

Interim Staying On

Home Stretch

WA

Guide for Home Stretch WA Service Providers



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

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Community of Practice
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Why Interim Staying On Agreements?

The pace and success of the metropolitan rollout has significantly exceeded all expectations, with providers rapidly reaching their initial funded capacity, far earlier than predicted.

Unfortunately, the higher demand has resulted in the need to establish a waitlist for young people wanting to access Home Stretch WA in the metropolitan area. While metropolitan Home Stretch WA providers continue to take referrals for young people, they are unable to onboard them until a place becomes available.

How are we responding to increased metropolitan demand?

The project team have been working closely with metropolitan providers and District Champions to increase capacity through a range of initiatives. However, it is anticipated that any significant increase of capacity will take some time to establish.

To reduce the impact on the system and ensure as many young people as possible can benefit from Home Stretch WA, the project team have worked with metropolitan Home Stretch WA providers to reintroduce Interim Staying On Agreements.

This is a temporary measure, as evidence collected from the Trial and rollout highlight the critical importance of the full Home Stretch WA service offer to young people.

What is an Interim Staying On Agreement?

Interim Staying On Agreements are a temporary measure for eligible young people living with a foster or family carer in the metropolitan area, to assist with waitlist management.

It provides the opportunity to access the Home Stretch WA Staying On Subsidy to help with housing costs and living expenses once the young person turns 18 and leaves care.

This interim arrangement provides the same financial payment to carers, but with much lower levels of support to young people. As soon as a Transition Coach place becomes available, the young person and family will be transitioned to the full Home Stretch WA service offer.

How can young people and carers access an Interim Staying On Agreement?

District Office staff should continue to offer referrals for young people living in the metropolitan area to the relevant Home Stretch WA provider, completing the Stage I Referral Form.

When discussing the referral, case managers should advise the young person and carer/s that there is currently a waitlist for services in the metropolitan area, and that the Home Stretch WA provider will be in contact to discuss the opportunity to negotiate an Interim Staying On Agreement, which can be put in place until the full service offer becomes available.

It is important that young people and carers are provided consistent information about Home Stretch WA using the existing information, fact sheets and resources that are accessible from the Sharepoint site and on the Home Stretch WA website.

District Office staff are encouraged to continue describing the service offer in full. Metropolitan Home Stretch WA providers will continue to accept referrals, screening them to identify young people living in family or foster care, who are eligible for the Interim Staying On.

The Home Stretch WA provider will allocate eligible young people and carers to their Staying On Facilitator who will follow up the referral and offer to establish an Interim Staying On Agreement. Case managers should offer young people links to other relevant services as part of leaving care planning.

Why don't Department Case Managers negotiate the Interim Staying On Agreement?

Historically, Interim Staying On Agreements were brokered by District Office staff when there was no commissioned Home Stretch WA service provider in the region.

After consultation with Districts and Home Stretch WA providers, it was decided there was capacity for providers to offer this service and it would allow for a smoother transition into the Home Stretch WA service when a place becomes available.

Key Documents

Core Documents – Interim Staying On Agreements

- Home Stretch WA Interim Staying On Agreement - Template
- Home Stretch WA Interim Staying On Subsidy - Application Form

Supporting Documents- Interim Staying On Agreements

- Home Stretch WA Staying On Guide for Young People and Carers
- Home Stretch WA – Fact Sheet - Young People
- Home Stretch WA Setting up a Staying On Agreement - Discussion Guide

Roles & Responsibilities

Home Stretch WA Staying On Facilitator / Home Stretch WA Provider

- Support the carer/s and family to develop the Interim Staying On Agreement.
- Support the carer/s and family with the living arrangement by referring to resources and specialised supports.
- Facilitate and organise reviews of the Interim Staying On Agreement and Subsidy as required.
- Support the young person and family to transition to being supported by a Home Stretch WA provider when they become available in the region.

Department of Communities

- Support the young person to explore their goals and aspirations prior to turning 18, review and update the leaving care plan for the young person and assist with their transition to independence.
- Support the young person and carer(s) to develop the Interim Staying On Agreement.
- Be available for support to the young person and carer(s) if they need assistance with the living arrangement.
- Provide financial support and resources to the young person after they turn 18, through a District Office.
- Support the young person and family to transition to being supported by a Home Stretch WA provider when they become available in the region.

Roles & Responsibilities

Carer(s) and family

- Support and encourage the young person with their transition to independence, including contribution to costs.
- Discuss any issues or concerns with the young person (seek support from the Home Stretch WA Provider or DoC if required).
- Be available for reviews and participate accordingly, should the agreement with the young person need to be amended.
- Notify the Home Stretch WA Provider if the young person leaves the living arrangement (to avoid liability for overpayment of the Subsidy you must do this as soon as possible).
- Connect and transition to being supported by a Home Stretch WA Provider when they become available in the region.

Young Person

- To meet with Department of Communities caseworker prior to age 18 to work towards identified goals and planning for transition to independence.
- Contribute to costs of the living arrangement, once you are receiving an income.
- Discuss any issues or concerns with the current living arrangement with the carer(s) and family (seek support from the Home Stretch WA Provider or DoC if required).
- Be available for reviews and participate accordingly, should the Agreement with the carer(s) need to be amended.
- Notify the Department of Communities and Home Stretch WA Provider if you leave the living arrangement.
- Connect and transition to being supported by a Home Stretch WA provider when they become available in the region.