



Australian Government
Department of Education

News

Weekly wrap for the early childhood education and care sector



14 September 2022

Public holiday and CCS

Thursday 22 September has been declared an official public holiday to mark the Nation Day of Mourning for Her Majesty The Queen.

Claiming CCS

Normal public holiday provisions apply:

- services can submit absences and claim Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for children who would usually attend
- providers that charge a family for an allowable absence on this day must collect gap fees from the family.

[Read more about absences on our website.](#)

Payment of CCS

Payment of CCS to services will be affected by the national public holiday.

Services Australia advises of these timings:

- for session reports submitted on **Tuesday 20 September**, funds are expected to be released to bank accounts on Friday 23 September
- for session reports submitted on **Wednesday 21 September**, funds are expected to be released to bank accounts on Monday 26 September
- no payments will be made on **Thursday 22 September** because of the public holiday
- for session reports submitted from **Friday 23 September**, payments will be made as per normal.

CCS Helpdesk

The CCS Helpdesk will be closed for the national public holiday. It will reopen at 9am on Friday 23 September. You can contact the helpdesk at any time [via email](#).

Another milestone in workforce strategy

Access to early childhood education and care and workforce-related issues were major topics of conversation at the Jobs and Skills Summit held at Australian Parliament House in Canberra on 1 to 2 September.

We welcome the release by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority of the [implementation and evaluation plan](#) for the 10-year National Children's Education and Care Workforce Strategy, *Shaping Our Future*.

The national workforce strategy is an important piece of work for the early childhood education and care workforce.

Learn more in our [announcement marking this next step in delivering the national workforce strategy](#).

Now live: education.gov.au

You can now find information about our programs and initiatives on the Department of Education's new website, education.gov.au.

Information for the early childhood sector is available at:

- www.education.gov.au/child-care-package
- www.education.gov.au/early-childhood

You'll still have access to the same information and resources from our old site.

Resources to support children with disability

New resources are available to help you understand your obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and put them into practice at your service.

The DDA requires that services support children with disability to access and take part in early childhood education and care in the same way as other children.

This means that services must make reasonable adjustments to fit the requirements of children with disability. It also means that children with disability and their parents and care givers are not victimised because of their disability.

All services must comply with the DDA and failure to do so is unlawful.

The new resources include an [information sheet, fact sheets, tip sheets and posters](#).

They outline obligations and provide guidance on what they mean in practice. They are available to all services both those covered by the National Quality Framework and those that are not.

The resources are available on [ACECQA's website](#).

Preschools are covered by the Disability Standards for Education 2005. Resources for preschools are on [our website](#).

Facebook group: helping you get answers

The [Australian Child Care Providers and Services Facebook group](#) is your place to learn and get answers.

This month, we want to hear what questions you have around CCS balancing. [Leave a comment on our question thread and we'll get back to you.](#)

Our Facebook members raise all sorts of questions – and often help each other out. Otherwise we can help.

[Join our group and be a part of the conversation.](#)

Useful information

Handy resource

Find guides to help you plan and run your service at [business.gov.au](#).

The guides include tools and templates for business planning, budgeting and risk management and more. For example, there is a great page on how to [monitor the financial health of your business](#). This can help you identify potential problems early and make changes.

[Explore business.gov.au.](#)

Good to know

All families have 52 [allowable absences](#) for the 2022–23 financial year.

Families can access additional absences, in certain circumstances, if they've used their 52 days.

This includes if a child's household has a COVID case and provides you with:

- a medical certificate
 - result of a pathology test or
 - government notice.
-

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