



Australian Government
Department of Education

Update

For early childhood education and care providers and services



31 October 2022

Floods: support extended to more LGAs in NSW, Vic, and ends tomorrow in other regions

Period of emergency declared

We've declared a period of emergency for more regions in New South Wales and Victoria affected by flooding.

See our [table of emergency support](#) for all regions and dates.

The period of emergency applies from 28 October to 8 November for the following **NSW** Local Government Areas (LGAs):

- Balranald Shire, Bland Shire, Central Darling Shire, Coolamon Shire, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Hawkesbury City, Hilltops, Kyogle, Lismore City, Lockhart Shire, Richmond Valley and Upper Hunter Shire.

The period of emergency applies from 27 October to 8 November for the following **Victorian** LGAs:

- Baw Baw Shire, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Nillumbik Shire, Surf Coast Shire.

Period of emergency extended

We've also extended the period of emergency for regions where access to many services continues to be affected by major flooding.

The period of emergency will be extended for the period from 2 November to 8 November for these LGAs in **Victoria**:

- Campaspe Shire and Greater Shepparton City.

Period of emergency ending

The period of emergency will end for all other regions in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania on Tuesday 1 November.

Support is available to help services and families recover after an emergency. See details below.

Support during an emergency

The following support is available for services and families in affected regions **during** a period of emergency:

- services can continue to get Child Care Subsidy (CCS) if they close as a direct result of the emergency
- services can waive gap fees if a child doesn't attend, or their service is closed, during the emergency
- children will get unlimited allowable absences for the duration of the period of emergency.

Full details of support are available [on our website](#).

Support after an emergency

The following support is available to help services and families recover **after** a period of emergency ends:

- Families may be able to access [additional absences](#), if they've exhausted their allowable absences, after the emergency.
- The [Community Child Care Fund \(CCCF\) special circumstances grant](#) helps services stay open when something unexpected happens, such as an emergency. Affected services should apply after an event has occurred and they have accessed other disaster support.
- Families experiencing temporary financial hardship due to an emergency that happened in the last 6 months may be eligible for [Additional Child Care Subsidy](#). Families should apply through their [Centrelink online account](#).

General support

Services in affected areas may also be eligible for other government support:

- The Australian Government provides payments and help for people affected by natural disasters. Find out if you're eligible for support on the [Services Australia website](#).
- Your state government may provide support for individuals and businesses impacted by a natural disaster. Go to [nsw.gov.au](#), [vic.gov.au](#) or [tas.gov.au](#).

For action

- Tell us as soon as possible if you close your service. Do this via the [Provider Entry Point \(PEP\)](#) or your third-party software. You also need to tell your [state or territory regulatory authority](#).
- Update your contact details in the Child Care Subsidy System so you don't miss important information. Do this via the [PEP](#) or your third-party software.
- Update your vacancy details on [StartingBlocks.gov.au](#) to help families looking for car. Do this via the [PEP](#) or your third-party software.
- Join the [Australian Child Care Providers and Services Facebook group](#) for alerts and updates.
- Keep an eye on the following websites for current emergency information in your region:
 - [NSW State Emergency Service](#)
 - [Victoria State Emergency Service](#)
 - [Tasmania State Emergency Service](#).

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