



# Information for families - Child Care Subsidy from 13 July 2020

## The Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package ends on 12 July 2020.

The Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package (the Relief Package) started on 6 April 2020 and will finish on 12 July 2020. During this period the Australian Government provided funding directly to child care services and child care has been free for families.

From 13 July 2020, the regular Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) arrangements will return.

## What does this mean for families?

### Getting and keeping Child Care Subsidy

From 13 July 2020, families will again need to pay the gap fee (the child care fee after Government subsidies).

If you were getting CCS before 6 April 2020 you won't need to do anything for your subsidy to start again, as long as you have remained eligible and enrolled. Your CCS will start again automatically on 13 July 2020.

If your circumstances have changed (for example income level or contact information), you should update your details with Centrelink as soon as possible. This can be done through your [Centrelink online account](#) through [myGov](#) or the [Express Plus Centrelink mobile app](#).

If you are new to child care, you should put in a claim for CCS as soon as possible. Otherwise, from 13 July 2020, you will need to pay full fees. Claims for CCS can only be backdated for up to 28 days from the day the claim is lodged.

Adjustments to CCS rates will take effect on 13 July 2020. For more information, see the [Child Care Subsidy rates from 13 July 2020](#) fact sheet.

### Fee freeze

During the transition period, from 13 July to 27 September 2020, child care services that receive Transition Payments will be required to maintain their fees at the level they were in the reference period (17 February to 1 March 2020).

If your fees have increased, discuss this with your service in the first instance.

## Activity test

Temporary changes to the activity test have been made to help families impacted by COVID-19 to get back into their workforce participation activities, for up to 12 weeks from 13 July 2020 to 4 October 2020.

During this period, families can access up to 100 hours of subsidised child care, per child, per fortnight where they now have a reduced number of hours of work, training, study or other recognised activity, compared to their activity level prior to COVID-19 by updating their activity test levels with Centrelink.

### Example:

Sarah is a single parent. She worked 30 hours per fortnight and was entitled to 72 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight. Her hours were cut and now works 15 hours per fortnight. After 13 July 2020, Sarah logs on to her Express Plus Centrelink mobile app and follows the prompts to indicate her activity hours have been impacted by COVID-19. Sarah will be entitled to 100 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight from 13 July to 4 October 2020. This allows Sarah to apply for jobs and attend job interviews.

This is also available for two-parent families, where one or both parents have reduced activity compared to their activity level prior to COVID-19, and both parents are still engaging in at least eight hours of recognised activity per fortnight.

Families can update their activity levels from 13 July 2020 via their [Centrelink online account](#) through [myGov](#) or the [Express Plus Centrelink mobile app](#).

## Additional Child Care Subsidy

Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) is a top up payment to CCS that provides extra support for families in certain circumstances.

ACCS Type	Who is it for and what happens when the system returns to normal?	How to apply?
<b>Child Wellbeing</b>	<p>Children at risk of serious abuse or neglect. Further information can be found in the <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>.</p> <p>If you were previously receiving ACCS (child wellbeing) you can talk to your child care service to confirm arrangements are in place for 13 July 2020.</p>	<p>A service applies for ACCS (child wellbeing) on behalf of a family. Families should discuss eligibility and access to the payment directly with their child care service.</p>

This information was last updated on 7 July 2020. Please regularly check [dese.gov.au/covid-19/childcare](https://dese.gov.au/covid-19/childcare) to help ensure that you are using the latest version of this information sheet.

ACCS Type	Who is it for and what happens when the system returns to normal?	How to apply?
<b>Grandparent</b>	<p>Grandparents who receive income support payments and are the principal carer of their grandchild(ren). Further information can be found in the <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>.</p> <p>If your ACCS (grandparent) entitlement continues past 12 July 2020, your ACCS will be reinstated from 13 July 2020.</p>	<p>Families can apply through their <a href="#">Centrelink online account</a> through <a href="#">myGov</a> or the <a href="#">Express Plus Centrelink mobile app</a>.</p>
<b>Transition to Work</b>	<p>Parents receiving certain income support payments engaging in work, training, study or looking for work. Further information can be found in the <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>.</p> <p>If a person's ACCS (transition to work) eligibility expires before 12 July 2020 or the person requested to cease the payment, they will need to apply and be assessed as current for ACCS (transition to work), to recommence on 13 July 2020.</p>	<p>Families can apply through their <a href="#">Centrelink online account</a> through <a href="#">myGov</a> or the <a href="#">Express Plus Centrelink mobile app</a>.</p> <p>More information on what supporting documents are required can be found on the <a href="#">Services Australia</a> website.</p>
<b>Temporary Financial Hardship</b>	<p>Families experiencing temporary financial hardship. Further information can be found in the <a href="#">Fact Sheet</a>.</p> <p>Families experiencing financial hardship can apply now for additional support from 13 July 2020. ACCS (temporary financial hardship) is available for up to 13 weeks per event. To receive the subsidy, families need to apply within six months from the date of the event.</p> <p>Families who applied before the relief package, and are still experiencing financial hardship can re-apply and may be able to access the balance of the 13 weeks. The event must occurred no more than six months ago.</p>	<p>Families can apply through their <a href="#">Centrelink online account</a> through <a href="#">myGov</a> or the <a href="#">Express Plus Centrelink mobile app</a>.</p> <p>Evidence will be required to support the application for example an Employment Separation Certificate, an email or letter (on letterhead) from your employer, or a statutory declaration outlining the nature of the temporary hardship. More information on what supporting documents are required can be found on the <a href="#">Services Australia</a> website.</p>