



Australian Government
Department of Education

News

Weekly wrap for the early childhood education and care sector



Welcome to 2023. In this week's edition, we cover changes to CCS and workforce discounts, provide an update on the ACCC price inquiry, and remind you to update your details.

From the department

Changes to CCS from July 2023

Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is changing.

From July 2023 most families using child care will get more CCS. Here's what you need to know:

- The maximum amount of CCS is increasing from 85% to 90%.
- Families earning \$80,000 or less will get 90% subsidy.
- Families earning over \$80,000 and under \$530,000 will get a subsidy that tapers down from 90%, depending on their income. The subsidy will go down by 1% for each \$5,000 earned.
- Families with more than one child aged 5 or under, with income below \$356,756 can still get a higher rate for their second and younger children.

We'll provide information and resources for you to share with families over the coming weeks and months. Check that you're [getting our emails](#) and in our [Facebook group](#) so you don't miss an update.

Changes to early childhood workforce discount

Providers can now offer a discounted fee to cooks they employ whose children are enrolled at one of their services.

The [early childhood workforce discount](#) was introduced on 24 January 2022. It previously only applied to educators and early childhood teachers. As of 1 January 2023, it also applies to cooks.

The cook must:

- work at a Centre Based Day Care or Outside School Hours Care service
- have a child enrolled at a service where they work or that you own.

The discount does not affect an employee's CCS entitlement.

The measure aims to help providers attract and retain their early childhood workforce.

Learn more about the discount, including an example of how it works, [on our website](#).

Update on the ACCC child care price inquiry

The [Australian Competition and Consumer Commission](#) (ACCC) has started its inquiry into early childhood education and care prices. A consultation schedule is now available on the [ACCC website](#).

The schedule includes a wide range of consultation and information gathering activities. Stakeholders include:

- small, medium and large child care providers in metropolitan, regional and remote areas
- parents and carers
- educators and workforce participants
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- people with children who have a disability or complex needs.

The ACCC will provide an interim report to the Treasurer by 30 June 2023, and its final report by 31 December 2023.

Go to the consultation schedule on the [ACCC website](#).

From the sector

Check your water safety policies

It's a good time to ensure your water safety policies and procedures are up to date.

ACECQA has guidance on [developing water safety policies and procedures](#).

Facts from FAL

Check your details in the Child Care Subsidy System

You must keep your contact details up to date in the [Child Care Subsidy System](#) (CCSS).

You must also identify all [persons with management or control](#) (PMCs) in the CCSS and keep their information up to date too.

If this information is not correct in the CCSS:

- we cannot communicate essential information to you
- we cannot contact you in an emergency
- families may not get their CCS payments
- we may issue an [infringement](#).

Check and update your details via the [Provider Entry Point](#) (PEP) or your third-party software.

Report details of new FDC and IHC educators

You must report the name and contact details for new:

- Family Day Care educators
- In Home Care educators.

You must also:

- declare that the [required checks](#) for these people are complete
- report details of their working with children checks in the [CCSS](#)
- show evidence of these checks if we ask.

This task can be performed by:

- a PMC
- a person responsible for the day-to-day operation of a service (for their service only).

You must report within 7 days after the new person starts. Report through the [PEP](#) or your third-party software.

If you fail to meet your obligations on time you may receive an [infringement](#).

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

For families

Higher Child Care Subsidy rates for second and younger children

You may get a higher Child Care Subsidy if you have more than one child aged 5 or younger in care. You'll get the higher subsidy for your second child and younger children.

Learn more on the [Services Australia website](#).

Find child care

[StartingBlocks.gov.au](#) is the one place where families can find and compare early childhood education and care services.

On the Starting Blocks website, you can:

- find local services and view vacancies, costs, quality ratings and inclusions
- compare services side-by-side
- estimate out-of-pocket costs
- get information and advice about education, children's development, and parenting.

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