




HOW CAN I ACCESS THIS SERVICE?

-  **Call** 4979 1120
-  **Email** aftercare@catholiccare.org.au
-  **Visit** catholiccare.org.au/family

To find out more, please give us a call:
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Specialist Care Leaver Program



ABOUT CATHOLICCCARE HUNTER-MANNING

CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning is a not-for-profit organisation that has worked to deliver support services and programs that meet the needs of children, young people, individuals, and families in our community for over sixty years.

You do not have to be a Catholic to work with or receive assistance and support from our organisation.



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CatholicCare Social Services Hunter-Manning has been providing the Specialist Care Leaver Program in the Hunter-Manning region and beyond for more than a decade.

The program supports care leavers, especially when there are issues preventing them from returning to their previous service provider. It reduces barriers for moderate and high-needs young people, giving them access to timely, trauma-informed, and holistic support to improve life outcomes.

The program also creates opportunities to develop their independence by navigating challenges and making informed decisions about their lives.



WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

CatholicCare's Intensive Specialists will:

- ▶ Work with the young people to identify tasks and goals and appropriate supports, referral pathways.
- ▶ Advocate with Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) for a review of aftercare financial plans and complete submissions for out-of-guidelines funding to cover expenses related to the current needs of the care leaver.
- ▶ Provide mentoring support to care leavers with specific goals.
- ▶ Facilitate group information sessions.
- ▶ Source additional support and entitlements for care leavers such as TILA, NDIS, Rent Choice Youth, Independent Living Allowance, and work development orders.
- ▶ Make referrals and work collaboratively with other providers to access legal, medical, housing, and other general community supports.

WHO DO WE HELP?

To be eligible for referral, the young person must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- ▶ Be aged 18-24 and have moderate to high needs.
- ▶ Be aged 18-24, have moved, and are no longer able to be supported by the Permanency Support Program (PSP) provider.
- ▶ Specialist assistance is required regarding cultural elements of the young person's leaving care plan.
- ▶ For young people aged 17, where there are high and complex needs, early referral to a specialist aftercare provider can be required to support transition planning and coordination.
- ▶ The young person may also be experiencing homelessness, issues impacting health and wellbeing, limited access to supports, including formal and informal supports, and may not currently be working or studying.

If a young person is working with Youth Initiative, in SIL or TSIL, they are not eligible for this program.