



Australian Government

**Department of Education,
Skills and Employment**

Child Care Package

More support for more families





WHAT IS THE CHILD CARE PACKAGE?

The Package is helping parents and carers who want to work or who want to work more, while making early childhood education and care more affordable and accessible. The Package includes the Child Care Subsidy, which is generally paid directly to approved child care providers to reduce the fees you pay.

ANNUAL SUBSIDY CAP

Families earning \$188,163[^] or less do not have an annual cap on their subsidy.

Families earning over \$188,163[^] and under \$352,453[^] have an annual cap on their subsidy of \$10,373[^] per child, per year.

[^] These amounts are correct for 2019/20 and will be subject to adjustment through indexation in subsequent years.

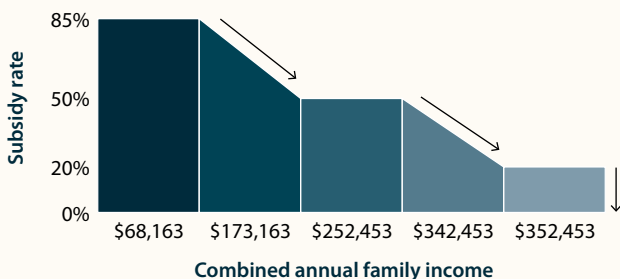
HOW DOES IT WORK?

There are three things that will determine a family's level of Child Care Subsidy.

1

Combined family income

A family's annual adjustable taxable income will determine the percentage of subsidy they are eligible for.



2

Activity test

The number of hours of subsidised care families can access is determined by an activity test. The higher the level of activity, the more hours of subsidised care families can access, up to a maximum of 100 hours per fortnight.

Recognised activities

- paid work - including leave, such as parental leave
- self-employment
- studying and training
- unpaid work in a family business
- looking for work
- volunteering.

There are exemptions to the activity test for families who legitimately cannot meet the activity requirements, and exemptions to support children's participation in centre based day care preschool programs.

Preschool exemption

Families who do not meet and are not otherwise exempt from the Child Care Subsidy activity test are entitled to 36 hours of subsidised care per fortnight to support their preschool-aged child to attend a preschool program at a centre based day care service.

For more information on the preschool exemption visit: [education.gov.au](https://www.education.gov.au) and search 'preschool exemption'.

Hours of activity

The parent or carer with the lowest hours of activity per fortnight will determine the hours of subsidised care. The hours are per child.

Hours of activity*	Hours of subsidy*
For families earning up to \$68,163 [^]	
Less than 8 hours	24 hours
For families earning up to \$352,453 [^]	
8 hours to 16 hours	36 hours
More than 16 hours to 48 hours	72 hours
More than 48 hours	100 hours

*per fortnight

Families whose hours of paid work vary from one fortnight to the next (such as casual workers) can estimate their fortnightly hours of work based on a three-month period.

3

The type of early childhood education and care service

The maximum hourly rate that will be subsidised is based on the type of child care service families use:

- Centre based day care - \$11.98[^] per hour
- Family day care - \$11.10[^] per hour
- Outside school hours care - \$10.48[^] per hour
- In Home Care - \$32.58[^] per hour (per family).

For more information visit:

servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy



CHILD CARE SAFETY NET

The Package includes a Safety Net to give the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children, as well as those from regional and remote communities, a strong start through access to quality early learning and child care.

ADDITIONAL CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

Included in the Child Care Safety Net is an Additional Child Care Subsidy. If you meet the eligibility requirements of the Child Care Subsidy, you may be able to get extra help with the cost of approved child care if you are a:

- family that requires practical help to support your child's safety and wellbeing
- grandparent who is a primary carer
- family experiencing temporary financial hardship
- family transitioning from income support to work.

For more information visit:

servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/additional-child-care-subsidy

HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for the Child Care Subsidy by using your Centrelink online account through myGov, or the Express Plus Centrelink app.



You will be asked to provide:

- your combined family income estimate for the 2019-2020 financial year
- the hours of recognised activity including work, training, study and volunteering
- the type of child care your family uses.

PAYMENT AND SERVICE FINDER

To estimate how much Child Care Subsidy you may get, use the Centrelink Payment and Service Finder. Visit: servicesaustralia.gov.au and search 'Centrelink Payment and Service Finder'.

NEED HELP FINDING SUITABLE CHILD CARE?



The Child Care Finder is a simple way for you to find a service that suits your needs. It will tell you about services near you, their vacancies, fees, opening hours and National Quality Framework ratings. Visit: childcarefinder.gov.au