

Transitioning from ECEC Relief Package back to the Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy (8/6/2020).

- The Australian Government has confirmed the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package will be extended until 12 July 2020.
- From 13 July 2020, Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy will recommence with the introduction of a number of new measures to support providers and families through this period.
 - With CCS payments recommencing from 13 July 2020, providers are obliged to recover gap fees as usual.
 - From 13 July 2020, the CCS hourly rate cap is \$12.20 for CBDC; \$11.30 for FDC; \$33.17 for IHC and \$10.67 for OSHC.
 - The ability to submit session reports through to the Child Care Subsidy System will recommence from 13 July 2020. Session reports cannot be submitted to the Child Care Subsidy System for the period 6 May 2020 to 12 July 2020, including after 12 July 2020.
 - Applications for Exceptional Circumstance Supplementary Payments cease on 20 July 2020.

What are Transition Payments?

- From 13 July 2020, all approved early childhood education and care services will receive a Transition Payment, instead of JobKeeper, for the period 13 July 2020 to 27 September 2020.
 - JobKeeper will cease from 20 July 2020 for employees of a CCS approved service and for sole traders operating a child care service.
 - All approved providers who received CCS previously will receive the Transition Payment, including services operated by state and territory government as well as local government authorities (local councils).
 - Conditions of receiving the Transition Payments include services do not receive JobKeeper from 20 July 2020 (the beginning of the JobKeeper fortnight) and **must maintain the same fees charged during the relevant reference period. Services must also maintain the same average number of employees.**
- The Transition Payment is 25 per cent of fee revenue or the existing hourly rate cap, whichever is lower, during the relevant reference period that has been used during the Relief Package (fortnight period up to 2.3.2020)
- Additionally, services receiving the Transition Payments should not be changing their service offering and/or increasing or adding new administrative fees.

What additional support will be available?

- Child Care Community Fund (CCCF) Special Circumstances grants will be available to support services experiencing viability issues. This support will be targeted at services in areas of limited supply, and ensure families in regional, rural, remote areas and areas of disadvantage continue to have access to care.

What are the changes to the Activity Test?

- The CCS activity test requirements will be eased for 12 weeks from 13 July 2020 to 4 October 2020 **for families impacted by COVID-19**, who can no longer access the same number of hours as before.
 - This can be done by updating their details through their Centrelink online account through myGov or the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app from 13 July 2020.
 - During this period, impacted families will be able to access up to 100 hours per fortnight of subsidised care.
 - The temporary easing of the activity test requirements **is only for individuals who had an activity test result of more than zero prior to COVID-19 crisis and can no longer engage in the same number hours of recognised activity.**
 - From 13 July 2020 to 4 October 2020, a couple is now entitled to an activity test result of 100 hours of CCS per fortnight if:
 - I. **both partners** had an activity test result of more than zero; and
 - II. **either partner** can no longer engage in the same number of hours of activity as they did before the COVID-19 crisis.

What are the changes to allowable absences?

The 62 initial absence days per child **cease on 30 June 2020**. There will be 42 initial absence days in 2020/21 Financial Year.

- Additional absence days to be claimed for COVID-19 related reasons without the need for medical evidence - **ceases on 31 December 2020**.

What happens if my service is required to close due to COVID-19?

- If your services is required to close due to COVID-19 – standard processes for activating a period of local emergency should be followed.
 - Activating a period of local emergency will allow families access to additional absences where children have already used their initial allowance of 42 absence days per child, per financial year.
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What should services do now?

1. **Ensure enrolment information is up to date before 13/7/2020.**

2. Families should be encouraged to check their details (eg: family income estimate) are up to date on their Centrelink online account.

- New families need to claim CCS as soon as possible. If they are not receiving CCS and continue to use child care from 13/7/2020, they will need to pay full fees.

From 13 July 2020, families will be able to advise Services Australia they meet these requirements to access the 100 hours. This can be done through their Centrelink online account through myGov or the Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

3. Ensure families understand that their child must meet immunisation requirements to receive CCS.

For further information please visit <https://www.dese.gov.au/covid-19/childcare/childcare-faq#section-arrangements-following-the-end-of-early-childhood-education-and-care-relief-package>