



Australian Government  
Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment

## Waiving gap fees ends on Sunday

In response to COVID-19, we introduced a rule that allowed services to waive gap fees when forced to close on public health advice.

**This provision ends on Sunday (31 January).**

From Monday (1 February), the normal rules apply when a service is closed.

That is, all parents who receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS) must make a co-contribution to their child care fees by paying the gap fee.

The gap fee is the remainder of the fees after the CCS amount has been applied.

[Learn more about gap fees in Child Care Provider Handbook](#)

## New local emergencies

We'll continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation, recognising that, at this time, restrictions are easing across Australia.

In the case of a local emergency, the existing support measures, such as additional absences, will apply.

[Find out more about help in an emergency on our website](#)

## Special Circs applications closing

If your service is at risk of closing due to COVID-19, you may be eligible to apply for a Community Child Care Fund Special Circumstances grant.

Applications close this Sunday (31 January).

Funding is available:

- for services in Victoria that can show they are at high risk of permanent closure because of COVID-19, despite receiving the Recovery Payment, and
- services outside Victoria who are at imminent risk of temporary or permanent closure because of COVID-19.

Eligible services will be operating in or servicing families from disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, or they are the only suitable service supporting a disadvantaged or vulnerable sector of their community.

[More information about eligibility and how to apply is on our website](#)

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[DESE-ECCCSectorCommunication@dese.gov.au](mailto:DESE-ECCCSectorCommunication@dese.gov.au)