that improve the outcomes for children and young people in care
- develop targeted services and initiatives that are aimed at maintaining Aboriginal children and young people’s connection to family, culture and community
- ensure agencies focus on delivering and improving their services and initiatives to children and young people in care.

Who is eligible to access these services?

Eligibility includes children and young people placed under the following orders and agreements:

- Custody and guardianship orders pursuant to section 53 of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* (the Act) for a period of 6 months or more
- Unaccompanied humanitarian minors under the Guardianship of the Chief Executive
- Family Group Conference arrangements initiated prior to the commencement of the Act, and subject to transitional arrangements.
What services are available for children and young people in care?

The list below includes services that are part of the Investing in their future initiative and developed in partnership with South Australian government agencies.

There are a range of Commonwealth government and non-government services available to children and young people in care, and in the general community. Although these are not part of Investing in their future, some of these have also been included below.

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<th>SERVICES</th>
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<td>Health services</td>
<td>• Preliminary health check</td>
<td>Department for Health and</td>
<td>The child or young person’s DCP caseworker can help refer you to these services through:</td>
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<td>• Comprehensive health and development assessment</td>
<td>Wellbeing</td>
<td>• Child and Family Services</td>
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<td>• Ongoing health assessment and monitoring</td>
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<td>• Health management plan and ongoing review</td>
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<td>• Your local health network</td>
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<td>• Youth health (immunisation, sexual health, drug and alcohol)</td>
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<td>• Antenatal program (medical, midwifery, psychosocial and Aboriginal</td>
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<td>maternal infant care)</td>
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<td>• Carer support for infants</td>
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<td>• Free ambulance cover</td>
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<td>Dental services</td>
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<td>Department for Health and</td>
<td>The child or young person’s DCP caseworker can help refer you to these services through:</td>
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<td>• Dental and orthodontic treatment</td>
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<td>• Adelaide Dental Hospital</td>
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<td>Therapeutic support</td>
<td>• Support from a specialist disability team to facilitate access to the</td>
<td>Department for Child Protection</td>
<td>The child or young person’s DCP caseworker can help refer you to these services through:</td>
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<td>NDIS (where eligible)</td>
<td>Yarrow Place</td>
<td>• Your local DCP office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Therapeutic intervention and support services for abuse, trauma and</td>
<td>Department for Education</td>
<td>• Yarrow Place</td>
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<td>sexual exploitation</td>
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<td>• The child’s preschool or school</td>
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<td>• Psychological and speech pathology assessments</td>
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<td>• Community and country based services</td>
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<td>• In-patient services (Helen Mayo House, Boylan Ward, Department of</td>
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<td>• Your local health network</td>
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<td>Psychological Medicine, Flinders Medical Centre Consultation</td>
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<td>• DHS Community and Family Services</td>
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<td>and Liaison Service)</td>
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<td>• Specialist services (Adolescent Sexual Assault Prevention Program)</td>
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<td>• Priority access to the Intensive Safer Family Programs for parents of</td>
<td>Department of Human Services (DHS)</td>
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Investing in their future

Learning support
- School card
- One Plan
- School engagement program
- Mentoring and tutoring programs
- Priority access to Student Support Services
- Increased resources and support for preschools and schools with children who have specific learning needs
- Access to staff who support the learning of Aboriginal children
- Waiver of student course fees at any approved Registered Training Organisation

Department for Education
Registered Training Organisations
The child or young person’s DCP caseworker can help refer you to these services through:
- The child’s preschool or school
- Approved Registered Training Organisations, including TAFE SA
You can also call the Skills Employment Infoline to find out what courses and careers are available on 1800 506 266 or visit:
- http://www.skills.sa.gov.au

Preschool & school enrolments
- Enrolment in a government preschool from 3 years (can commence at any time of the year)
- Option to continue at a government preschool until 6 years
- An additional childcare subsidy (wellbeing)
- Prioritised government preschool and school enrolments

Department for Education
Department of Education, Skills and Employment
Children in care attending government preschools are eligible for 12 hours of preschool after they turn 3. They will then be eligible for 15 hours per week in the year before they start school, as part of the Commonwealth Universal Access to Early Childhood Education, available to all children. They may also be eligible for a childcare subsidy available for low and middle income families in the general community.
The child or young person’s DCP caseworker can help refer you to these services through:
- Student Support Services
- The child’s preschool or school
- Centrelink
You can also visit:

Transition to independence
- Housing assistance
- Support to gain a driver’s license
- Extended carer payments to 21 years
- Transition to Independent Living Allowance (a one off payment of up to $1,500)
- Post care support services
- Dame Roma Mitchell grant

SA Housing Authority (SAHA)
Department for Child Protection
Department of Social Services
Dame Roma Mitchell Trust

Department of Social Services
Dame Roma Mitchell Grants Board
The child or young person’s DCP caseworker can help refer you to these services through:
- Your local DCP office
- Your local SAHA office
- Department of Social Services
- Dame Roma Mitchell Trust
- Relationships Australia SA
You can also visit:

Recreational activities
- Sport and recreation programs
- Free reading packs from Little Big Book Club (0-6 years)
- Fee waiver for VACSWIM Water Safety and Survival program

Department for Child Protection
Office for Recreation Sport and Racing
Raising Literacy Australia
VACSWIM*
Children and young people, including those in the general community, are also eligible to receive a $100 sports voucher.
The child or young person’s DCP caseworker can help refer you to these services through:
- Your local DCP office
- Little Big Book Club
- VACSWIM
You can also visit:

*Some swimming venues may charge entry fees
How do children and young people access the service?

A child or young person’s DCP caseworker can provide further information and referral assistance. Some services can also be accessed via Student Support Services, the child or young person’s preschool or school, or directly from the service itself.

Contact your local DCP office or see the range of resources available on the Department for Child Protection website.

What if a service isn’t listed?

South Australian Government agencies are committed to improving the lives of children and young people.

Please note that not all services may be available across all metropolitan and regional areas. Some of the services listed are for children and young people in the general community. This is not an exhaustive list.

Children and young people in care and their carers are encouraged to discuss their service needs with their DCP caseworker.

Investing in their future partners

The following agencies are committed to providing services to support the current Investing in their future initiatives:

- Department for Health and Wellbeing
- Department of Human Services
- Department for Education
- Department for Innovation and Skills
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Further information

Available from the Department for Child Protection website.

Department for Child Protection
GPO Box 1072, Adelaide SA 5001
Level 1, 31 Flinders Street, Adelaide, South Australia
Tel 08 8124 4185
www.childprotection.sa.gov.au