



**BETTER FUTURES(Easy Read)**  
(Formerly Leaving Care After Care and Springboard)

### Referral Process

The child protection case manager/contracted case manager/ ACAC case manager determines if you are eligible for a referral to Better Futures at 15 years and 9 months.

### Enquiries

For any further information or any enquiries please email the team at:  
[betterfutures@masp.org.au](mailto:betterfutures@masp.org.au)

### TILA

The Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA), is provided by the Australian Government to assist young people who are leaving the Out of Home Care System. It is a single \$1500 payment that can be utilised to assist with purchasing goods to facilitate independent living. Your Better Futures case workers can assist you to access this funding.

### Skills First Youth Access Initiative

The Skills First Youth Access Initiative is one of a number of programs across Government that aim to provide educational opportunities for young people who may have disengaged or struggled in mainstream education. and it allows the Better Futures case worker to reduce the cost of your education and training course fees, for courses deemed eligible.

### Where support is provided

The Better Futures Program provides support to young people in the following areas:

- Mildura Rural City Council
- Buloke Shire Council
- Gunnarwarra Shire Council
- Swan Hill Rural City Council

If you relocate to another part of Victoria, you will be provided with information about the nearest Better Futures provider and supported with a referral.



118-124 Pine Avenue Mildura  
Telephone 03 5021 6500  
Email [info@masp.org.au](mailto:info@masp.org.au)  
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**Better Futures**

The Better futures Program provides support to young people aged 15 and 9 months – 21 years who have been subject to certain DHHS Child Protection Orders, and in most cases have resided in Out of Home Care. The aim of the program is to support care teams and carers in preparing young people to transition to independence and then support the young person until the age of 21.

The three main areas of the program are:

- Secondary Consultation
- Case Support
- Brokerage

**Eligibility for Better Futures**

You are eligible for Better Futures if you have been in or are in foster, kinship and residential care and are subject to a family reunification order, a care by Secretary order or a long-term care order on or after your sixteenth birthday. Following the end of the order, you can receive support up until 21 years of age.

If you are on a permanent care order, interim accommodation order and family preservation order you are not eligible for Better Futures.

**Flexible levels of case work support**

Flexible levels of support are provided to you both in care and post care, beginning at 15 years and 9 months and ending when the you turn 21 years of age. You may be placed on Active Hold, receive Limited Support or Active Supports. The level of support you receive will be determined by the Better Futures worker in consultation with You and/or the care team. The level of support provided is likely to change over time, with Your changing needs, circumstances and existing supports.

Supports may include assistance with:

- Education, training and/or employment
- Referrals to specialist supports if required, such as counselling and drug and alcohol services
- To identify suitable and safe housing options
- Connection to community and building networks of support outside of the care system

The level of support received will be determined by drawing on information from the Better Futures Referral documents, discussion with yourself and the 15+ Care and Transition Plan as you move towards independence.

When you are in care and still some time away from transitioning to independence, the primary role of Better Futures is likely to be providing secondary consultation to case managers and care teams.

If you have left care you may be placed on Active Hold, where Better Futures will 'check-in' to see how you are going every three months.

Support from Better Futures is guided by the young person's goals and participation and reviewed regularly.

**Secondary consultation**

A Better Futures worker provides secondary consultation to care teams, lending expertise to the transition planning process. The level of secondary consultation is determined by the MASP Better Futures capacity and your circumstances.

Secondary consultation can be offered through different ways including:

- The Better Futures worker attending a care team meeting
- Support in identifying opportunities across housing, living skills, education, employment and training, health and wellbeing and community connections; in line with your 15+ Care and Transition plan and your support needs, goals and aspirations.
- Introducing the Advantaged Thinking resources and tools in the care team
- Supporting access to community connections and mentoring
- Providing information and advice about Home Stretch (for more information on Home Stretch refer to Home Stretch Practice Advice).

**Brokerage**

The Better Futures Program can provide brokerage support for you to engage successfully in aspects of your life such as education, training, employment and maintaining housing. However, your allocated Case Worker will assess what brokerage requirements you may have and facilitate the provision of this.

