



CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PART ONE

Parent Handbook 2020

AM I ENTITLED TO GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE?

The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is a payment made by the Australian Government to help families with the cost of quality child care and early education. This is paid directly to the Service to reduce your weekly fees.

Three things will determine a family's level of Child Care Subsidy:

1. A family's combined income will determine the percentage of subsidy they are eligible to receive.
2. An activity test will determine how many hours of subsidised care families can access, up to a maximum of 100 per fortnight.
3. The type of childcare Service will determine the hourly rate cap.

Some basic requirements must be satisfied for an individual to be eligible to receive the Child Care Subsidy. These include:

- The age of the child (must be 13 or under and not attending secondary school).
- The child meeting immunisation requirements.
- The individual, or their partner, meeting the residency requirements.

The number of hours of subsidised childcare that families will have access to per fortnight, will be determined by a three-step activity test. In two parent

families both parents, unless exempt, must meet the activity test. In the case where both parents meet different steps of the activity test, the parent with the lowest entitlement will determine the hours of subsidised care for the child.

Low income families on \$66,958 or less a year who do not meet the activity test will be able to access 24 hours of subsidised care per child per fortnight without having to meet the activity test, as part of the Child Care Safety Net.

Step	Hours of Activity*	Maximum number of hours of subsidy per child*
1	8-16 hours	36 hours
2	More than 16-38 hours	72 hours
3	More than 48 hours	100 hours

*Per fortnight. Source: www.education.gov.au/child-care-subsidy-activity-test

You can read more about the Child Care Subsidy and Activity Test, and can complete an online estimator at www.education.gov.au/ChildCarePackage

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to register for Child Care Subsidy. This can be done by contacting Centrelink either in person, by phone on 136 150 or by accessing their My Gov account at my.gov.au

ALLOWABLE ABSENCES

You can be paid for any absence from approved care your child attends for up to **42 days per child per financial year**. Additional absences beyond 42 days for certain reasons may be approved and paid. Please talk to us about the additional absences.