



Australian Government  
Department of Education

# News

Weekly wrap for the early childhood education and care sector



7 September 2022

## New evidence rules for additional absences

There are changes to the types of evidence families can show to get additional absences for COVID-19 reasons.

If a child uses up their 52 allowable absences, they can access additional absences if they or member of their immediate household gets COVID-19.

To access these additional absences, families can now use a positive COVID-19 test result from a pathology service as evidence.

This change means families can show one of the following types of evidence:

- a medical certificate, or
- evidence of a positive COVID-19 test result from a government agency or pathology service.

We provide information about managing COVID-19 and absences on our website. [Share this page](#) with families or print it out and display it at your service.

## Coming soon: [education.gov.au](https://education.gov.au)

From Friday, [education.gov.au](https://education.gov.au) will be the place to find programs and initiatives from the Department of Education.

Information about the Child Care Package, your obligations and all our programs will be available on the new website.

## Amending 2021–2022 session reports

The Child Care Subsidy System (CCSS) has closed for the 2021–22 financial year. You must [submit an application](#) to amend session reports from that financial year.

You must do this if you realise you have submitted incorrect session reports. We can only give you access to the session reports in the CCSS if you provide all the required details.

See the below tips so we can approve your request.

## Fill out all fields in part A for your service

You must provide your service details under part A. These should not be the provider details.

## If you need to amend multiple reports, use a spreadsheet

A separate form is required for each family.

If you are applying to amend data for multiple children or weeks, you may provide information in Part B, Part C and Part D in an Excel spreadsheet. This will only be accepted if the relevant information is provided in full.

[Download an example spreadsheet on our website](#)

## Understand the difference between current data and intended changes

Current data is what the system currently reflects.

Intended data is what you want the sessions to reflect after the changes are applied.

## Explain why the change is required

You must provide details outlining why the change is required.

You must also identify whether the change is:

- a new submission
- an amendment to an existing report
- withdrawal of an existing report.

If you are changing from one guardian to another, you need written evidence from the family.

## Provide supporting evidence

Providing evidence will help us assess your application. Supporting evidence may include:

- attendance records
- statements of entitlement
- enrolments or Complying Written Arrangements
- evidence of casual bookings
- evidence of payment of gap fees, including receipts or EFT records.

If you don't provide sufficient information, we may ask you to provide further evidence.

## An authorised person must sign the form

The form must be signed by a

- [person with management or control](#) (PMC), or

- a person responsible for the day-to-day operation of a service (for their service only).

The individual must provide their PRODA RA number.

## Fact sheets: supporting children's development

Be You has [fact sheets about children's development](#) as they transition through different stages in their lives.

Transitions are periods of change and they can be big or small. For example, a child's transit from home to an early learning service for the first time.

Educators and early learning services can play an important role in helping children as they develop throughout childhood.

[Explore the fact sheets on the Be You website.](#)

## Useful information

### Handy resource

Today is [Indigenous Literacy Day](#). It's a day to celebrate the stories, cultures and languages of First Nations peoples.

Here are two great ways to get involved:

- The Indigenous Literacy Foundation is [broadcasting a digital event](#) that shares a snippet of life in remote Australia and showcases diversity of First Nations peoples' cultures, languages and stories.
- The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature has produced a [free database for educators](#) to find children's books by and about Australia's First Nations peoples.

### Good to know

Tomorrow is [R U OK? Day](#), a national day of action to remind people it's okay to ask someone if they're okay or not.



R U OK? found that one in ten Australians feel asking someone "are you OK?" is a conversation better had with an expert. But checking to see if someone is struggling isn't something you need a qualification for.

[Get involved and access resources on their website](#)

## Join the conversation

The [Australian Child Care Providers and Services Facebook group](#) is your place to learn, explore and connect with us and others in your sector.

## Was this newsletter helpful?

Yes

No

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