



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

News

Weekly wrap for the early childhood
education and care sector



22 June 2022

Workshop discusses Inclusion Support Program



Department staff and Inclusion Support Program (ISP) providers discussed the program at a two-day workshop (pictured) in Canberra.

The workshop was a great face-to-face opportunity to network and discuss contractual and program delivery.

Attendees included our staff, contracted Inclusion Agencies, Inclusion Development Fund manager, and representatives from Services Australia.

Guest speakers from the National Disability Insurance Scheme spoke about the Australian Government's [Early Childhood Approach](#) and how it could benefit the ISP.

Learn more about the ISP [on our website](#).

Families first at AIFS conference



We helped sponsor students and educators so they could attend the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) conference in Melbourne.

Pictured are Phoebe Wallish (another sponsor), Hemavarni Doma, Carli Leishman, Sue Smit Kerry Ladiges, Yuxi Li, Eloise Tognetti, Vicki Sclater, Amy Gill, Gina Scuffins, Bradley Burns, and AIFS director Sharman Stone.

Scholarships covered registration costs and travel for attendees, including those from rural and remote Australia.

Each year, policy makers, researchers, service providers and stakeholders gather at the AIFS conference to discuss issues affecting the sector. Central to this year's theme was putting families at the centre of decision making and policy.

You can read more about the work that AIFS does [on its website](#).

CCS eligibility: 26-week rule starts soon

A new Child Care Subsidy (CCS) eligibility rule is starting soon.

From 11 July, a child who hasn't used care at least once in the previous 26 weeks will no longer be eligible for CCS.

If a child has not attended care since 10 January, their CCS will cancel from 11 July. The rule will apply on an ongoing basis from this date. Families will need to submit a new CCS claim if the child re-commences care.

Services Australia has notified impacted families. You do not need to take action.

We will not raise CCS debts when applying the rule. Any changes to CCS entitlement will only apply from the date of cancellation.

Will the rule impact a family's higher CCS?

Families with more than one child aged 5 or under in care can get a [higher CCS](#) for their second child and younger children.

The 26-week rule may affect a family's entitlement to the higher CCS.

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.

If a child attends care again after their CCS is cancelled the family can lodge a new claim for CCS.

The 26-week rule will not affect backpay made to combined families for any higher subsidy they were eligible for between 7 March and 30 June 2022.

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

Balancing deadlines in 1 week

Families only have one week to confirm their incomes for 2019–2020 and 2020–2021.

The deadline for families to confirm their income for the 2020-21 financial year is 30 June 2021. Families who didn't confirm their 2019-20 income by 30 June last year must confirm their 2020-21 financial year's income by 30 June 2022 or incur a debt for the full amount of CCS they received.

[We have a video that explains the CCS balancing process.](#)

[You can also share a post from our Facebook Group.](#)

Jobs Fairs: helping you find staff

We host Jobs Fairs across the country to help employers, including those in early childhood education and care, find suitable staff.

Jobs Fairs are free face-to-face events where you can:

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

See upcoming Job Fairs:

- [Sydney on Tuesday 28 June.](#)

- [Bendigo on Wednesday 29 June.](#)

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

Facebook group: get connected

[The Australian Child Care Providers and Services Facebook group](#) is your place to learn, explore and connect with us and others in your sector.

We want to hear from you. A member [recently asked](#) about what happens when families receiving Additional Child Care Subsidy run out of allowed absences.

If you have your own question, make a post in the group, or comment to let us know the issue you want discussed.

Handy resource: child mental health

Can you identify if a child under your care needs mental health support?

If you are concerned about a child's wellbeing, start by writing down your observations and reflections. Then discuss them with an appropriate colleague to identify the child's strengths and potential needs.

Be You has helpful information on its [Before recommending additional support](#) fact sheet.

Good to know: combined families

Families with more than one child aged 5 or under in care can get a [higher CCS](#) for the second child and younger children.

Combined families will automatically start receiving the higher CCS from 1 July. They may also receive backpay from Services Australia for any higher subsidy they were eligible for between 7 March and 30 June 2022.

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

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

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