

How can we help?

Next Step Plus services are voluntary, hassle-free and designed to engage with you as you move towards a more independent life. How involved Next Step Plus gets in helping out is totally up to you.

Our Next Step Plus team can help in lots of ways:



Financial Guidance

Find out what financial supports are available, help with Centrelink, access your Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA), learn how to budget and manage your money.



Health and Wellbeing

Access to healthcare services and counselling Assistance in connecting with community resources, gyms, sports clubs, cultural groups, and more.



Housing Support

Assistance with rental applications and bond loans, guidance on maintaining tenancy, plus support with setting up your own utility accounts (electricity, gas and internet).



Employment

Support to create a professional resume, linking with a job network provider, searching for employment and interview preparation.



Education and Training

Guidance on enrolling in educational courses and vocational training that align with your aspirations, accessing free training and help with your Prep L's and logbook.

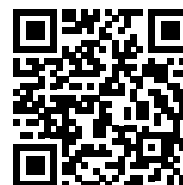


Identification

Help to organise other things like Identification, Medicare Card, Birth Certificate and Drivers Licence.



Feedback Your feedback matters so let us know how we're doing to make our services even better, complete our GRAICCHS Feedback Form (QR code) or talk to our friendly staff on 1800 293 293 (*Option 2 for Next Step Plus*)



Complaints You can make a complaint about any aspect of the services using the GRAICCHS Feedback Form (linked above) or contact the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety by scanning this QR code.



Gladstone Region Aboriginal and Islander Community Controlled Health Service Ltd

Gladstone & Biloela Region

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 5:00pm
27-29 Goondoon St
Gladstone Q 4680

1800 293 293

After Hours **0459 926 387**

Email: nextstepplus@nhulundu.com.au

ACN. 610 044 641



Supporting young adults transition
from care to independent living



Gladstone Region Aboriginal and Islander Community Controlled Health Service Ltd

Support Services Case

If you're turning 18 soon, you can ask your child safety officer to put together a plan to help you leave care.

This plan is called a support service case and it includes your goals and the steps to take to help you move out and live independently.

Your Child Safety Officer will support you until all your goals have been met. In most cases, a Support Service Case will last for 12 months.

Extended Post Care Support

If you turned 18 after 1 July 2023, you are eligible for Extended Post Care Support (EPCS).

GRAICCHS Next Step Plus service will work with you to provide help with things like:

- Staying connected to family, culture, Country and community
- Applying for a job or enrolling in a training course
- Getting to appointments
- Your health and wellbeing needs

If you leave care to live as an independent adult, you may be able to access financial support from your EPCS Service to help cover your everyday living costs.

If you remain living with your carer family, Child Safety will continue paying the care allowance to your carers so they can look after you up to your 21st birthday.

Youth Housing and Reintegration Services

Youth Housing and Reintegration Services (YHARS) help young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. If you're aged 17-21 and are leaving or have left care and need help with finding a safe place to live, YHARS can provide support, financial help and access to housing.



Next Step Plus

If you're aged 15 - 25 and have a care experience any time after your 12th birthday, Next Step Plus is a free service that can support you.

If you're leaving care or have left care, Next Step Plus will provide advice and help with things like finding accommodation, managing money, writing a resume or finding a job.

Transition to Independent Living Allowance

If you're aged 15-25 and are leaving or have left care, you may be eligible for a Transition to Independent Living Allowance (TILA) payment of up to \$1,500. This can be used for lots of things like paying for your rental bond, furniture, course fees or buying a car.

Talk to your Child Safety Officer or GRAICCHS Next Step Plus case manager about the TILA payment.

Youth Housing Essentials

Youth Housing Essentials is one-off financial assistance of up to \$5,000 for young people up to 25 years to help with the cost of moving to independent living, such as:

- furniture, white goods and other essential home items
- things you might need for work or training, such as clothing or stationery
- transport and moving costs
- mobile phone and pre-paid phone credits.

Your Child Safety Officer or GRAICCHS Next Step Plus case manager can assist you apply for this financial assistance.