

Government Allowances

Information for Young People

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 you or to your parents or guardian 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 the young person.

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

If you are under 16 and living with a parent or guardian (ie. someone who cares for you) then **they** may apply for the “*Carer Allowance for a Child Under 16 years*”. Level 2 *Carer Allowance* is for **your carer** to assist them with your 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 functional abilities across a range of activities compared to other young people 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 pack containing the application forms are available from either your diabetes clinic, a Centrelink Customer Service Centre or their website www.centrelink.gov.au

Visit the Sweet Transition website at www.sweet.org.au

Carer Allowance for person over 16 years

If you are over 16 years and living with a parent or guardian (ie. someone who cares for you) then **they** may 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 your parent or guardian and relates to a person’s physical, intellectual and/or psychiatric disability.

Additional criteria to qualify for a Carer Allowance over 16 years

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

Ex Carer Allowance Health Care Card for person over 16 years

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

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

Application forms are available either on the Centrelink website: 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 (JDRF). They can be contacted on **1300 363 126** or **Helpline 3356 2856** or www.jdrf.org.au

Important Contact Details

Centrelink Disability, Sickness and Carers Line:	132717
Centrelink Youth and Students Line:	132490
Centrelink	13 2717
Commonwealth Family and Community Services (FACSA) www.facsia.gov.au	(02) 6244 7128
JDRF www.jdrf.org.au	1800 363 126
JDRF Carers Allowance Helpline	3356 2856
Centrelink website: www.centrelink.gov.au	