



New child care package

Child Care Safety Net

As part of the new child care package, the Government is establishing a new **Child Care Safety Net**, which is being progressively rolled out from July 2016.

The Child Care Safety Net aims to give the most vulnerable children a strong start, while supporting parents into work. It will do this by providing targeted assistance to vulnerable and at-risk children and their families, as well as supporting child care services in disadvantaged communities to address barriers in accessing child care.

The Child Care Safety Net has three components:

- **Additional Child Care Subsidy**
- **Community Child Care Fund**
- **Inclusion Support Programme**

Additional Child Care Subsidy – July 2018

The Additional Child Care Subsidy is a top up payment in addition to the Child Care Subsidy (refer table below).

Extra support for	Additional subsidy
Children at risk of serious abuse or neglect; grandparent primary carers on income support; families experiencing temporary financial hardship	A subsidy equal to 100 per cent of the actual fee charged (up to 120 per cent of the hourly rate cap), up to 100 hours of assistance per fortnight
Parents transitioning to work from income support	A subsidy equal to 95 per cent of the actual fee charged (up to 95 per cent of the hourly rate cap), hours of assistance determined by the activity test

Case Study – Additional Child Care Subsidy

Natasha is not currently working but is studying at university full time in order to better her chances of future employment. Her two year old daughter attends a local long day care centre 5 days a week for 10 hours a day. The long day care centre currently charges \$78.50 per day or \$392.50 per week. By July 2018, the cost will be \$92.44 per day or \$462.20 per week.

As Natasha is transitioning to work she will be eligible for assistance under the Additional Child Care Subsidy.

As this assistance is activity tested, Natasha would be able to access 50 hours of child care per week as she is studying for 49 or more hours per fortnight. Natasha would be subsidised for up to 95 per cent of her child care costs, leaving her only five per cent (\$4.62 per day or \$23.11 per week) out of pocket.

Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) – July 2018

Under the CCCF, eligible child care services will be able to apply for supplementary funding to:

- reduce the barriers in accessing child care, in particular for disadvantaged or vulnerable families and communities
- provide sustainability support for child care services experiencing viability issues
- provide capital support to increase the supply of child care places in areas of high unmet demand.

Within the CCCF \$61.8 million has been set aside for Budget Based Funded services to support the viability and sustainability of these services, as well as to support services to increase participation by Indigenous children. This is in addition to the Child Care Subsidy and the Additional Child Care Subsidy.

The Connected Beginnings program, which is part of the CCCF, commenced in July 2016. The program will provide for the integration of child care, maternal and child health, and family support services in a number of Indigenous communities experiencing disadvantage, as recommended by Andrew Forrest in his review of Indigenous jobs and training – *Creating Parity*.

Inclusion Support Programme – July 2016

The Inclusion Support Programme assists mainstream services to improve their capacity and capability to provide inclusive practices and address barriers to participation for children with additional needs, particularly children with disability.

The programme includes:

- practical inclusion advice and support for services
- access to specialist equipment
- additional funding to the service to assist inclusion of children with additional needs.

For more information on the new child care package, visit www.education.gov.au.