

Information for parents of secondary students at Catholic Special School

When your child turns 14, the services and supports you use can change. For some things your child will be considered an adult. They may also be able to access different Centrelink payments when they turn 16.

The following information has been sourced from acd.org.au, servicesaustralia.gov.au and our school parents whom we thank for sharing their experiences with us.

Tax File Number

Students need a Tax File Number (TFN) to open a bank account, apply for Centrelink benefits, etc. TFN applications may require either certified copies of identification or a visit to a Post Office or Services Australia to verify identification.

You can apply for a TFN at any age. If your child is unable to sign their application:

- *the parent or guardian can sign on a child's behalf if aged 15 years or younger.

- *the parent can sign with a signed statement from doctor if child is aged 16 - 17 years.

- *A court-appointed guardian can sign with proof of guardianship if the applicant is aged 18 years +

If aged 15+, TFNs can be applied for online if you have a strong myID.

More information can be found at ato.gov.au.

Legal Matters

Consider applying for 'Power of Administration', 'Power of Guardianship' and 'Power of Attorney'. You can obtain these documents by contacting the Office of the Public Advocate: www.opa.sa.gov.au phone: 08 8342 8200. These forms require a medical report as well as a psychological report. This application can be submitted 4-8 weeks prior to your young person turning 18.

medicare

Once a child turns 14, families are no longer able to access a child's Medicare record. To act as a nominee for Medicare, you need to fill out the following form: 'Authorisation to act on an incapacitated persons behalf for Medicare' ([MO050](#)).

Bank account

Open a bank account for your child under their own name. This can be easier when the child is under 14 years old. A joint bank account with parent and child may also be an option. Your bank will be able to provide more information.

Companion Card

People who need permanent care to participate in community activities/events can apply for a Companion Card. A free companion ticket may be available when purchasing a ticket for the cardholder at participating venues. Search 'Companion Card' on www.sa.gov.au.

myGov

myGov will provide access to your child's Medicare, Centrelink and My Health Record. Some families have found that by completing form 'Authorising a person or organisation to enquire or act on your behalf' ([SS313](#)), their child's myGov account becomes linked to their own myGov sign in. This may be an easier option to creating a separate sign in for your child.

myID

Your myID is your digital identity and unique to you. The myID app lets you prove who you are and securely sign in to participating government online services, such as myGov. myID can be applied for via myid.gov.au when aged 15 years or older.

Email

Create a separate email address to use when creating accounts for your child and for correspondence.

Photo ID

Consider applying for a passport to provide a photographic source of primary ID. Some families have found this useful when attending Centrelink meetings on behalf of their young person, and applying for a TFN & bank account, etc. Proof of Age cards are available if aged 18+.

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Once your child turns 16, benefits may change and there may be new options for your child. You will need to look at the eligibility criteria to see what suits your child and family circumstances. The application process is quite involved so allow plenty of time. Payments will usually be back paid to the date you first lodge your claim (or 16th birthday). Paperwork can be lodged 13 weeks prior to turning 16.

DSP & more...

At the age of 16, students may be entitled to a [Disability Support Pension](#) (DSP), and a [Pensioner Education Supplement](#).

A [Youth Disability Supplement](#) automatically applies to those who are receiving the DSP and aged under 21 years. The income of the parent/guardian does not influence eligibility. Students have to have a disability that impacts their employability. Refer to Services Australia for details on [how to claim](#). Forms that you may need to complete include:

- Disability Support Pension (DSP) claim form ([SA466](#))
- Consent to Disclose Medical Information Form ([SA472](#))
- DSP Medical Evidence Checklist Form ([SA473](#))
- Income and Assets form - DSP - this form is relevant to the child's income and assets, NOT parent income ([SA369](#))
- Pensioner Education Supplement - information and claim form ([SY004](#)) (to be submitted at the end of each calendar year).

School Letter

The DSP/carers forms may need a letter from the school. A copy of this letter can be requested by contacting the school office.

Health Care Card

The 'Claim for Ex-Carer Allowance (Child) - Health Care Card' (form [SS456](#)) will enable you to apply for a new Health Care Card for your student (16yo+). The form will ask for you to provide your child's Unique Student Identifier (USI).

Carer Allowance / Payment

Carer Allowance / Payment does not automatically transfer over once your child turns 16. Services Australia will write to you when you need to do this. Alternatively call 132717 and ask them to change details from a 'child record' to an 'adult record' so that your payment does not stop. You may need a *Medical Report* (form [SA332A](#)) completed by a health professional if medical details are not already on record for your Carer Allowance / Payment. For more information on the Carer Payment / Allowance go to: [Ci002](#).

Medical Information

Centrelink will request medical information to support your DSP claim. Some basic information may be available on My Health Record via [my.gov.au](#). In addition they may need any diagnostic reports, cognitive assessments, adaptive behaviour or IQ reports. If you do not have any evidence available, Centrelink may arrange for an assessment by their psychologist for their purposes.

Authority

'Authorising a person or organisation to enquire or act on your behalf' (form [SS313](#)) Use this form to enable you to enquire or act on your young person's behalf for Centrelink payments and services.



Centrelink may require a USI for your student. This can be obtained via www.usi.gov.au.

Processes are constantly changing; if you find any of this information to be inaccurate, or have useful information to share so that we can update this document for future families, please contact info@stpats.catholic.edu.au or call 08 8266 8700.