



## Extra absences for child care services in declared COVID-19 hotspots

The Australian Government has announced child care services in a [Commonwealth-declared COVID-19 hotspot](#) can access additional allowable absences if the declaration extends for more than seven days.

**Families will not have to use their 42 days of allowable absences during the lockdown.**

Additional absences will be available until the end of the hotspot declaration.

You can [find out if you are in a Commonwealth-declared COVID-19 hotspot](#) on the Department of Health website.

We routinely email providers and services in specific states and territories to update them on support available to them amid the evolving situation.

[Read about the announcement.](#)

## Survey: help us to better inform you

We want your feedback so we can better inform you about early childhood and child care policy.

We use a range of channels to help providers access information and get help. This includes our website, email newsletter, social media, and CCS Helpdesk.

Given these times, it has never been more important for us to reach you with important information. We want to know how best to do that, and via your preferred channel.

[We're asking you to complete this survey.](#) It will take you less than 10 minutes.

The survey closes on Friday 20 August.

We would also like you to share the survey link with staff at your service. This survey will not collect personal information and all responses will remain anonymous.

## Session reports cut-off this Sunday

You have only until Sunday to finalise session reports for the 2020–21 Child Care Subsidy (CCS) year.

From Sunday 8 August, the Child Care Subsidy System will be closed for the 2020–21 CCS year.

**You will then be unable to submit, vary or withdraw session reports for any period of care between 13 July 2020 and 11 July 2021.**

Finalising session reports by this deadline is essential for balancing family CCS entitlements for the CCS year just gone.

## CCS entitlement display issue resolved

Services Australia has resolved the Child Care Subsidy System display issue in which providers and services were unable to see updated entitlements information for the period from 1 to 11 July 2021.

Payment calculations were not affected.

For more information, please contact your software provider.

## Financial help for very remote teachers

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.](#)

## Jobs Fairs: helping you find staff

The Australian Government is hosting Jobs Fairs across the country to help employers, including those in early childhood education and care, find suitable staff.

The Jobs Fair is a free face-to-face event that gives providers an opportunity to promote current and upcoming vacancies, and to connect with employment service providers.

Job Fairs will be held in:

- Adelaide on Wednesday 18 August
- Cairns on Friday 20 August
- Perth on Tuesday 7 September
- Bundaberg on Thursday 16 September
- Geelong on Wednesday 22 September.

If you have vacancies, you can register to exhibit for free.

For more information visit the [Exhibitor Information](#) page or email [JobsFairs@dese.gov.au](mailto:JobsFairs@dese.gov.au).

These events will follow COVID-safe event procedures.

Please note: Due to COVID-19 lockdowns, these Job Fairs have been postponed:

- Brisbane - Friday 6 August
- Ipswich - Friday 13 August
- Central Coast – Friday 3 September
- Hunter Region – Thursday 9 September
- Illawarra South Coast – Tuesday 14 September.

## Today is Children's Day 2021

Today is National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day.

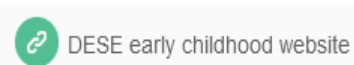
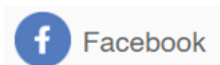
This year's theme is "Proud in culture, strong in spirit". This highlights the need to support family and community connections to help children achieve spiritual and cultural wellbeing, and to form proud cultural identities.

Learn about [Children's Day](#).

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