

# Invest In Me Funding Data Definitions



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Communities**

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## Home Stretch WA-Invest in Me Funding Data Definitions

Transition Coaches are responsible for recording the use of Invest In Me brokerage funding into each Home Stretch Providers data tracking system.

All brokerage spending must be recorded and include the following data;

- The amount spent
- The respective life domain for that expensive
- Whether the spending was Aspirational or Emergency

### Data Definitions

When recording data against spending, the Transition Coach firsts makes an assessment about whether the identified costs are arising from an Aspirational need or an Emergency Response.

#### Aspirational

- Young person has identified and planned for future expenses that are consistent with their longer-term goals.
- Funding is primarily used to build the individual capacity and opportunities available to young people.
- Funding may be ongoing and support a young person towards long term aspirations.

#### Emergency

- Unplanned short-term costs that arise and require financial support to resolve
- Focus on reducing harm and preventing short term problems from becoming major barriers for the future.
- The young person is supported to exhaust other mainstream options
- Typically one off payments.

## Safety Net Spending Categories

Transition Coaches must allocate costs to one of the domains outlined in *Transitioning from out-of-home care to Independence: A Nationally Consistent Approach to Planning*.

The following list provides guidance around how expenses should be recorded to insure consistency in data collection;

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### **Financial security:**

- Any financial assistance provided to young people to assist them to manage or repay debt [limited circumstances]
- Any financial assistance provided to assist with the payment of utilities, that are not directly related to maintaining housing. Only when other government grants and emergency relief options have been exhausted.
- Emergency material aid for essential needs (Food, clothing, phone/ phone credit, transport assistance ie Smart riders, vehicle repairs, childcare).
- Access to specialist financial counselling or support, including financial advice and resources to improve a young persons financial literacy.

### **Identity and culture:**

- Costs associated with activities that promote a young person's connection to country, culture, and their community.
- Costs associated with activities that support a young person to develop an understanding of their beliefs and values.
  - Personal development related to improving knowledge and awareness of culture or personal identity. Cultural mentoring or cultural learning camps
- Travel costs associated with attending significant places or events that have a cultural meaning to the young person.
- Specialist family finding services for young people that require expertise in that young persons culture. [Who's My Mob etc]

### **Life and after-care skills:**

- Activities and events that provide opportunities to develop life skills, specifically those that support a young person to live independently and improve their awareness of their rights.
  - Costs associated with activities that support a young person to build confidence in interpersonal relationships and improve their social skills.
  - Low cost activities that assist with developing rapport and engagement with support services and Home Stretch transition coach [small meals or coffees that are part of an engagement plan developed by the transition coach]
- Costs related to celebrations of important life milestones
- Driving Lessons

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### Housing:

- Expenses related to the establishment and maintenance of safe and stable housing options
- Payments made to prevent eviction (Rent, rent arrears, repairs) Does NOT include assistance to repay debts or other financial barriers to establishing housing.
- Essential home equipment (inc furniture/white goods) [Where the TILA Grant is not able to be used or has been exhausted]
- Does not include costs related to the payment of Housing Allowance or Staying On Subsidy.

### Health:

- Costs and expenses related to the provision of health, dental mental health and allied health services. Private services are only accessed where there is a clear rationale for their use and the young person would be placed at significant disadvantage or risk by unreasonable waiting periods.
- Payment of health insurance, ambulance insurance and other related costs that assist a young person to have better access to health care.
- Includes expenses related to personal care/hygiene products, and relevant services.

### Education & Training:

- Costs related to education, training or employment related skill development. Where possible the Rapid Response Framework should be activated and subsidised training costs explored.
- Costs related to education, training or employment related skill development. Where possible the Rapid Response Framework should be activated and subsidised training costs explored.
- Educational equipment or materials/resources that are relevant to and individuals career pathway. (inc laptops, textbooks, uniforms, tools ie chef knives/ makeup brushes)
- Education related travel expenses.

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### **Employment:**

- Costs that relate to finding or maintaining employment that cannot be met by the federal job active system or other specialist employment services funded to work with young people
- Professional registration, accreditation or licensing costs [WWC, professional association]
- Employment specific equipment/uniforms (inc uniforms, tools, clothing for interviews)
- Financial assistance provided to young people to assist in the establishment of their own small enterprise and small business [business insurance, registration costs] Only when all other resources have been exhausted.
- Professional career guidance and other professional development opportunities (inc conferences, training, camps)

### **Social relationships and support networks:**

- Costs associated with supporting a young person to connect or reconnect with biological family members, including the cost of travel or to attend specific activities that support these opportunities
- Costs related to travel that is specifically for the purpose of family reunification or connection
- For young people in Staying On Agreements, any additional expenses related to supporting or resourcing the living arrangement. Can include costs associated with supporting carers with specialist education, training or support that is directly relevant to supporting the young person. \*These expenses require management approval and are limited in scope and scale.
- Costs related to the young person engaging with recreational activities including sports, short courses, events and other opportunities that are directly related to developing their support circles, friendships and natural networks.

### **Legal matters:**

- Any costs related to a young person seek legal advice or legal support. Assistance to navigate Criminal Injury Compensation claims should be sought through existing services provided to young people in care.
- Payment for access or processing of any legal documents that are not related to employment or education. Including fees related to applications to the court and family court. [Birth certificates, access to medical records etc]