



Australian Government  
Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment

## COVID-19 in NT: support for child care services in Katherine lockdown

On 19 August, the Australian Government extended the Commonwealth-declared COVID-19 Hotspot in Katherine Town Council, including Tindal.

Child care services in [Commonwealth-declared COVID-19 Hotspots](#) can waive gap fees for families who keep their children at home because the state or territory government has limited who can access child care.

During the lockdown, child care is open only to the children of essential workers.

Details are on the [NT Government's COVID-19 response website](#).

We are monitoring the situation and will work closely with the Northern Territory Government and peak organisations from the sector as the situation evolves.

### Gap fees

Services in Katherine Town Council, including Tindal, can waive gap fees for families who keep their children at home during the lockdown.

The lockdown in Katherine ended at 12pm on Friday 20 August.

Services directed to close by a local authority because of COVID-19 can also waive gap fees until 31 December 2021.

The decision to waive gap fees is one for the individual service.

[Check this table for key dates for gap fee waiving in your region.](#)

### Absences

Families have access to 42 absence days per financial year that can be used for any reason.

### Support for services

The [COVID-19 Disaster Payment](#) provides financial support for workers who have lost hours as a result of a state or territory public health order.

Providers and services in Katherine Town Council, including Tindal, may be eligible for a range of COVID-19 support funding. For information on whole-of-Australian Government support for businesses affected by COVID-19, [visit business.gov.au](#).

Some services may be eligible for a [Community Child Care Fund Special Circumstances Grant](#). Services can apply for funding after an event has occurred and they have accessed other COVID support.

### Support for families

Families experiencing difficulties can apply for help under the [Additional Child Care Subsidy \(temporary financial hardship\)](#).

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

### If you have to close

You must tell us if you are temporarily closing your service for any reason and for any period. To do this, use the [Provider Entry Point \(PEP\)](#) or your third-party software.

These notifications are additional to those you must give your [state or territory regulatory authority](#).

### For action

- Update your vacancy details in the [Child Care Finder](#). Do this via the [PEP](#) or your third-party software.
- Update your contact details, particularly email addresses, in the Child Care Subsidy System so you don't miss important information. Do this via the [PEP](#) or your third-party software.
- Ask families to maintain their enrolments. This will ensure children receive continuity of care and early learning.
- Keep an eye on the [Northern Territory Government COVID-19 response website](#) for local updates.

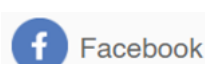
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