



23 February 2022

Higher Child Care Subsidy starts soon



From 7 March 2022, families with more than one child aged 5 or under in care will get a higher Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for their second child and younger children.

The standard rate child will get the standard CCS rate. This is usually the eldest CCS-eligible child aged 5 or under in the family. Younger children will get a higher subsidy.

Eligible higher rate children will receive a 30% higher subsidy, up to a maximum 95%.

Families may be eligible if they:

- earn less than \$354,305
- have more than one child aged 5 or under in child care.

Families already getting CCS don't need to do anything. Services Australia will automatically increase the CCS for eligible second and younger children.

We have more [information for providers](#) on our website, including a video explaining the high subsidy.

Services Australia has [information for families](#) on their website, including [examples that show how the higher CCS works](#).

Combined families

The measure will capture diverse family circumstances, including combined families.

A combined family is where each parent or carer gets CCS for different children in their family. The Child Care Subsidy System is being enhanced to recognise combined families from July 2022. Services Australia will backpay the higher subsidy amount to affected families for the period March to July.

There is an option for combined families who want to get the higher subsidy immediately in March. But they must take action as soon as possible as claims can only be backdated for a maximum of 28 days.

[See detailed information about combined families on our website](#).

Fee estimator

New features are now available on [StartingBlocks.gov.au](#).

Families can use the CCS estimator to check how much their child care out of pocket costs might be. Results include the higher subsidy that families will soon get for their second and younger children.

Families can get an estimate at [StartingBlocks.gov.au/fees-estimator](#)

Share the news with families

We've developed content you can easily share across your channels to help families understand the changes.

[Find prewritten social media and newsletter content on our website](#). There's also a [poster](#) and [factsheet](#) to display at your service.

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

NSW before and after school care voucher

Families with children in before and after school care can soon get \$500 toward the cost of care.

The voucher will be available for families with children aged 4 to 13 years who attend primary school in New South Wales.

Information for providers

This voucher scheme is run by the NSW Government. If you'd like to participate in this opt-in scheme, [register with Service NSW](#).

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

The vouchers will cover a family's gap fee. The family's CCS entitlement will not be reduced when using the voucher.

Information for families

Families can apply for the voucher through [Service NSW](#) between 28 February and 30 September 2022.

Vouchers can be redeemed with a registered before and after school care provider between 1 February and 31 December 2022. The credit on the voucher can then be used until 30 June 2023.

More information

Visit the [Service NSW](#) website for details about the scheme. If you have questions, contact the Services NSW BASC team at bascreform@det.nsw.edu.au or on 1300 244 145.

We're surveying families

We are working with ORIMA Research to survey families about how they use child care during COVID-19.

We have sent a letter to 15,000 families inviting them to take part in the survey. These families will receive a text with a link to the online survey.

The survey will be open between 23 February and 9 March 2022. It will focus on:

- the impact of COVID-19 on how families use child care
- awareness of support for families using child care during COVID-19
- awareness of other assistance to help families with the cost of child care.

If families at your service have been contacted about the survey, please encourage them to complete it.

If families have questions about the survey, please ask them to contact us at ECECCovid19@dese.gov.au.

Upcoming Jobs Fairs to help you find staff

The Australian Government is hosting Jobs Fairs across the country to help employers, including those in early childhood education and care, find suitable staff.

The Jobs Fair is a free face-to-face event that gives providers an opportunity to promote current and upcoming vacancies and connect with employment service providers.

Job Fairs will be held in:

- Wagga Wagga on 25 February
- Cairns on 1 March
- Gold Coast on 4 March
- Latrobe Valley on 10 March
- Rockhampton on 11 March

- Albany on 16 March
- Sydney on 18 March.

For more information or to become an exhibitor visit the [exhibitor information](#) page or email JobsFairs@dese.gov.au.

These events will follow COVID-safe event procedures.

Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements subsidy

The Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements (BAC) wage subsidy closes to new entrants on 31 March 2022.

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

Eligible employers can receive a subsidy of 50% of a 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 trainee and commence training on or before 31 March 2022
- register through your Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Provider.

The new trainee you nominate must:

- be engaged between 5 October 2020 and 31 March 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.](#)

Handy resource

The week we observed [International Mother Language Day](#). This year also marks the beginning of the [UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages \(2022–2032\)](#).

These events give us an important opportunity to recognise that multilingualism can support inclusion in our communities.

The [Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care](#) provides culturally appropriate and preferred resources for carers, including [resources to support awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages](#).

Good to know

Last week we declared Local Area Emergencies (LAE) for parts of [Western Australia](#) and [Victoria](#) following severe weather events. A range of support is available to services and families during an LAE. [Learn more about help before, during and after an emergency](#).

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Yes

No

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