



Cost of living payment for grandcarers

Fact sheet

Overview

The State Government is providing a one-off cost of living payment to eligible **grandparent carers**, foster carers, family carers and special guardian carers from 16 January 2024.

The payment is to assist carer households with cost of living pressures, including return to school costs for children.

Approximately 5,600 households who care for over 7,700 children will receive the cost of living payment, totalling more than \$3.6 million.

More information is available at: www.communities.wa.gov.au/carers-col-payment

Questions and answers

What is the cost of living payment and who is eligible?

The State Government appreciates the incredible work carers do every day to support children in care and recognises that this work has become even more challenging with the increased cost of living.

A one-off cost of living payment will be provided to eligible carers from 16 January 2024 to ease cost of living pressures, including the added pressure of return to school costs.

Primary **grandparent carers** (as at 31 December 2023) who received the Grandcarers Support Scheme payment in 2023 will be eligible to receive a one-off payment of \$500 for the first child in their care, and \$250 for each additional child in their household. This includes payment for children who were aged under 18 at the time and have subsequently aged out.

When and how will the payment be made to grandparent carers?

Eligible **grandparent carers** will automatically receive the cost of living payment from the Department of Communities in their bank account from 16 January 2024.

This will be deposited to the same account they received their most recent Grandcarers Support Scheme payment by the Department.

If your address or bank details have changed, please notify Wanslea as soon as possible at gss@wanslea.org.au or 1800 794 909.

What can I use the money for and is it taxable?

Although it is being paid to grandparent carers to assist with cost of living expenses, including return to school costs, the cost of living payment can be used at the carer's discretion.

You should seek advice from your tax professional in relation to any income tax impacts. Visit the Australian Taxation Office website for more information: www.ato.gov.au

Will the payment impact Grandcarers Support Scheme payments or social housing rental fees?

The cost of living payment is one-off and will **not** impact current or future Grandcarers Support Scheme applications made by grandparent carers.

The cost of living payment will **not** impact rental fees for grandparent carers living in social housing properties.

Who can I contact if I didn't receive a payment or wasn't paid the correct amount?

Grandparent carers can contact Wanslea on 1800 794 909 or gss@wanslea.org.au if they do not receive a payment by the end of January 2024.