

How can you get TILA?

Goods or services must be purchased on your behalf by a community organisation (or any other supporting organisation) helping your move to independent living.

It is **not** made as a cash payment.

You and your community organisation need to fill in a referral assessment form, which outlines what support is being sought. The form is sent to an administering organisation (details on the FaCS web-site) who then process the form and provide TILA funds to your community organisation.

If you have left care and are not receiving support from an organisation, you may still be eligible for TILA. You should contact FaCS for advice on claiming TILA.



Australian Government
**Department of Family and
Community Services**

TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENT LIVING ALLOWANCE —

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE LEAVING, OR HAVE LEFT, CARE

How to find out more?

To find out more about TILA:

- ask your state or territory community services or welfare department or
- ask your carer or an organisation that is already helping you make plans to leave care or
- contact FaCS:

Website: www.facs.gov.au (click on 'Youth' and 'Transition to Independent Living Allowance')

Phone: 1300 653 227 (charged at the local call rate)

Email: Helpdesk.TILA@facs.gov.au or

Write: to a FaCS office at GPO Box 9820 in your capital city.



What is TILA?

The Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) is one-off support from the Australian Government to help young people who are leaving care to meet some of the costs involved in moving to independent living.

TILA can help you by paying for up to \$1,000 worth of things like: purchasing a uniform or tools for a your first job, textbooks for studying, or items to help you set-up a home.



Who is eligible?

You must:

- be a permanent Australian resident and
- be aged between 15 and 25 and
- be approaching or experiencing your transition to independent living and
- be at risk of an unsuccessful transition to independent living and
- not have received TILA before and
- have been in, or are currently in, *formal care* and/or
- have been in, or are currently in, *informal care*.

What is Formal Care?

To be considered to have been in, or to be currently in, *formal care* you must:

- be the subject of a care and protection order that places you in the care and custody of someone who isn't your parent; or
- have been the subject of a care and protection order that placed you in the care and custody of someone who wasn't your parent and your order has ceased/expired because of your age.



What is Informal Care?

To be considered to have been in, or to be currently in, *informal care* you must have:

- 'Independent Status' for Centrelink payments, because you cannot live with your parents and
- currently be in, or have previously been in, informal out-of-home care and/or
- currently be in, or have previously been in, Indigenous kinship care.

For further explanation of these terms, check out the TILA guidelines, available from the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) website at <http://www.facs.gov.au> by following the links to 'Youth' and 'Transition to Independent Living Allowance'.

Important: You can only receive TILA once. The maximum value of TILA support is \$1,000.