



Colleagues,

We've sent the below to providers and services in Queensland in relation to the flood emergency. Please share across your networks as you see fit. And please remind those who have not already done so, to subscribe for our regular updates.

Regards,

Digital Communication, Early Childhood and Child Care

QLD floods: Local Area Emergency

We have declared a Local Area Emergency (LAE) for the period 22 March to 4 April 2021 for all child care services in seven local government areas:

- Gold Coast
- Goondiwindi
- Lockyer Valley
- Logan
- Qualpie
- Scenic Rim
- Southern Downs.

In these areas, you may be required to close by local authorities, or families cannot travel.

Families attending services in these areas will have access to additional absences during the LAE period if they have used their allowance of 42 absences.

[Visit our website for more information about absences during emergencies.](#)

The Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) Special Circumstances Grant Opportunity helps services stay open when something unexpected happens, such as a local emergency. [Visit our website for details about the grant opportunity and to apply.](#)

If you have to close

If you close your service, you must report the closure within 24 hours to:

- CCSAssessments@dese.gov.au
- your [state or territory regulatory authority](#), and
- your third-party software provider.

Support for services

For more information about help available before, during and after an emergency, visit our [Help in an emergency](#) page.

Support for families

Families affected by the current floods may be eligible to receive additional support with the cost of child care through the [Additional Child Care Subsidy \(temporary financial hardship\)](#). Families must apply directly to Centrelink.

A range of payments and services is available for individuals recovering from a major disaster. More information on [emergency payments](#) is available on the Services Australia website.

Also, the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment is available to eligible Australians affected by the storms and floods. Visit the [Disaster Assist website for details](#).

Families looking for alternative child care options during an emergency can visit [Starting Blocks](#) or [Child Care Finder](#).

Action for you

- Update your vacancy details in the [Child Care Finder](#).
- Update your contact details, particularly email addresses, in the Child Care Subsidy System so you don't miss important information. Do this through the [Provider Entry Point](#) or your third-party software.
- Ask your families to maintain their enrolments. This will ensure their children receive continuity of care and early learning.
- Keep an eye on the [Queensland Government's emergency site](#) and [Queensland State Emergency Service site](#) for up-to-date emergency information in your region.

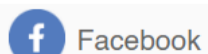
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