



Families and separated parents

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR FAMILY PAYMENTS OR CHILD SUPPORT IF YOU'RE AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).

Family Assistance

Your family income estimate affects how much Family Tax Benefit and Child Care Subsidy you can get. You should update yours if there's been a change to your family income.

If you or your partner get any of the following payments from us, you need to include them in your income estimate:

- JobSeeker Payment
- Parenting Payment.

You don't need to include the COVID-19 Disaster Payment.

For more information go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/familyincomeestimate

FAMILY TAX BENEFIT

If you aren't getting Family Tax Benefit for children in your care, we encourage you to claim.

To find out more about Family Tax Benefit go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/ftb

Parental Leave Pay and Dad and Partner Pay

If you're claiming Parental Leave Pay or Dad and Partner Pay, you need to meet the work test. JobKeeper Payment and COVID-19 Disaster Payment count towards the work test. If COVID-19 affected your work, you may be able to use an extended work test when you claim. You can access the extended work test when both the following apply:

- you don't meet the standard work test because your employment hours reduced, or you stopped work, due to COVID-19
- your child's birth or adoption was between 22 March 2020 and 31 March 2021.

For Parental Leave Pay, if you stopped work early because COVID-19 was a risk to your pregnancy, we may move your work test period under the Dangerous Jobs provision.

You can't get income from JobKeeper Payment or COVID-19 Disaster Payment at the same time as Parental Leave Pay or Dad and Partner Pay.

Generally, you can only get Parental Leave Pay if you are on leave or not working from your child's birth or adoption until the end of your Paid Parental Leave period. You can get Parental Leave Pay after your income from JobKeeper Payment or COVID-19 Disaster Payment ended, if you didn't work during that time. You may want to nominate the start date for Parental Leave Pay that's after your income from JobKeeper Payment or COVID-19 Disaster Payment ended.

In most cases, your employer pays your Parental Leave Pay. If they can't pay you because of COVID-19, we can pay you. You can tell us about this change online.

For more information go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/parentalleavepay



Child Support

If you have a child support assessment and your situation has changed, tell us so we can update your details. This includes if:

- your income has decreased
- your income has increased and you've recently estimated your income for child support
- care of your children has changed.

This is important so we can make sure your assessment is correct.

You can update your details online through myGov, the Express Plus Child Support mobile app or by calling us on **131 272**.

For more information go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/childsupport

Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy

If your child can't attend child care because of COVID-19, you should talk to your child care service.

You can get Child Care Subsidy for up to 42 allowable absences per child each year for any reason.

You can access additional absences if you live in, or your child care service is in an area that is a Commonwealth declared COVID-19 hotspot. You can only access these absences if a COVID-19 hotspot declaration is in place for more than 7 days. You will not have to use your regular 42 allowable absences. You do not need to do anything to get these absences. If you are eligible, they will apply automatically.

If you ended your enrolment with your child care service after 12 July 2021 we may pay CCS for absences after the last day your child attended. This only applies if you live in, or your child's service is in a declared COVID-19 hotspot for more than 7 days. Talk to your service if you think this applies to you.

The gap fee is the out of pocket amount a family pays once their Child Care Subsidy is paid.

Your child care service may choose to waive your gap fee if either of these apply to you:

- the service is in a Commonwealth declared COVID-19 hotspot for more than 7 days
- you live in an area that has been a Commonwealth declared COVID-19 hotspot for more than 7 days.

Your child care service may also choose to waive gap fees if they're temporarily closed due to public health advice.

They can also waive gap fees for other reasons and for earlier dates, depending on the state or territory you live in.

Talk to your child care service to see if any of these apply to you.

For more information go to dese.gov.au/covid-19/childcare

UPDATING YOUR ACTIVITY HOURS

How many hours of Child Care Subsidy you can get each fortnight depends on the hours of activity you and your partner do. If your hours of recognised activity have changed, make sure you update this.

For more information about how to update your activity test go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/childcaresubsidy

GETTING MORE HELP WITH CHILD CARE FEES

If you already get Child Care Subsidy and you're experiencing temporary financial hardship or getting an income support payment from us to help you transition to work, you may also consider applying for Additional Child Care Subsidy.

For more information go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/ACCS

FINDING CHILD CARE

The Child Care Finder website is a simple way for families to find a service that suits their needs.

Families can find services, their vacancies, fees, opening hours and ratings. Go to childcarefinder.gov.au

APPLYING FOR CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

If you want to apply for Child Care Subsidy, we encourage you to claim as early as possible.

To find out more about how to claim Child Care Subsidy go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/childcaresubsidy