



Australian Government  
Department of Education

# News

Weekly wrap for the early childhood education and care sector



06 July 2022

## Changes to emergency support

In times of emergency, we may declare a period of emergency for the early childhood education and care sector.

The following measures will apply for any declared period of emergency in identified Local Government Areas (LGAs) or regions:

- **you can get Child Care Subsidy (CCS)** if you close as a direct result of the emergency, but only during the emergency
- **you can waive gap fees** if a child doesn't attend or your service is closed during the emergency
- **children will get extra absences** for the duration of the emergency.

Full details about this support are available on our [help in an emergency page](#).

### Get notified

We'll notify services via email when a period of emergency is declared in your area. You'll also receive a notification via the Child Care Subsidy System.

Make sure your contact details, particularly email addresses, are up to date. Check this via the [Provider Entry Point \(PEP\)](#) or your third-party software.

We also list [regions and timeframes where we've recently declared a period of emergency](#) on our website.

### NSW weather event

We notified services in identified LGAs in New South Wales and Jervis Bay this week about support available to them because of the weather emergency, including vast flooding.

We ask services to regularly check our [emergency support by region page](#) for updates.

This lists where a period of emergency has been declared, which triggers support.

## CCS rates increase next week

### **CCS rates are increasing from Monday.**

CCS rates are adjusted each July based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous December. That means the CCS family income thresholds and hourly rate caps will increase. The new rates take effect on Monday, which is the start of the first CCS fortnight in the new financial year.

[Read about the changes to CPI rates on our website.](#)

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## **Session reports** cut off on 7 August

**Providers have until 11.59pm on 7 August to submit session reports to Services Australia for the 2021–22 CCS year.**

Completing session reports by this deadline is essential for balancing family CCS entitlement for last financial year.

The Child Care Subsidy System will be closed for the 2021–22 CCS year from 8 August. You will then be unable to submit, vary or withdraw session reports for any period of care between 12 July 2021 and 10 July 2022.

Providers have an obligation to submit complete and accurate session reports on time. Failure to do so is an offence and may result in an infringement.

[For more information on reporting sessions of care, refer to the Child Care Provider Handbook](#)

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## **Survey:** inform new learning system

**We are developing a Learning Management System to help you understand your compliance obligations under Family Assistance Law.**

The department has engaged consultants to conduct research and analysis of the sector's compliance learning needs.

We are asking you to take a survey, which will help us shape the design, content and delivery of system and its learning resources.

[Take the survey online.](#)

The survey closes on Sunday.

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## **We're now** Department of Education

**The Department of Education, Skills and Employment has separated into the Department of Education and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, following the change of government.**

Early childhood education and care (ECEC) will remain under the education portfolio and part of the new Department of Education.

The Hon Jason Clare MP is the Minister for Education, the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP is the Minister for Early Childhood and Youth, and Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm is the Assistant Minister for Education.

ECEC information can still be found on the [DESE website](#) while a new website is developed.

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## Stand up! It's NAIDOC Week



**GET UP! STAND UP! SHOW UP!**  
**3-10 JULY 2022**

**It's NAIDOC Week – and this year's theme is Get up! Stand up! Show up!**

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for Australians to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Here's how you can take part:

- find a [NAIDOC event](#) near you
- download and display the [NAIDOC Week poster](#)
- read the [teacher resource](#) for ideas
- print the [colouring-in sheets](#) for children.

[Read more about getting involved in NAIDOC Week on the official website.](#)

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## Wage support for apprentices and trainees

**The Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System (AAIS) started on 1 July.**

The program will build on the success of the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy and replaces the previous Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program.

The AAIS provides incentives to eligible employers. It will be rolled out in two phases:

- from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024, the AAIS will provide wage subsidies for eligible employers in priority occupations, including early childhood education and care
- from 1 July 2024, employers in priority occupations will be supported through a hiring incentive.

[Learn more about the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System.](#)

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## Useful information

### Handy resource

#### Are you part of our [Facebook group community](#)?

We share program and policy announcements, helpful links and resources for the sector all in one place. Plus, it's a great space to ask us questions directly, start a discussion with your peers and connect with colleagues in your industry.

Recently, a member asked a great question about Additional Child Care Subsidy and allowable absences. [See the conversation in the group](#).

[Join the Australian Child Care Providers and Services Facebook group](#).

### Good to know

- **The 26-week rule starts 11 July.** From next Monday, a child who hasn't used care at least once in the previous 26 weeks will no longer be eligible for CCS. Services Australia has notified impacted families. You do not need to take action.
- **Allowable absences have reset for this financial year.** All families have 52 allowable absences.

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## Was this newsletter helpful?

[Yes](#)

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

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