



Alert: 31 March balancing deadline

Two weeks remain for families to confirm their 2018–19 income.

If they don't confirm by 31 March as part of the balancing process, they'll lose their Child Care Subsidy.

To confirm their income, 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](#).

There's more [information for providers on our website](#). Here you'll find:

- [short video](#) that explains balancing
- [fact sheet](#) to share with families, and
- [poster](#) to display at your service.

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

Vacation care: Register for census

Time is running out for vacation care services to register for the Early Childhood Education and Care National Workforce Census.

If you haven't already, [you must register for the census](#).

Registration for vacation care only services closes on 26 March 2021.

Registration for all other services closes on 23 April 2021.

Your login code is in your invitation email from the Social Research Centre.

Completing the census is a requirement under Family Assistance Law.

If you need help or have questions, contact the National Workforce Census Helpline on 1800 800 996 (free call) or email nwc@srcentre.com.au.

[Learn more about National Workforce Census](#)

Wage help for trainees

Early childhood education and care services who take on new trainees may be eligible for an Australian Government subsidy.

Eligible services can receive a subsidy of 50% of a trainee's gross wages. The subsidy will pay up to \$7,000 per quarter for wages paid in the 12-month period from the date of commencement.

You may be eligible if you engage a new trainee between 5 October 2020 and 30 September 2021 who:

- is undertaking a Certificate II or higher qualification, including Certificate III or Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care and Certificate IV in School Aged Education and Care, and
- has a training contract formally approved by the state training authority.

Exclusions and Existing Worker eligibility will apply.

[Learn about Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements](#)

Extension for gap fee waiving

Services directed to close by a local authority because of COVID-19 can waive gap fees until 30 June 2021, following an extension from the Australian Government.

Health advice on gastro outbreaks

While alcohol-based hand sanitisers can prevent transmission of COVID-19, they are not effective on many of the viruses that cause gastro (viral gastroenteritis).

In light of recent outbreaks experienced by some services, we offer these reminders:

- Ensure staff and children wash hands regularly with soap and running water for 20 seconds each time.
- In the case of vomiting, children must remain at home for 24–48 hours after their symptoms have stopped, depending on their symptoms. In the case of diarrhoea, children must remain at home for at least 24 hours after their symptoms have stopped. They should also see a GP for advice and testing if symptoms are severe or persist.
- The [Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services guide](#) provides guidance on cleaning and sanitising child care facilities.

You can find more detailed health advice on your local government health department website.

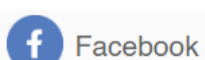
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