



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

News

Weekly wrap for the early childhood
education and care sector



30 March 2022

2022–23 Budget

Grants for new services in regional and remote communities

As part of the 2022–23 Federal Budget, the Australian Government has announced it will provide \$19.4 million to fund up to 20 new services in disadvantaged regional and remote areas where there is a lack of suitable child care.

The funding will be provided under the [Community Child Care Fund Open Competitive grant](#). It will help establish new services in areas of high need. This will support greater workforce participation and better outcomes for children.

The funding round will open later in 2022. Information about the application process will be available on [GrantConnect](#) later this year.

Make sure your contact details are up to date in the Child Care Subsidy System so you don't miss important information. Check your details via the [Provider Entry Point \(PEP\)](#) or your third-party software.

Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements subsidy extended

As part of the 2022–23 Federal Budget, the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements (BAC) wage subsidy has been extended to 30 June 2022.

Early childhood education and care services who take on new apprentices and trainees may be eligible for the BAC.

Eligible employers can receive a subsidy of 50% of an apprentice or trainee's gross wages. The subsidy will pay up to \$7,000 per quarter for wages paid in the 12-month period from the date of commencement.

To apply you must:

- engage the apprentice or trainee and commence training on or before 30 June 2022

- register through your Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Provider.

The new apprentice or trainee you nominate must:

- be engaged between 5 October 2020 and 30 June 2022
- be undertaking a Certificate II or higher qualification, including:
 - Certificate III or Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care
 - Certificate IV in School Aged Education and Care
- have a training contract formally approved by the State Training Authority.

Exclusions and existing worker eligibility will apply.

[Learn about Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements.](#)

CCS balancing: 30 June deadline approaching

Families must confirm their income by 30 June 2022 to avoid losing Child Care Subsidy (CCS) or incurring a debt.

At the end of each financial year, Services Australia reconciles family payments, including CCS. This is to ensure families receive the correct amount of assistance for the year.

Families need to confirm their income after the end of the financial year for this to occur. This process is called balancing.

Approaching deadlines

30 June 2022 marks two important deadlines for families:

- the first deadline for confirming 2020–21 income
- the second deadline for confirming 2019–20 income.

[Read about the consequences if families miss these deadlines on our website.](#)

How to confirm income

Families confirm their income by:

- lodging their tax return, or
- telling Services Australia they don't need to lodge a tax return.

Action for providers

The balancing process is a matter between families and Services Australia.

You can help families by reminding them to confirm their income before the deadline.

We have information and resources for providers [on our website](#).

If families have questions, please direct them to the [Services Australia website](#).

Eligibility for higher CCS

Families with more than one child aged 5 or under in care can now get a higher CCS.

Between 7 March and 10 July 2022, families can get the higher subsidy even if their eldest CCS-eligible child aged 5 or under is not using care.

This transition period will help families plan their child care arrangements.

From 11 July 2022 onwards, children who haven't used care in 26 consecutive weeks will no longer be eligible for CCS. This rule will first be applied to children who haven't used care for the 26-week period from 10 January to 11 July.

This may affect a family's entitlement to the higher subsidy.

If a standard rate child's CCS eligibility ends, Services Australia will reassess all other children in the family to determine:

- the new standard rate child
- new subsidy rates.

We will not reassess CCS payments for the 26-week period, for example between 7 March and 10 July 2022. The family must remain eligible during this period.

[Visit our website for more information about the higher CCS.](#)

Handy resource

The **Guide to Additional Child Care Subsidy (child wellbeing)** has useful information for providers and services who administer ACCS payments.

[Read the guide on our website.](#)

Good to know

On 29 March the Treasurer the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP handed down the Australian Government's 2022–23 Budget.

- Learn more about the [2022–23 Budget](#) and what it means for education, skills and employment.
- Read the full Budget on [Budget.gov.au](https://budget.gov.au).

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