



# Do you have care of your grandkids?

## Am I eligible for child support?

If you have care of grandchild/ren who are under the age of 18 years of age, you can receive child support from one or both parents of the children if you apply to the Child Support Agency (CSA) for a child support assessment.

## The new Child Support Scheme

From 1 July 2008 the Child Support Scheme will change. Under the new scheme there will be some changes to the way child support is assessed for non-parent carers. A non-parent carer includes grandparents with care of a child under 18 years of age.

Child support payable to non-parent carers will still be worked out using a formula based on both of the parents' incomes, cost percentages and child support percentages – similar to how it is worked out for parents. This helps ensure that both parents contribute to the ongoing costs of raising their children. The amount of care each parent has will also be taken into account.

However only the non-parent carer's cost percentage, based on your percentage of care for the child/ren, is relevant to working out how much child support is payable. Your income is not taken into account. Your percentage of care is based on the number of nights you have care of the child.

If you are a grandparent carer with significant regular daytime caring responsibilities and no night time responsibilities, CSA recommends you and the parent(s) make a parenting plan and provide a copy to CSA. The plan, which will outline how much time the child will be in your care and your care percentage, will ensure your arrangement is recognised for child support purposes.

## Other Child Support products and services available to help you

The Me and My publications are a series booklets that provide practical advice for families after separation such as how to manage a budget and how to maintain a healthy relationship with the other parent or carer. These publications are available in English, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Spanish and Turkish and can be ordered, along with other useful publications, from [www.csa.gov.au](http://www.csa.gov.au) or by phoning **1800 040 972**.

### More Information

For more information about CSA or how the new scheme will affect grandparents and other non-parent carers call **13 1272** or visit [www.csa.gov.au](http://www.csa.gov.au)