



Additional information about the Child Care Subsidy activity test

This fact sheet provides families with more information on the Child Care Subsidy activity test. The more hours of recognised activity families do, the more hours of subsidised care they can access, up to a maximum of 100 hours per fortnight for each child.

Reporting your activity

Do you know everything that you can include when counting your hours of activity per fortnight? For example:

- paid work includes
 - being self-employed or
 - paid or unpaid leave (including paid or unpaid parental leave)
- participating in an approved course of education or study includes
 - contact hours and self-directed hours of study and
 - term/semester breaks (once the course begins until the course is completed)
- travel time from the child care service to your place of activity and back to the child care service can be included (but not between home and the child care service).

Hours spent engaging in different recognised activities can be combined together to determine your entitlement of subsidised hours.

Example – participating in an approved course of education or study

Emma and Rowan live in Wangaratta, Victoria.

- Emma works full time as the manager of a supermarket.
- Rowan has decided to attend university to study graphic design. He spends three days a week on campus and attends 15 hours of classes and tutorials.
- Rowan also spends 10 hours per week at home completing assignments and listening to lectures online.
- They have a three-year old son named Kieran who attends a centre based day care service.

Whenever Rowan goes to university he drops Kieran at the service, and later in the day, he picks him up.

- Rowan's university is a one-hour drive from the service.
- When Rowan is calculating his activity level, he is allowed to include a reasonable amount of the time he spends travelling between the service and where he is studying.
- Rowan's activity level totals **62 hours per fortnight** (30 hours of contact hours (attending class) + 20 hours of self-directed study + 12 hours of travel).

Both Emma's work and Rowan's studies are for **more than 48 hours per fortnight, so they will be entitled to 100 hours of subsidised care per fortnight.**

Example – a family is setting up a business

George and Maria live in Wandj, Western Australia.

- George is setting up a new family farm business selling organic eggs.
- He spends 45 hours per fortnight doing this.
- Maria is a rural nurse and works 50 hours per fortnight.
- They have a young daughter who attends a centre based day care service.

Because George is actively setting up a business, his time is spent:

- attending conventions
- pitching his idea to investors
- organising his online store, and
- other related tasks, which **all count towards his activity level for six months** (i.e. for this activity, up to 13 fortnights will be recognised out of every 12 months, and do not have to occur consecutively).

George and Maria will be entitled to 72 hours of subsidised care for their child each fortnight. This is based on George's activity level as his is the lowest.

Later, when George begins to operate his business, he can update his circumstances with Centrelink and report his hours of business activity as paid work (self-employed).

For more information, see the fact sheet on the [Child Care Subsidy activity test](#).

Where can I get further information on the Child Care Package?

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Child Care Package: dese.gov.au/ecc

Services Australia Child Care Subsidy: servicesaustralia.gov.au/childcaresubsidy