



06 April 2022

Join our Facebook group



We have created a Facebook group for early childhood education providers and services.

Check out [Australian Child Care Providers and Services](#) on Facebook.

Our Facebook group is a space to:

- keep up to date with the department's early childhood policy and programs
- get relevant information in times of emergency
- access resources that can help you meet your obligations and deliver quality early childhood education and care
- share information directly from our group to your Facebook page, profile or group
- connect with others in your industry.

If you manage or work at a service, or are interested in what's happening in the sector, [join our Facebook group](#). We look forward to seeing you there soon.

Don't have Facebook? Don't worry. We'll continue sharing all important information and updates through [this newsletter](#) and on [our website](#).

Please note, when the Federal Election is called we will enter a caretaker period.

During this time we will limit the amount and type of content we publish on social media. However, this is only short-term and we'll return to regular scheduling shortly.

Report now available: 2021 Australian Early Development Census

The findings from the 2021 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) are now available.

The AEDC is a national assessment conducted every 3 years to examine how children have developed by the time they start school. It is designed to show what is working well and where more work is needed to ensure all children can have the benefits of a strong start in life.

In 2021, data was collected on over 305,000 children in their first year of full-time school and from approximately 7,500 primary schools.

Teachers responded to around 100 questions that measure early childhood development across 5 domains:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills (school based)
- communication skills and general knowledge.

Key findings

AEDC data shows the percentage of children who were on track on 5 domains decreased for the first time since 2009 (from 55.4% in 2018 to 54.8% in 2021). Results also show a slight increase in the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable.

Results from the AEDC:

- support governments' implementation and monitoring of Closing the Gap targets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- highlight the importance of investing in the early years, especially through high quality early childhood education and care and universal access to preschool.

For more information, visit [our website](#). Access the AEDC report on the [AEDC website](#).

Debt explainer What is offsetting?

If you incur a debt, we'll take a percentage of your future Child Care Subsidy (CCS) payments to repay the amount you owe. This is called offsetting.

Offsetting results in a reduced CCS payment to the provider. We may offset up to 50% of your payment.

You must still pass on the full entitlement to families, even if the CCS payment has been reduced due to offsetting.

Example

A provider has a debt of \$1,000. They are due to receive a CCS payment of \$500. We'll use 50% of the payment (\$250) to offset the debt. The provider will receive \$250 and their debt will be reduced to \$750. The provider in this scenario must still pass on the full entitlement to families.

Providers can see any debts and offsets:

- through the [Provider Entry Point \(PEP\)](#) or their third-party software, and
- in payment advices.

Find more information on offsetting in the [Child Care Provider Handbook](#).

Workforce Contact Centre

The Workforce Contact Centre can help early childhood education and care services fill entry level positions.

The centre can work with you to:

- advertise vacancies on the department's Jobs Hub
- help you advertise on the [jobactive jobs board](#)
- connect you with employment services or Apprenticeship Network providers in your area
- provide information and connections to government programs such as:
 - wage subsidies
 - work experience
 - subsidised accredited training
- develop and apply new ways of recruiting.

To get in touch, email workforce@dese.gov.au.

Upcoming Jobs Fairs to help you find staff

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

Jobs Fairs are a free face-to-face event. Exhibiting at a Jobs Fair is a great way to:

- promote current and upcoming vacancies to job seekers in your area
- connect with employment service providers.

See upcoming Job Fairs:

- [Hunter on 7 April](#)
- [Central Coast on 12 April](#)
- [Gold Coast on 13 April](#)
- [Illawarra & South Coast on 19 April](#)
- [Ballarat on 28 April](#)
- [Mackay on 29 April](#)
- [Dubbo on 4 May](#)
- [Mildura on 6 May](#)
- [Western Sydney on 10 May](#)
- [Armidale on 13 May](#)
- [Port Macquarie on 24 May](#)
- [Warrnambool on 27 May](#)
- [Orange on 15 June](#)
- [Melbourne West on 21 June](#)
- [North West Melbourne on 1 July](#)

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

Handy resource

Families can visit StartingBlocks.gov.au to find information about child care in one place.

Child care fees, vacancies, quality ratings and inclusions are now published on the [Starting Blocks](#) website. Having this information in one place helps parents choose the best early childhood education and care for their family.

StartingBlocks.gov.au is the only place to find all approved early childhood services.

Help us reach as much of the community as possible by sharing materials in our [content kit](#) on your own channels.

Good to know

Last week we declared an additional Local Area Emergency (LAE) for the period 29 March to 8 April 2022 following recent flooding in parts of NSW. Support is available to services and families during the LAE.

[See our table of emergency declarations for key dates and regions eligible for support.](#)
[Learn about support available to families and services on our website.](#)

Was this newsletter helpful?

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

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