

Child Safety POLICY

Title: Unaccompanied humanitarian minors – support related costs

Policy No: 614-3

Policy Statement:

The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (Child Safety) may provide financial support for a child who is an unaccompanied humanitarian minor and for whom Child Safety has accepted the delegated responsibilities and functions of guardianship under the *Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946*.

Support for unaccompanied humanitarian minors will be provided in accordance with the child's case plan and this policy.

Child Safety is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the *Human Rights Act 2019*, Child Safety has an obligation to take action and respond to unaccompanied humanitarian minors (IGOC minors) living in Queensland in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights.

Principles:

- The safety, wellbeing and best interests of the child, both throughout childhood and the rest of the child's life, are paramount.
- Decision-making for the child will be timely and culturally sensitive.
- Wherever possible, the child will be supported to reside in a care environment that offers stability and security and is able to ensure that their health, education, religious, therapeutic, social and cultural needs are met.
- The child has the right to be consulted about decisions affecting their life and the child, where appropriate to their age and level of maturity, and their custodian will be provided with appropriate services and supports to enable their participation in decision-making relating to the child.
- Child Safety staff will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and obligations under the *Human Rights Act 2019*.
- Accredited interpreters will be engaged, as required, to ensure effective communication with a child and their custodian.

Objectives:

This policy aims to ensure that a child's daily care needs and other needs specific to their status as an unaccompanied humanitarian minor are met by enabling them, or their custodian where relevant, to seek reimbursement of support related costs.

Scope:

This policy refers to unaccompanied humanitarian minors, and their custodians, for whom Child Safety has accepted the delegated responsibilities and functions of guardianship for the unaccompanied humanitarian minors from the Minister of Home Affairs under the *Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946*.

Support for unaccompanied humanitarian minors will be provided in accordance with the child's case plan and the following criteria:

- support related costs reimbursement is approved for costs that are specific to the child's individual needs as an unaccompanied humanitarian minor, and are over and above the financial support provided by the maintenance allowance paid to the child's custodian for minors wards under the age of 16 by the Department of Home Affairs, or payments through Centrelink for a child over the age of 16. All Centrelink payments are subject to applications meeting the eligibility criteria. All other avenues for financial support must be explored first, for example, other government allowances and benefits
- decisions regarding access to support related costs must be made in accordance with the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and all goods and services purchased must be considered reasonable by the relevant financial delegate
- all support related costs expenditure is in accordance with appropriate financial delegations and standards
- all transactions are to be substantiated (for example, by way of receipts) and all reimbursement documentation is to be maintained to ensure an adequate audit trail
- all items purchased under support related costs belong to the child
- eligible costs for consideration and preapproval conditions are outlined in Child Safety's child related costs policies. All approved costs will be charged to account code 54455 UHM – Support Related Costs.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- The designated adoption officer and senior team leader, Adoption and Permanent Care Services are responsible for ensuring the development and regular review of the child's case plan, which is focused on meeting the assessed needs of the child.
- The Manager, Adoption and Permanent Care Services is responsible for approving all support related costs for the child under the *Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946*.

Authority:

Financial Accountability Act 2009

Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946

Delegations:

Refer to instruments of delegation for delegations relevant to unaccompanied humanitarian minors.

Refer to the Financial delegations schedule for relevant financial delegations.

Records File No.:	Not applicable
Date of approval:	04 January 2022
Date of operation:	04 January 2022
Date to be reviewed:	04 January 2025

Office:	Office of the Chief Practitioner
Help Contact:	Child Protection Practice

Links:**Procedures**

Child Safety Practice Manual

Related Legislation or Standard

Child Protection Act 1999

Human Rights Act 2019

Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Delegation

Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Regulations 2001

Related Policies

Child Related Costs (645)

Expenses – Payment Methods (FPE008.1)

Unaccompanied humanitarian minor – delegated powers and functions of guardianship (613-3)

Rescinded Policies

614-2 Unaccompanied humanitarian minor wards – support related costs

Deidre Mulkerin

Director-General