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Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

COVID-19 update

As the situation continues to change, it's important to keep up to date with how COVID-19 restrictions affect child care in your area.

We have information about support measures that are available to services in Commonwealth-declared hotspots, including access to business continuity payments, additional allowable absences, and gap fee waiving.

[See this table for eligible regions.](#)

Providers and services in Greater Sydney

On Monday 13 September, Services Australia recorded a one-off \$0 session of care for children enrolled at child care services in Greater Sydney. This is to ensure enrolments remain active during the extended lockdown.

Under Family Assistance Law, enrolments automatically end when a child does not physically attend care for 14 weeks – the \$0 session of care will reset the start of the 14-week period to begin from 13 September 2021.

The session will show in your system as "COVID-19 System Update".

Please confirm the \$0 session is now there if your service is in Greater Sydney. If it's not, you will need to add it manually. [See instructions on how to add the \\$0 session on our website.](#)

When you vary session reports this week, you must re-enter the \$0 session of care unless you are recording actual attendances for a child.

If you vary a session report and do not re-enter the \$0 session of care where a child did not attend, their enrolment will cease 14 weeks after their last attendance.

Services in Greater Sydney should [read the advice on our website for detailed information about the \\$0 session of care.](#)

Other support

[Go to our website for more information about:](#)

- support for services
- support for families
- if you have to close
- action you can take.

Approved Learning Frameworks

ACECQA is asking for your thoughts on the Approved Learning Frameworks Update project as part of the National Quality Framework.

To contribute, you can either [make a written submission or complete a survey](#) about the discussion paper by this Friday 17 September.

Your feedback on stage two of the project will inform recommendations for updates to two Approved Learning Frameworks.

- [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](#) and
- [My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia.](#)

The Approved Learning Frameworks Update is a partnership between Macquarie University, Queensland University of Technology and Edith Cowan University. It has been undertaken by ACECQA on behalf of the government.

To receive regular updates on the project, visit the website and [register your interest.](#)

CCS Helpdesk

The CCS Helpdesk has been impacted by COVID lockdowns which has affected our capacity to take calls over the past few weeks.

From this week, opening hours are 10am to 5pm (AEST time), Monday to Friday.

Please [check our website for information](#) before contacting us.

You can also reach us anytime [via email.](#)

If your question relates to business continuity payments, please email ECECViabilitySupportPackage@dese.gov.au.

Thank you for your patience during this time.

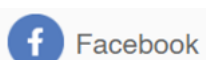
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