



# Frequently asked questions

## Flexible respite support payment

### Who is eligible for the flexible respite support payment?

The payment is available to the following carers with at least one active placement as at the payment date of the relevant quarter:

- Approved primary carers, who provide care on behalf of the Chief Executive for Child Protection.
- Temporary carers who are not yet approved carers in accordance with section 77 of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017*.

Carers eligible to receive the flexible respite support payment include:

- kinship carers
- general foster carers
- specialist foster carers
- specific child only carers, and
- temporary carers

If a child or young person enters into a placement shortly after the flexible respite support payment has been made for the quarter, the new carer will not receive the flexible respite support payment until the next scheduled payment (if eligible following the subsequent payment date).

If a child or young person moves placement shortly after the flexible respite support payment has been made for the quarter, the new carer will not receive an additional flexible respite support payment nor will the flexible respite support payment be recovered from the previous carer who was eligible as at the quarterly payment date.

### Why didn't I receive the flexible respite support payment?

Carers who are currently ineligible to receive respite care will not be eligible to receive the flexible respite support payment. This includes the following:

- Carers caring for young people 18 years and over
- Carers taking part in shared care arrangements
  - It is noted that there may be circumstances where respite can be deemed appropriate in some shared care placements, however for the intent of the flexible respite support payment those situations are deemed exceptional and not applicable.
- Carers supporting Aboriginal children and young people as part of their Cultural Plan
- Carers who only provide care to a child or young person under Long Term Guardianship (Specified Person) orders or previously known 'Other Person Guardianship' orders. Exception is given to those who may care for one or more children and young people whom would otherwise fall within the carer eligibility criteria.

### What can I use the flexible respite support payment for?

The flexible respite funding can be used to provide 'respite-like' support for eligible carers. Some examples of services it could be used for include:

- Transport for children and young people



- Babysitting and after school care
- Car maintenance
- Disability support services
- Gardening
- Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers, children, and young people with Sorry Business
- Food delivery costs
- Cleaning
- Extracurricular activities (for example, outings, concerts, or camps)

### **When will I receive my flexible respite support payment?**

Eligible carers will receive the flexible respite support payment four times a year with the first payment being made 25 January 2024.

### **Who should I contact if I believe I haven't received my payment?**

Call the carer payment team on (08) 822 66666 or email [DCPCarerPayments@sa.gov.au](mailto:DCPCarerPayments@sa.gov.au)

### **Who should I contact if I need clarification on how to use the flexible respite payment?**

Refer to the [Carer Support Payment](#) page on the DCP website for more information on carer support payments.

### **I would like to provide feedback on payment.**

If you wish to provide feedback on the payment, please complete our [online feedback form](#).