



Child Care Subsidy

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

To be eligible you must:

- 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, and
- meet residency and immunisation requirements.

To meet the residency requirements, you or your partner must be living in Australia and either:

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

You may also meet the residency requirements if:

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

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

The amount of Child Care Subsidy you're entitled to will depend on:

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

Family income

We will use your family income estimate to work out the percentage of your hourly fee we will subsidise.



Hourly rate cap

The amount of Child Care Subsidy you are entitled to 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 number of hours of subsidised child care you can get is based on the number of hours of recognised activities you do each fortnight.

Recognised activities:

- paid work – including leave, such as maternity leave
- study and training
- unpaid work in family business
- looking for work
- volunteering
- self-employment, and
- other activities on a case-by-case basis.

There will be exemptions for parents who legitimately cannot meet the activity test requirements, as well as to support children's participation in preschool.

Hours of activity

If you have a partner we will look at both of your activity levels. We will work out how many hours of Child Care Subsidy you can get each fortnight by using the lower of the two activity levels.

Withholding

To help reduce the likelihood of an overpayment, we will withhold 5% of your Child Care Subsidy each fortnight.

At the end of each financial year we'll balance your payments. We will do this by comparing your income estimate to your actual income. This will ensure you have received the correct amount of subsidy.

If you underestimate your income you may have an overpayment which you'll need to pay back. We will use the Child Care Subsidy we withheld to reduce the amount you have to pay back.

If you overestimate your family income and don't receive enough Child Care Subsidy, we'll pay any outstanding amount directly to you. This will include the Child Care Subsidy we withheld.

You are able to vary your withholding amount.

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.

Use your Centrelink online account through myGov to 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 3 different types you can apply for:

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

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 Payment and Service Finder in English to see how much child care fee assistance you may be entitled to. Go to humanservices.gov.au/paymentfinder

For more information

- go to humanservices.gov.au/childcaresubsidy for more information in English
- go to humanservices.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
- call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on **131 450** to speak with us in your language about Medicare and Child Support 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.