

Supplementary information to the resource publication:

“Financial support for grandparents and other relative carers”

As with any publication, especially those including reference to financial benefits, the information can become outdated quickly. This is an update for the resource publication **Financial support for grandparents and other relative carers**.

Note: To ensure the current accuracy of these guidelines, please always refer to the relevant website or department.

Child Care Benefit

(refer to page 7 of the resource)

On 7 July 2008, the Family Assistance Office introduced changes to the operation of both the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR). These include:

- an increase in the CCTR from 30% to 50% of out-of-pocket child care expenses for approved child care, with a rebate of up to \$7,500 (indexed) per child per year, for eligible families;
- removal of the minimum CCB rate for approved child care. There was previously a minimum amount of CCB regardless of a person's income.

From 1 October 2008 a parent or carer who is eligible for the CCTR will receive 50% of this gap payment each quarter through the CCTR.

Families can get up to 50 hours of CCB per child per week when both parents, or the sole parent, undertake any of the activities, or a combination of activities that satisfy the work test.

As well as the contact information on p.7 regarding the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Tax Rebate further details are to be found in **The Child Care Service Handbook** on-line:

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/early_childhood/publications_resources/child_care_services_handbook_2007_2008.htm

Grandparent Child Care Benefit

(refer to page 7 of the resource)

Where grandparents are employed or self funded retirees the CCB will be subjected to an income test. See the reference to further information above.

Foster Child Health Care Card

Centrelink uses a very broad definition of foster care, which encompasses relative carers. The Guide to Social Security Law defines Foster Care as follows:

A child is considered to be in foster care where:

- the child is not the natural or adopted child of the carer, and
- the carer is responsible for the day-to-day care, welfare and development of the child.

Foster care refers to both FORMAL and INFORMAL care arrangements:

- formal foster care is defined as care managed by a state or territory child protection or welfare authority, and
- informal foster care is defined as care provided by a relative (e.g. a grandparent or aunt), or by a friend through a private arrangement.

Therefore to apply for a Foster Child Health Care Card, the carer selects the '*foster care*' box on the form.

Please see link: <http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/forms/ss050.htm>

Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)

(refer to page 19)

As well as contact details provided, further information can be obtained by contacting the TILA Officer on **1300 761 961** (National) / **02 4225 7059** (Local) or Fax: **02 4228 4613** or tila@syfs.org.au .