



# What is the Additional Child Care Subsidy (grandparent)

Additional Child Care Subsidy (grandparent) is a payment from the Australian Government to help grandparents on income support who are the principal carers of their grandchild(ren) with the cost of child care. This payment is to support grandparents who help out their families in difficult circumstances by being the principal carer for their grandchild(ren).

## Who can get Additional Child Care Subsidy (grandparent)?

Additional Child Care Subsidy (grandparent) is available to grandparents who:

- are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy (which can be applied for at the same time)
- receive an income support payment (for example, the age pension or Department of Veterans' Affairs service pension)
- are the grandparent or great-grandparent of the child(ren) and
- are the principal carer of their grandchild(ren)\*

\*For the purposes of Child Care Subsidy, a principal carer has 65 per cent or more care of the child(ren), and is responsible for the day-to-day decisions about the child's care, welfare and development.

Being a principal carer can be a permanent or temporary arrangement.

A grandparent or a great-grandparent includes a natural, adoptive or step grandparent (or greatgrandparent) of the grandchild, or the grandparent's (or great-grandparent's) current or former partner.

Grandparents who don't meet the eligibility requirements may still be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy.

## How many hours of child care subsidy will an eligible grandparent receive?

Grandparents who are eligible for Additional Child Care Subsidy (grandparent) will not have to meet the activity test requirements. This means they will be entitled to access up to 100 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight.

## **How will Additional Child Care Subsidy be paid?**

The Additional Child Care Subsidy (grandparent) is paid directly to approved child care services to reduce the cost of child care fees.

Eligible grandparents will receive a subsidy equal to the actual fee charged by the child care service, up to 120 per cent of the Child Care Subsidy hourly rate cap, whichever is lower. In most cases, the full cost of child care will be covered.

## **How do grandparents apply for Additional Child Care Subsidy (grandparent)?**

Grandparents can apply for the subsidy by accessing their Centrelink online account through [myGov](#) or by visiting a Centrelink office and applying in person.

Grandparents must provide evidence of their relationship to the child, the percentage of care they provide and that they have responsibility for the day to day decision about the child's care, welfare and development. Evidence may include birth certificates, formal court orders or third party evidence.

## **What if a grandparent's circumstances change?**

Grandparents need to let Centrelink know as soon as possible if their circumstances change regarding the care arrangements for their grandchild(ren).

- Grandparents who are not the principal carers of their grandchild, but have regular care of that child, may still be eligible to receive Child Care Subsidy based on their income and hours of recognised activity.

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

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Child Care Package: [dese.gov.au/ecc](https://dese.gov.au/ecc)

Services Australia Child Care Subsidy: [servicesaustralia.gov.au/childcaresubsidy](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/childcaresubsidy)