



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

News

Weekly wrap for the early childhood
education and care sector



13 April 2022

Explained: balancing Child Care Subsidy



At the end of each financial year, Services Australia reconciles family payments, including Child Care Subsidy (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

The end of financial year marks two important deadlines for families:

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

Families must take action by 30 June 2022 to avoid losing CCS or incurring a debt.

2019–20 financial year

Most families confirmed their 2019–20 income before the first deadline on 30 June 2021.

Families who haven't confirmed their 2019–20 income must do so by 30 June 2022.

If they don't, they may need to pay back all the CCS they got for 2019–20.

More information about debts is available on [Services Australia's website](#).

They will also lose their CCS and Additional Child Care Subsidy eligibility from the first CCS fortnight of the 2022–23 financial year.

You will need to direct these families to make a new claim if they wish to get a reduced fee again.

Families can only claim CCS again once they have:

- confirmed their income, and
- repaid any current or previous child care related debt, or
- entered into a repayment arrangement.

Families who miss the second deadline will also miss out on any top up of CCS for which they may have been eligible.

2020–21 financial year

All families must confirm their 2020–21 income before the first deadline on 30 June 2022.

If they don't, their CCS will stop. This means they'll need to pay full fees when they use child care.

Services Australia can start a family's CCS again, but only after they've confirmed their income. This means families may miss out on CCS.

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. Families can complete an [Advise non-lodgement of tax return](#) using their [Centrelink online account](#) through [myGov](#) or through the [Express Plus Centrelink mobile app](#). They'll need to do this even if they've already told the Australian Taxation Office they don't need to lodge.

If a parent separates from their partner, Services Australia will also need their ex-partner's income.

If a parent is concerned that their ex-partner won't lodge their tax return by the deadline they should call the [Families line](#).

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.

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

NSW and QLD flood support payments

The Australian Government is providing \$10,000 ECEC Flood Support Payments for services in flood-affected regions that close for 8 days or more.

The closure days must occur during an LAE after 23 February. They do not need to be consecutive.

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

We sent payment offers to providers with services in flood-affected areas in March.

You have until 11.59pm on 30 April to accept the offer, if you haven't accepted already

Please check your provider-level email address and/or your junk mail.

Read about the support for services during the local emergencies [on our website](#).

Financial help for very remote teachers

Early childhood teachers at very remote Centre Based Day Care services with Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debts may be eligible for financial assistance.

The Australian Government provides two types of assistance. We can:

- waive indexation on accumulated HELP debt
- reduce accumulated HELP debt.

Applications for reduction of accumulated HELP debts will be available from 2023.

[Check if your service is in a very remote area.](#)

[Learn more about financial assistance for very remote teachers.](#)

Handy resource

We have created a [Facebook group for early childhood education providers and services](#).

If you manage or work at a service, or are interested in what's happening in the sector, [join us on Facebook](#). 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 [email newsletter](#) and on [our website](#).

Good to know

The CCS Helpdesk will be closed on Friday 15 April and Monday 18 April for the Easter break. It will re-open at 9am (AEST) on Tuesday 19 April.

You can always contact the Helpdesk via email at ccshelpdesk@dese.gov.au.

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