

# Government Allowances

## *Information for Health Professionals*

### Centrelink

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

There are many different types of assistance available to young people with diabetes and their families including Health Care Cards (HCC), mobility allowances, youth allowances, rent assistance and various forms of Carer Allowance. However, there are strict eligibility criteria that need to be met.

It is important that all health professionals are aware of the various types of assistance available to young people with diabetes and their families and to ensure this information is given to them.

### *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 the child.

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

If a child is under 16 yrs and living with their parent or guardian then the parent or guardian may apply for the “*Carer Allowance for a Child Under 16 years*”. Level 2 *Carer Allowance* is for the **parent or guardian** to assist with their 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 the 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 a Centrelink Customer Service Centre or at their website, [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

### Carer Allowance for person over 16 years

If a young person over 16 years of age is living with their parent or guardian then, the **parent or guardian** 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 the parent or guardian and relates to the child’s physical, intellectual and/or psychiatric disability.

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

Both the child and parent or guardian 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:

- The parent or guardian must have received either a Level 1 or Level 2 *Carer Allowance* on the day before the child turned 16 years.
- The young person must be a full-time student
- The young person 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) 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 (JDRF). They can be contacted on **1300 363 126** 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 (FACSA) <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> or ‘click’	<b>1800 363 126</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)