



Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package Conditions

More information is now available for providers and services about the Australian Government's new [Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package](#) payments.

This includes the conditions you are required to meet if you are receiving these payments. These conditions are outlined in the [Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package Conditions](#) document published today.

This document also includes information about:

- how the payments are calculated
- information about supplementary payments including the circumstances in which services may be eligible for these payments including, but not limited to, where:
 - the number of enrolments and attendances during the reference period is significantly and demonstratively lower than the current number of enrolments at the service (from 6 April 2020 onwards)
 - a service either maintains their previous level of attendances or experiences a significantly higher demand for child care for children of essential workers and/or vulnerable and disadvantaged children during the period 6 April 2020 to 28 June 2020.

The form to apply for supplementary payments will be available from 9 April 2020. The department will email the relevant link to providers and services when the application form goes live today.

We have also developed a new [Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package - Exceptional Circumstance Supplementary Payment](#) information sheet for services about the supplementary payments which you can access.

Advance Payments

To give services time to [register your interest](#) for [JobKeeper Payment](#), and apply for a supplementary payment where there are exceptional circumstances, the department will be combining the second and third payments (to be paid at the time of the second payment). Other subsequent payments will stay on a weekly cycle at this stage, but this advance payment will mean there will be one less weekly payment at the end of the twelve week payment period.

Webcast on Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package

Next week (commencing Tuesday 14 April 2020), the department will be hosting a webcast to address your concerns and questions. Details to follow on timing.

Answers to some Frequently Asked Questions

We have included below some answers to a few frequently asked questions we have been receiving. Remember to visit our [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpage which is updated regularly.

Will immunisation requirements for children continue?

Yes. All Child Care Subsidy (CCS) eligibility requirements will continue in place, and all approved providers and services must continue to comply with Family Assistance Law and National Law requirements. This includes the requirement under the Child Care Subsidy for children to meet the Childhood schedule on the Department of Health's [National Immunisation Program Schedule](#), be on a suitable catch up schedule in line with the Department of Health's current [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#), or have an approved [medical exemption](#) recorded on the [Australian Immunisation Register \(AIR\)](#).

For all care types, except In Home Care, families with children who do not meet the CCS immunisation requirements can attend child care services being supported by payments under the package where permitted to do so under state or territory regulations. These children must be enrolled under a Relevant Arrangement or Organisational Arrangement.

For families using In Home Care, all children attending an In Home Care service must be CCS eligible. Children who do not meet the CCS immunisation requirements cannot attend In Home Care child care services.

Can families who do not meet the Child Care Subsidy residency requirements enrol their children to attend a service receiving payments under the Package?

Yes. Families who do not meet the Child Care Subsidy residency requirements can be enrolled under a Relevant Arrangement or Organisational Arrangement enrolment while payments under the package are being made, noting however priority for child care places are to be given to essential workers, vulnerable and disadvantaged children and previously enrolled children.

Can families who have children enrolled under a Relevant or Organisational Arrangement attend a service receiving payments under the Package for free?

Yes, for the duration of the Package.

What support is available for Family Day Care Services?

In recognition of the unique nature of care that is provided by Family Day Care services, a dedicated [Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package - Information for Family Day Care](#) information sheet is available to address issues as they specifically relate to Family Day Care. This includes what support is available, interaction of the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package with JobKeeper Payment and how to address a large number of requests for enrolments.

Child Care Subsidy Helpdesk closed on Friday 10 & Monday 13 April 2020 - Easter public holidays

The CCS Helpdesk will be closed on Friday, 10 April 2020 and Monday, 13 April 2020. It will reopen at 8:00am (AEST) Tuesday, 14 April 2020.

During this time you can still send your question through via our [online enquiry form](#). It is important to fill out all the relevant information so that your query can be actioned as quickly as possible.

Should you require assistance during this period, you can also refer to the [COVID-19 webpage](#), [information resources for providers](#) and the [Child Care Provider Handbook](#).

For up to date information on COVID-19 for providers and services visit the [Department of Education, Skills and Employment](#).

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