

Welcome!

Please **mute** your microphone

Please **turn on your camera**
(webcam)

We will start at **2.02pm**



Draft report on out-of-home care costs and pricing

Workshop for ACCOs

29 April 2025

Housekeeping



Please mute your microphones



Cameras optional



Teams chat function



Opportunities for questions

Agenda

- 01 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
- 02 Overview of Draft Report
- 03 Discussion 1 – draft recommendations on carers
- 04 Discussion 2 – casework and administration costs
- 05 Discussion 3 – costs for ACCOs and Aboriginal children
- 06 Open questions and discussion
- 07 Next steps and closing remarks



Welcome to the workshop Acknowledgement of Country

Carmel Donnelly PSM
Chair

What we've been asked to do



Compare efficient costs for
DCJ and non-government
providers



Develop benchmark costs
for different placement
types



Make recommendations
on care allowances



Make recommendations
on pricing structure

Our approach to the review



Estimating efficient cost components
as building blocks

e.g. casework costs, admin costs, costs of
caring

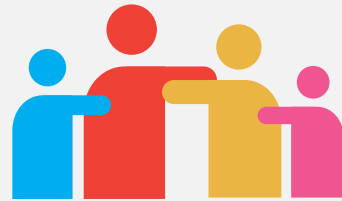


Build-up of benchmark costs
by placement type
using relevant components

Overview of our draft findings and recommendations



A simplified pricing approach based on more accurate costings



Changes to support carers to continue caring



Increased transparency and visibility



Funding to be more cost-reflective for Aboriginal children in care

Draft recommendation – fortnightly care allowance (\$2024-25)

Age bracket	Current standard care allowance	Proposed standard care allowance
0-4	581	698
5-13	656	789
14-15	880	1,109
16-17	586 (plus TEP and Youth Allowance if eligible)	1,083

Note: our recommended care allowance for 16–17-year-olds makes no adjustment to account for the Teenage Education Payment (TEP) or Youth Allowance which some 16–17-year-olds may be eligible for.

Draft recommendations to support carers



Reimbursement of actuals for out-of-pocket costs for medical, dental, well being and family connections



Investigate OOHHC health care card to cover out-of-pocket costs for medical and wellbeing costs

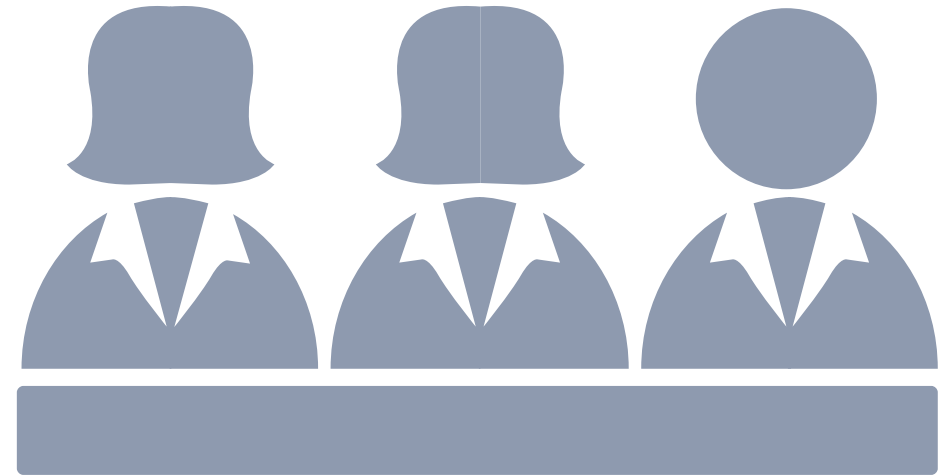


DCJ to consider centralising payment of the care allowance to all carers



A set up payment available to carers when a placement commences

Feedback & Discussion 1



Casework analysis

Baseline cost
by placement type



Additional loadings
for some children with
additional casework needs
(Aboriginal, restoration and
permanency, CALD)

Casework for Aboriginal children

\$2,630

per child per year



Based on

33% more casework time or 21 hours

per year per Aboriginal child to cover additional casework tasks

Restoration cost build up (\$14,000 pa for 2 years)

Additional
casework hours
\$6,570



Case plan goal
review
\$2,270



Family time
\$5,830



Parenting
programs and
other supports
\$3,180



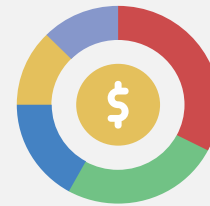
Administration and overheads



Administrative costs vary by placement type on a dollar per child basis



Reported admin costs varied materially

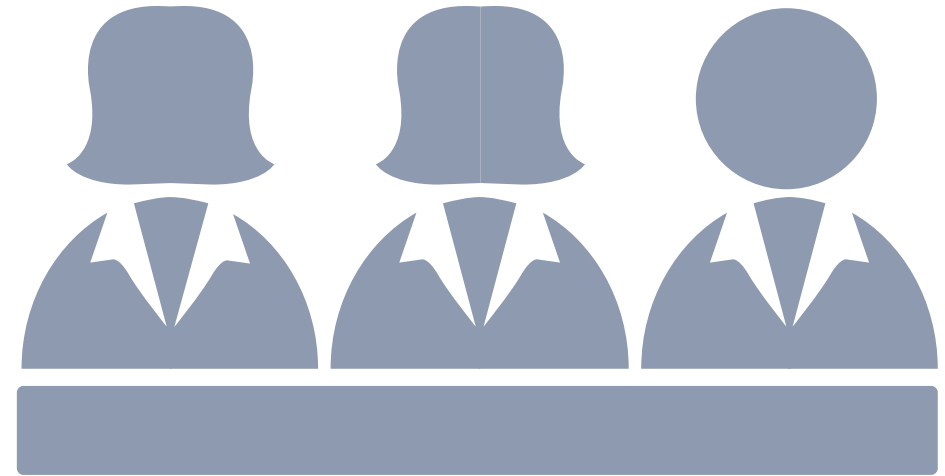


Admin expenditure is significantly higher than assumed under the PSP



ACCOs tend to have higher admin costs than non-ACCO providers

Feedback & Discussion 2



ACCO organisational costs

\$6,820

per child per year



Additional functions/costs including

- community work and cultural advocacy
- cultural consultation
- staffing (including recruitment and addressing staff welfare)

Raised from around \$1,800 per child per year in PSP

Care for Aboriginal children



Aboriginal cultural planning and cultural connections

Upfront \$6,700
Ongoing \$4,380 per year

Raised from
\$4,320 upfront and
\$510 per year ongoing in PSP

Based on casework, cultural workers
and cultural programs



Connection to Country

Costs to facilitate return to Country
funded on actual costs



Transitions

\$21,300 per initiated transition

Based on casework and admin lead-up cost, as well as carer assessment and training

Home-based care – cost components



Provider costs

Casework, carer recruitment and assessment, carer training, insurance and admin (plus additional costs for ACCOs)

Based on needs of the child

Aboriginal cultural support, CALD support, restoration and permanency



Carers

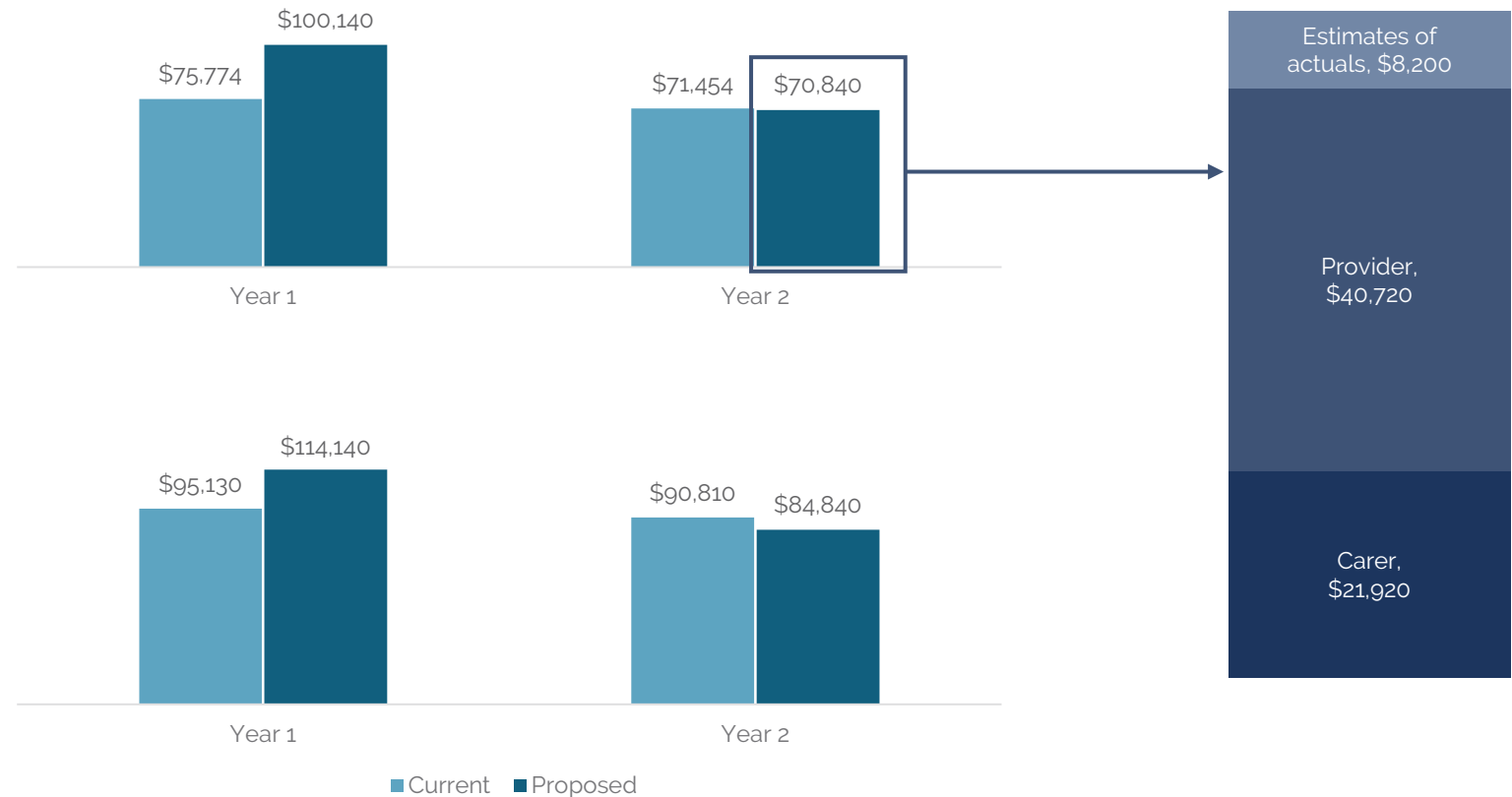
Care allowance, respite care, reimbursement of medical and therapeutic costs, set up costs

Based on needs of the child

High needs care allowance

Home-based care – total price examples*

Aboriginal child, low needs,
aged 5-13, long term care with
ACCO



**includes care allowance, costs to provider and estimate of variable medical/therapeutic/family time costs.*

Residential care – Benchmarks



House related costs

Less likely to change with vacancies
(e.g. rent, maintenance, some staffing and utilities)



House establishment

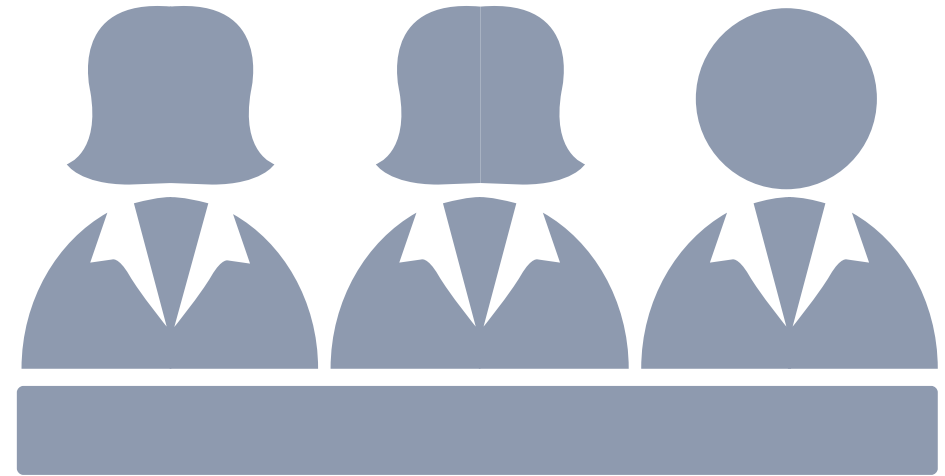
Periodic house establishment costs or as agreed.



Child related costs

(Care allowance, casework, therapeutic care, medical needs, transport costs)

Feedback & Discussion 3



Next steps



Draft Report submissions due by 9 May 2025

Contact us

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