



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

Update | For early childhood education and care providers and services



16 March 2022

New South Wales and Queensland floods: emergency support extended

We've extended the current Local Area Emergencies (LAE) in place in New South Wales and Queensland until 18 March 2022. We've also expanded the LAE to more areas in New South Wales.

See our [table of emergency declarations](#) for a full list of regions and dates eligible for support.

Support available

Affected services and families in LAE-declared regions may be eligible for a range of support. Support includes:

- \$10,000 ECEC Flood Support Payment for services in flood-affected regions that close for 8 days or more
- extra allowable absences during the LAE
- gap fee waivers where a child does not attend or a service is closed during the LAE
- Commonwealth and state government disaster payments.

We are contacting affected services about the ECEC Flood Support Payment.

[Learn more about these support measures on our website.](#)

For action

- Let us know if you temporarily close your service. You can 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, particularly email addresses, 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](#). Do this via the [PEP](#) or your third-party software.

- Ask families to maintain their enrolments. This will ensure their children receive continuity of care and early learning.
- Ensure families are aware they can apply for Additional Child Care Subsidy (temporal financial hardship) through Services Australia online or call 180 22 66.

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