

# Government Allowances

## Information for Parents and Carers

### Centrelink

Centrelink is a Federal Government organisation that provides many services including employment services and financial assistance.

There are many different types of assistance available to young people and their parents or carers including Health Care Cards (HCC), mobility allowances, youth allowances, rent assistance and various forms of Carer Allowance. There are strict criteria that need to be met to be eligible for payments.

#### Carer Allowance for a Child under 16 years

There are two (2) levels of *Carer Allowance* available:

**Level 1:** Health Care Card only.

**Level 2:** Fortnightly Carer Allowance (including health Care Card)

The level that is given depends on how much help a young person needs with their diabetes.

#### Level 1 – Health Care Card Only

The same application pack is used when applying for a Health Care Card only and for the *Carer Allowance (with HCC)*, and eligibility is based on the amount of care that is provided to your child.

#### Level 2 – Fortnightly *Carer Allowance* and a Health Care Card

If your child is under 16 yrs and living with you (either parent or guardian) then **you** may apply for the "*Carer Allowance for a Child Under 6 years*". Level 2 *Carer Allowance* is for **you** to assist with your child's care needs.

**Note:** Carers of children under 10 years with Type 1 diabetes automatically qualify for the *Carer Allowance (with HCC)*.

Eligibility for Level 2 is based on your child's functional abilities across a range of activities compared to other children of the same age who do not have a serious medical condition or disability.

**Note:** 'Carer Payment' is an additional sum of money for **carers of profoundly disabled children** requiring full-time and constant care.

#### Application Forms

The application packs containing the application forms are available from either your diabetes clinic, a Centrelink Customer Service Centre or their website [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

Visit the Sweet Transition website at [www.sweet.org.au](http://www.sweet.org.au)

## Carer Allowance for person over 16 years

If your child is over 16 years of age and is living with you (either parent or guardian) then **you** can apply for the “*Carer Allowance for a person over 16 years of age*”. This allowance does not include a Health Care Card.

Eligibility depends on the level of care provided by you (either parent or guardian) and relates to your child’s physical, intellectual and/or psychiatric disability.

## Additional criteria to qualify for a Carer Allowance over 16 years

Both you and your child must be “Australian Residents” and living together at home. Applications can also be made if care is shared in more than one home, for example, separated parents with the child spending time in each home.

## Ex Carer Allowance Health Care Card for person over 16 years

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2007 a new Health Care Card became available. To receive this Health Care Card the following criteria must be met:

- You (either parent or guardian) must have received either a Level 1 or Level 2 *Carer Allowance* on the day before your child turned 16 years.
- Your child must be a full-time student
- Your child must be under 26 years of age

Application forms are available either on the Centrelink website: [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) or by contacting Centrelink on **13 2717** or at any Centrelink Customer Service Centre.

## Completion of Forms

Assistance in completing application forms for the *Carer Allowance* is available from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JD RF). They can be contacted on **1300 363 126** or **Helpline 3356 2856** or [www.jdrf.org.au](http://www.jdrf.org.au)

## Important Contact Details

Centrelink Disability, Sickness and Carers Line:	<b>132717</b>
Centrelink Youth and Students Line:	<b>132490</b>
Centrelink	<b>13 2717</b>
Commonwealth Family and Community Services (FACSIA) <a href="http://www.facsia.gov.au">www.facsia.gov.au</a>	<b>(02) 6244 7128</b>
JDRF <a href="http://www.jdrf.org.au">www.jdrf.org.au</a>	<b>1800 363 126</b>
JDRF Carers Allowance Helpline	<b>3356 2856</b>
Centrelink website: <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a>	

Visit the Sweet Transition website at [www.sweet.org.au](http://www.sweet.org.au)