



Balancing your family assistance payments

At the end of each financial year, we compare your family income estimate with your actual income. We do this to make sure we paid you the right amount of Family Tax Benefit (FTB) and Child Care Subsidy (CCS). This is called balancing.

What you need to do

Most families need to confirm their family income to balance their payments. If you have a partner, they'll need to do this too. You can confirm your income by either:

- lodging a tax return with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- telling us you don't need to lodge and confirming your actual income.

You need to confirm your family income for the financial year by 30 June of the following year. If you don't do this, you may need to pay back all the FTB you got in the financial year. If you get CCS, your payments will stop and you'll have to pay full fees for any child care you use.

If you got CCS and had a partner during the financial year, we also need to confirm their income. You don't need to contact them for this information. Call the Centrelink families line on **136 150** to discuss confirming their income.

Lodging a tax return

The best time to lodge your tax return is from late-July, when most of your information has been pre-filled in myTax. Otherwise, you may have to amend your tax return if you make a mistake.

Once you and your partner have lodged your tax returns, the ATO will send us your income information. This can take up to 28 days from when you get your notice of assessment.

Telling us you don't need to lodge a tax return

You must tell us if you or your partner don't need to lodge a tax return. You must do this even if you had no income, or if you got CCS and you've already told the ATO you don't need to lodge.

The best time to confirm your actual income is from mid-July, using either your:

- Centrelink online account through myGov
- Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

When we balance your payments

We balance FTB and CCS separately.

We start balancing FTB after you've confirmed your family income and get your final FTB payment for the financial year. You'll usually get your final FTB payment by mid-July.

CCS balancing starts from mid-August. We start balancing your CCS after you've confirmed your family income and we get your child's attendance information from your child care service.

Understanding your balancing outcome

When we finish balancing your FTB and CCS, we'll send you a letter to explain the outcome. There are 3 possible balancing outcomes:

- you'll get a top up, including any FTB supplements, if we owe you money
- you'll need to pay us back if you were overpaid
- no change because you were paid the right amount.

If we paid you too much or you have an outstanding debt with us, we may recover it from any of the following:

- FTB top ups
- FTB supplements
- FTB lump sums
- CCS top ups (we can only use these to repay child care debts)
- your tax refund.

We can do this even if you have a payment arrangement in place.

Setting yourself up for next financial year

The best way to avoid getting an overpayment is to check if you need to do any of the following:

- update your family income estimate
- update your FTB payment choices
- tell us about any changes to your recognised participation for CCS
- update your CCS withholdings
- tell us about any changes to your family's circumstances, including if you separate or become partnered.

Disclaimer: this information is accurate as at June 2026. 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.

For more information



For more information about FTB balancing, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/ftbbalancing

For more information about CCS balancing, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/ccsbalancing

Use our tax time tool to check what you need to do to balance your payments, go to servicessaustralia.gov.au/familytaxtime