



Australian Government  
Department of Education



# Update

For early childhood education and care providers and services

13 December 2022

## NSW flood update: period of emergency extended

We've extended the period of emergency for services in the Lachlan Shire in New South Wales because of flooding.

The period of emergency applies until 23 December 2022.

We continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates here as required.

[See a list of emergency declarations and support by region on our website.](#)

### Sector-specific support

The following support is available for services and families in affected regions **during** the 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.

The following support is available to help services and families recover **after** an emergency:

- 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](#).

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

## Other government support

Individuals and 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. Individuals can find out if they are 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](#).

## 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 care. 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 [NSW State Emergency Service website](#) for current emergency information in your region.

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

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