

## Supported Care Allowance & Youth Allowance Payment Changes

The NSW Government and Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) have made a budgetary decision to reduce Carer allowances by the Youth Allowance amount when a Young Person in care reaches 16 years of age. The Supported Care Allowance/Foster Care Allowance for 16 & 17 year olds has been reduced by \$212.70 per fortnight.

### **Centrelink Youth Allowance**

Centrelink Youth Allowance is now approx. \$220.40 per fortnight for Young People living at home. The Youth Allowance is NOT means tested however Family Tax part A & B is means tested.

If a Carer is not entitled to Family Tax benefit then the young person should claim for Youth Allowance if they are still studying. Young people still studying and working a part time job can still earn \$236.00 a fortnight before their Youth Allowance is reduced. When the Young Person claims youth allowance the Carer will lose his/her Family Tax benefit both A & B.

The Carer does not have to give up their Family Tax Benefits unless the Young Person applies directly to Centrelink for the Youth Allowance. However, the increased rate of Family Tax Benefits Part A may be a better option for your family and it is worth doing the maths to explore this. To receive Family Tax Benefits Part A the Young Person needs to stop their Youth Allowance and a claim for Family Tax Benefits must be lodged by the Carer.

Please note that whatever you decide for your family, the Supported Care Allowance & Foster Care Allowance will be reduced by \$212.70 per fortnight.

In order to make an informed decision & to understand your individual family situation, we encourage you to make an appointment with the Centrelink Social Worker in your area.

Please do not hesitate to contact CCNSW 24 hour Support Line with any queries on 1300 794 653.

