



Government of South Australia

Department for Child Protection

Executive Services

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DCP family based carer update

Dear valued carer

We know that the coronavirus is placing increased stress and pressure on many families. It is important to take care of yourself during this time, and to reach out when you need it. The Department of Health's www.HeadtoHealth.gov.au COVID19 page has information and resources to help look after your mental health during this difficult time.

Please also remember to talk to your agency or kinship support worker if you are struggling – they are here to help. If you think the child or young person in your care may need extra support, please talk to their case worker immediately.

We are regularly updating the online carer platform with a range of information related to the coronavirus and your caring role. This includes recent updates on the topics outlined overleaf.

Now more than ever children and young people need support, reassurance and love as we navigate an uncertain and difficult period together. As always, I thank you for your ongoing commitment to the vulnerable children and young people in your care.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Taylor".

Cathy Taylor
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

15 April 2020

For more on these topics and other carer information visit

<https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/carers/resources-for-carers/coronavirus-covid-19>

Family contact and home visits

Some of you have been asking about how the department will approach family contact visits and home visits during this time. We have updated the online carer platform with information on these two topics. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to your carer support worker in the first instance.

Free child care

During this difficult time, child care and other daytime activities can support your health and wellbeing, and the stability of your child's placement.

The Australian Government has announced that children are now eligible for free early childhood education and care until 30 June 2020. The initiative prioritises vulnerable and disadvantaged children, which includes children in care. Visit the carer platform for more information, or talk to your child's case worker about potential child care options.

Home activities for fun and learning

We know that being stuck at home can be hard - for adults and children alike! With school holidays now upon us and government guidelines limiting unnecessary travel, we've published some ideas for keeping busy at home. Check the online carer platform for activities and ideas to keep kids entertained and engaged.

We are also looking at options to supply a limited number of home activity packs to help carers. Priority will be given to carers who don't have reliable internet connections or who require additional support.

Grocery delivery – supporting NDIS participants

Do you care for a child or young person with an NDIS plan? If so, you can now access priority home grocery delivery from a number of Australia's leading supermarkets.

Visiting local offices

As you may already know, many of our staff are now working from different locations on a rotational basis to protect their health and to maintain good social distancing practices. We ask that you only visit your local office by appointment, and that you first check-in with case workers by phone or video conference. This process will help us all avoid unnecessary face-to-face contact.