



Australian Government
Department of Education

News

Weekly wrap for the early childhood education and care sector



23 November 2022

Cheaper Child Care: it's law

The Australian Government's Cheaper Child Care legislation passed through the Australian Parliament today.

This means the \$4.5 billion to deliver more affordable child care, announced in the Federal budget in October, becomes law.

Under the legislation, Child Care Subsidy (CCS) rates will increase from July 2023.

The number of subsidised ECEC hours available to First Nations families will also increase.

Read the [media release from Minister for Education the Hon Jason Clare MP and Minister for Early Childhood Education the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP](#).

Changes to inducements from 2023

Early childhood education and care providers may offer only certain types of inducements from 1 January 2023.

An inducement is an incentive offered by a provider to secure a child's enrolment.

From January, inducements that are financial or not directly associated with the quality or provision of education or care services will not be allowed.

Some examples of inducements not allowed may include:

- cash or vouchers
- iPads, tablets or other electronic devices
- other gifts.

Discounted or free care is not affected by this ban and may still be offered. However, fee discounts must be reported correctly if any CCS is being claimed.

You can still advertise your service to prospective families and offer free site visits or trial periods. You may also issue marketing merchandise to the value of \$30 per complying written arrangement.

By 1 January 2023, you must:

- stop offering inducements that are not allowed
- ensure any services or educators under your approval stop offering inducements that are not allowed
- update your marketing material, both printed and online, to remove inducements not allowed.

The measure is part of the Australian Government's commitment to improving the transparency of child care fees. It supports a fairer market across the sector.

We may take action against providers that continue to offer inducements not permitted under the law. This could include:

- putting conditions on your approval
- issuing an infringement notice and penalty
- suspending or cancelling your approval.

If you have questions, contact the CCS Helpdesk on 1300 667 276 or [by email](#).

If you think a provider is offering inducements that are not allowed after 1 January 2023, you can tell us. Call 1800 664 231 or [email the tip-off line](#).

Keep an eye on this newsletter and [join our Facebook group](#) for updates.

Facebook group reaches 5,000 members

Our Facebook group for ECEC providers has reached a milestone 5,000 members.

You've told us in our [communication survey](#) that you value the Facebook group as a place to learn from us and others in the sector. We look forward to continuing to grow the group and connecting with you there.

A big thanks to everyone who has already joined. If you know someone who is not a member [invite them to take part](#).

Meantime, if you have feedback about the Facebook group or how we communicate with you please take 3 minutes to tell us via [our survey](#).

How we help in an emergency

Help is available for families and ECEC services in the event of an emergency, like bushfire, storms or floods.

Our website has resources to help you prepare for an emergency and has information on support, which includes gap fee waivers, extra absences and support for service closures.

[Go to our website for more information.](#)

Also, for the latest details on [emergency support by region see our website](#).

Explainer: background checks

The following information will help you comply with your obligations under Family Assistance Law. Find details of [your obligations](#) on our website.

Certain people at a service must have background checks. Providers must have evidence of these checks.

You must show evidence that persons with management or control of the provider (PMCs) have the following checks:

- National Police Check
- working with children check
- National Personal Insolvency Index check
- evidence the person is not on ASIC's banned and disqualified register
- a current and historical personal name extract search of ASIC records.

Family Day Care educators and In Home Care educators must provide evidence of these background checks:

- National Police Check
- working with children check.

[Learn how to obtain checks and what evidence you need to provide on our website.](#)

Different checks may be required under National Law. [Contact your state or territory regulatory authority for more information.](#)

Obligation: reporting temporary service closure

Each week, we're highlighting a task that providers must perform under Family Assistance Law.

You must report when you suddenly or unexpectedly need to temporarily close a service.

This task can only be performed by a PMC.

You must report the sudden or unexpected temporary closure within 24 hours.

Report temporary closures through your third-party software or the Provider Entry Point (PEP)

If you plan to temporarily cease operating, for example due to planned building renovations, you should request a [voluntary suspension of your CCS approval](#).

See a list of [obligations, tasks and timeframes on our website](#).

Resource on inclusion for educators

The Inclusion Support Program (ISP) provides help for eligible child care services to address barriers to inclusion for children with additional needs.

A new resource for educators is live on the [NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency website](#).

[Big Situations](#) is a learning module designed to help educators respond to challenges and build their confidence and resilience.

Educators don't have to know everything or feel pressured to fix big situations, but they can help them feel confident by ensuring their access to the support and resources.

While Big Situations is hosted on the NSW/ACT IA Agency website, it is relevant to educators in all states and territories.

[Access the resource](#) and share it with your educators.

Financial help for very remote teachers

Early childhood teachers at very remote Centre Based Day Care services with Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debts may be eligible for financial assistance.

The Australian Government provides two types of assistance. We can:

- waive indexation on accumulated HELP debt
- reduce accumulated HELP debt.

Applications for reduction of accumulated HELP debts will be available from 2023.

Check if your service is in a [very remote area](#).

[Learn more about financial assistance for very remote teachers](#).

Useful information

Handy resource

Did you know we publish [past newsletters on our website](#)?

Read our past newsletters to find information on important topics.

Good to know

The CCS Helpdesk will close early tomorrow (Thursday) at 4pm. It will be reopened Friday from 9am (AEDT).

You can contact the helpdesk at any time via email at ccshelpdesk@education.gov.au.

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

PAST ISSUES

Read all past issues [on our website](#).

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CONTACT US

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

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