



Australian Government
Department of Education

News

Weekly wrap for the early childhood education and care sector



28 September 2022

Cheaper child care

This week the Australian Government introduced its Cheaper Child Care legislation to Parliament. Read what the proposed changes mean for you and your families.

Don't miss important information about these changes. We'll provide updates over the coming months via:

- our [Facebook group](#)
- our [weekly newsletter](#)
- our [website](#).

Changes to Child Care Subsidy

The Government will increase the Child Care Subsidy (CCS).

Subject to the passage of legislation, from July 2023 the Government will:

- lift the maximum CCS rate to 90% for families earning \$80,000 or less
- increase CCS rates for around 96% of families with a child currently in care earning under \$530,000
- keep higher CCS rates for families with two or more children aged 5 years or under in care.

[Read the ministerial media release.](#)

Changes to the activity test for families with First Nations children in care

First Nations children will get more hours of subsidised child care per fortnight.

Subject to the passage of legislation, from July 2023 families will get at least 36 hours of subsidised care per fortnight for each First Nations child in their care and attending child care.

This will directly support [Closing the Gap](#) target 4, designed to improve early childhood outcomes for First Nations children. Having access to at least 36 hours of early childhood education and care:

- helps children become school-ready
- improves learning outcomes
- improves development outcomes.

Families will still need to pay the gap fee.

[Read the ministerial media release.](#)

New policy partnership to improve outcomes for First Nations children

The Government has announced a new policy partnership to improve outcomes for First Nations children and families.

The Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership (ECPP) will bring together Australian governments and First Nations representatives to develop recommendations that improve early childhood outcomes for First Nations children.

The ECPP will enable First Nations peoples to work in genuine partnership with governments drive community-led, early childhood outcomes.

The ECPP is part of the Australian Government's commitments to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

The ECPP has been co-designed with:

- [SNAICC](#), the national peak body for First Nations children and families
- Commonwealth departments with responsibility across early childhood education and care, maternal and child health, child safety and families.

Read more about the department's [Closing the Gap measures](#).

We'll report on the progress of the ECPP through our sector newsletter and in our [Facebook group](#).

Helpdesk closed on Monday

The CCS Helpdesk will be closed for a public holiday on Monday 3 October. It will re-open at 9am (AEST) on Tuesday 4 October.

You can contact the helpdesk anytime by email at ccshelpdesk@education.gov.au. We will respond during business hours.

Useful information

Handy resource

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.

Find an [information sheet, fact sheets, tip sheets and posters](#) on ACECQA's website.

Good to know

You may be eligible for financial assistance from the Australian Government to help with hiring training and retaining an apprentice or trainee.

The Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System encourages developing trainees in [priority occupations](#), including early childhood education and care.

Learn more about the [Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System](#).

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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CCS Helpdesk 9am to 5pm AEST Monday to Friday 1300 667 276 or [email us](#) anytime.

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