



Australian Government
Department of Education

News

Weekly wrap for the early childhood education and care sector



13 July 2022

Reminder: new CCS year has begun



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Child Care Subsidy

2022–23 financial year

The first Child Care Subsidy (CCS) fortnight of the 2022–23 financial year began on Monday.

Of note:

- [CCS rates have increased](#) in line with the Consumer Price Index.
- **The 26-week rule has started.** Children who haven't used care at least once in the previous 26 weeks will no longer be eligible for CCS. Families can submit a new claim if their child recommences care.
- **Allowable absences have reset.** Children have 52 absences for the 2022–23 financial year.
- **You can [waive gap fees](#)** if a child is unable to attend care for one of three COVID-related reasons until 30 June 2023.

- **Combined families can now get the [higher CCS](#).** If your families have questions about the higher subsidy, direct them to Services Australia.

Do you have a question about any of these measures? Post a question or leave a comment in our [Facebook group](#).

New Healthy Harold program



Healthy Harold and his friends at [Life Ed](#) are visiting preschools and early learning centres with their new [Early Years Learning Program \(EYLP\)](#). Funded by the Australian Government, the EYLP supports children aged 3-5 through three new modules:

- Harold's Healthy Day
- Harold's Big Feelings
- Super Safe Harold.

Each module develops children's mental, physical and social foundations through interactive learning experiences.

The program aligns to the [Early Years Learning Framework](#) and [National Quality Framework](#), with online resources for educators and parents.

For more information, and to book a visit for your centre, visit [Life Ed Australia's website](#).

Session reports cut off 7 August

Providers have until 11.59pm on Sunday 7 August to submit session reports to Services Australia for the 2021–22 CCS year.

Completing session reports by this deadline is essential for balancing family CCS entitlements for last financial year.

The Child Care Subsidy System will be closed for the 2021–22 CCS year from 8 August.

You will then be unable to submit, vary or withdraw session reports for any period of care between 12 July 2021 and 10 July 2022.

Providers have an obligation to submit complete and accurate session reports on time. Failure to do so is an offence and may result in an infringement.

[For more information on reporting sessions of care, refer to the Child Care Provider Handbook](#)

Our Facebook group continues to grow

Our [Facebook group](#) for providers, services and educators is now three months old and already has almost 4000 members.

This group is your dedicated space to network and connect with others in the sector.

Did you see this [recent discussion](#) between members about services that offer sessional kindy programs?

Join the conversation in the [Australian Child Care Providers and Services Facebook group](#).

Useful information

Handy resource

Find previous early childhood updates on our [announcements](#) page.

Good to know

We have [extended the period of emergency](#) for 9 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in NSW that continue to be impacted by flooding. However support has ended as of today in other LGAs.

Check our [emergency support by region page](#) for eligible LGAs.

We continue to monitor the situation and will update you as necessary.

Read more about [support during a period of emergency](#).

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