



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

NSW, Queensland floods

New South Wales

We declared a Local Area Emergency last week for the period of 22 March to 4 April 2021 for all child care services in 34 local government areas in New South Wales.

We have now expanded the LAE to all child care services in 60 local government areas in New South Wales.

[Learn more about the LAE in NSW and affected areas](#)

Queensland

We also declared a Local Area Emergency for the period of 22 March to 4 April 2021 for all child care services in seven local government areas in Queensland.

[Learn more about the LAE in Queensland](#)

Update: QLD COVID-19 lockdown

The Queensland Government announced a three-day period of restrictions for Greater Brisbane starting at 5pm on Monday, 29 March and with it expected to end at 5pm tomorrow (Thursday, 1 April).

[Learn what this means for services](#)

Final day to confirm 2018–19 income

Today (Wednesday, 31 March) is the final day for families to confirm their 2018–19 income with Services Australia.

Families who haven't confirmed their 2018–19 income will lose their Child Care Subsidy (CCS) from 5 April.

If families confirm their income after 5 April, Services Australia can start their CCS again. Payments will restart the following CCS Monday, after their income is confirmed. If there was a gap between their CCS stopping and this date, they won't get CCS for that time.

To confirm their 2018–19 income for the purposes of balancing, families need to:

- lodge their tax return, or
- tell Services Australia they don't need to lodge a tax return. Families can do this using their [Centrelink online account](#) through [myGov](#) or the [Express Plus Centrelink mobile app](#).

We have more [information for providers on our website](#).

If families have questions, please direct them to the [Services Australia website](#).

Eased activity test ends Sunday

Last year, the Australian Government [eased the activity test](#) for families whose employment was affected by COVID-19.

This measure gives families access to extra Child Care Subsidy (CCS) hours if their recognised activity level decreases.

These extra hours are a temporary COVID-19 measure and will end on 4 April 2021.

You may notice a change to the amount of CCS you receive on behalf of families from 5 April.

Please ask families to ensure their [activity test details](#) are up to date so they receive the right amount of CCS.

More information for families is available on the [Services Australia website](#).

Financial help for very remote teachers

Do you run a Centre Based Day Care Service in very remote Australia?

The Australian Government supports teachers, including early childhood teachers, in very remote areas with Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debts.

We provide two types of assistance. We can:

- waive indexation on accumulated HELP debt, and
- reduce accumulated HELP debt.

Early childhood teachers at very remote Centre Based Day Care (CBDC) services may be eligible for this initiative.

[Check if your CBDC service is in a very remote area](#) and let your teachers know.

[Applications for indexation waivers](#) are open.

[Learn more about financial assistance for very remote teachers](#)

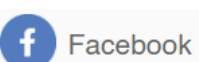
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