



Child Care Subsidy

Child Care Subsidy helps with the cost of approved child care. If you are eligible, we will pay it directly to your child care provider to reduce the fees you pay.

To be eligible you must meet all of the following:

- care for a child 13 years of age or younger who is not in secondary school, unless an exemption applies
- use an approved child care service
- be responsible for paying the child care fees
- meet residency and immunisation requirements.

To meet the residency requirements, you or your partner must be living in Australia and have one of the following:

- Australian citizenship
- a permanent residence visa
- a Special Category visa
- a certain temporary visa type, for example, a Partner Provisional or Temporary Protection visa.

You may also meet the residency requirements if any of the below apply:

- you or your partner are an overseas student, sponsored by the Australian Government to study in Australia
- you are in hardship or special circumstances apply.

You may be exempt from some of these criteria in specific circumstances.

How much Child Care Subsidy you can get

The amount of Child Care Subsidy you can get depends on all of the below:

- your family's income
- the number of children in your care
- the hourly rate cap based on the type of approved child care you use and the age of your child
- your family's circumstances and the hours of recognised activities you and your partner do.

Family income

We will use your family income to work out the amount of Child Care Subsidy you can get. You will need to provide an income estimate each financial year so we can calculate how much Child Care Subsidy to pay your child care service.

The amount of Child Care Subsidy you can get may change if your income changes. To make sure you get the right amount of Child Care Subsidy you need to check and update your income estimate.

You can read more about this at servicessaustralia.gov.au/incomeccs

Withholding

To help reduce the chance of an overpayment, we will withhold 5% of your Child Care Subsidy each fortnight. You can change the amount we withhold.

You can read more about this at servicessaustralia.gov.au/incomeccs

Balancing

At the end of the financial year we balance your payments. We do this by comparing your income estimate to your actual income. This will make sure you got the correct amount of subsidy.

If your income estimate is lower than your actual income you may have an overpayment which you will need to pay back. We will use the Child Care Subsidy we withheld to reduce the amount you have to pay back.

If your income estimate is higher than your actual income and you did not get enough Child Care Subsidy, we will pay any outstanding amount directly to you. This will include the Child Care Subsidy we withheld.

For more information about Child Care Subsidy balancing in English and other languages, go to [servicessaustralia/ccsbalancing](https://servicessaustralia.gov.au/ccsbalancing)

Number of children in care

If you have more than one child aged 5 or under in care, you may get a higher rate of Child Care Subsidy for one or more of your children.

If you are eligible:

- your eldest child aged 5 or under will get your standard income tested Child Care Subsidy rate,
- any younger children may get a higher rate of Child Care Subsidy.

The most you can get for your higher rate child is 95%. Any children aged 6 and above will continue to get your standard Child Care Subsidy percentage.

The higher Child Care Subsidy rate does not apply to In Home Care sessions of care.

You can read more about this at servicessaustralia.gov.au/higherccs

Hourly rate cap

The amount of Child Care Subsidy you can get will depend on the type of approved child care you use and the age of your child.

Your Child Care Subsidy percentage will apply to either the hourly fee you are charged by your child care service or the hourly rate cap, whichever is lower.

Activity Test

The hours of subsidised child care you can get each fortnight depends on your circumstances and the hours of recognised activities you do. We call this an activity test.

Recognised activities can include:

- paid work – including leave, like maternity leave
- study and training
- unpaid work in family business

- looking for work
- volunteering
- self-employment
- other activities on a case-by-case basis.

If you have a partner, we will look at both of your activity levels. We will use the lower of your or your partner's activity level to work out your hours of subsidised child care.

To make sure you get the right amount of Child Care Subsidy you need to check and update your activity test if your or your partner's circumstances change.

For more information, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/your-activity-level-affects-child-care-subsidy

How to claim Child Care Subsidy

To make a claim online you need a myGov account and a Centrelink online account. Your myGov account must be linked to Centrelink.

If you do not have a myGov account, go to my.gov.au to create one.

For help setting up your myGov account, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/mygovguides

Use your Centrelink online account in myGov to claim Child Care Subsidy, provide your information and any supporting documents.

Additional Child Care Subsidy

Additional Child Care Subsidy offers some families extra help with their child care fees. You must be eligible for Child Care Subsidy to be eligible for Additional Child Care Subsidy. There are different types you can apply for:

- Additional Child Care Subsidy (Grandparent). This helps with the cost of child care if you are a grandparent or great grandparent with primary care of your grandchild or great grandchild. To be eligible, you must get an income support payment.
- Additional Child Care Subsidy (Temporary Financial Hardship). This gives short-term help with the cost of child care if you are in temporary financial hardship due to circumstances beyond your control.
- Additional Child Care Subsidy (Transition to Work). This helps with the cost of child care if you are transitioning from an income support payment by engaging in work, study or training activities.

There is also Additional Child Care Subsidy (Child Wellbeing) which you can ask your child care service about. This helps vulnerable or disadvantaged families and children. Your child care provider will need to apply on your behalf.

How to apply for Additional Child Care Subsidy

To apply online you need a myGov account and a Centrelink online account. Your myGov account must be linked to Centrelink.

Use your Centrelink online account through myGov to provide your information and any supporting documents.

Estimate your child care fee assistance

You can use the Child Care Subsidy Calculator to see what your Child Care Subsidy rates may be and how much you may pay for child care. Go to startingblocks.gov.au

For more information

- Go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/childcaresubsidy for more information in English.
- Go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/yourlanguage where you can read, listen to or watch information in your language.
- Call **131 202** to speak with us in your language about Centrelink payments and services.
- Visit a service centre.

Note: calls from your home phone to '13' numbers from anywhere in Australia are charged at a fixed rate. That rate may vary from the price of a local call and may also vary between telephone service providers. Calls to '1800' numbers from your home phone are free. Calls from public and mobile phones may be timed and charged at a higher rate.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is intended only as a guide to payments and services. It's your responsibility to decide if you wish to apply for a payment and to make an application with regard to your particular circumstances.