

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 2**

**Question No: 456**

**Topic:** Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA)

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Moore** asked:

There have been concerns about the change in eligibility - can you please take us through those changes and their rationale?

**Answer:**

The changes to TILA which commenced on 1 January 2014 include the requirement that the young person is in or has left formal care, has case worker support and a transition to independence plan in place. Young people leaving informal care arrangements (such as living with extended family members) are no longer eligible to receive TILA. The changes were designed to ensure that the \$3.512m available through TILA is targeted towards the most vulnerable young people, those without kin networks of support. A summary of the key changes to eligibility is below.

<b>Previously</b>	<b>From 1 January</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Eligibility was based on a broad set of income support payment types, and available to both informal and formal care leavers.	The young person must have been, or currently be in, formal care on a court order.	Young people leaving care on a court order are at high risk of poor long term employment and other outcomes unless adequate support is provided at the time of transition.
The young person had to apply within two years of leaving care.	All eligible young people who are transitioning to independence can apply between the ages 15-25.	All eligible young people can receive TILA at time of transition, as long as it is before the age of 26. This approach provides greater flexibility for young people.
A range of case worker types could access the payment on behalf of a young person.	Leaving and after care case workers, as determined by the state/territory department in charge of child protection, have access to TILA payment system.	Ensures that more targeted support is available to young people, and that TILA is linked to specific care-leaving supports.
No transition to independence plan was required.	TILA case workers are required to complete a transition to independence plan.	Ensures that the TILA is directed to priority items and supports broader goals in relation to housing, employment and education.

More detailed information about the administration of TILA can be found at [www.dss.gov.au/tila](http://www.dss.gov.au/tila).