



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

COVID-19 in NT: what lockdown in Greater Darwin and Katherine means for child care

The Northern Territory Government announced a three-day lockdown for Greater Darwin and Katherine starting at 12pm ACST on Monday 16 August.

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

The lockdown covers the City of Darwin, City of Palmerston, Litchfield Council, Wagait Shire, Belyuen Shire, Dundee, Bynoe, Charlotte, Cox Peninsula, and Municipality of Katherine including Tindal.

School and child care facilities are open only for children of essential workers and vulnerable children.

At this stage, there is no change to fee charging or absences in relation to the lockdown.

Services in a [Commonwealth-declared COVID-19 hotspot](#) may be able to access gap fee waivers and additional allowable absences. We'll let you know if there is a hotspot declaration for the Northern Territory.

More information about [gap fee waivers and additional allowable absences](#) is available on our website.

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

Absences

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

Gap fee waiving

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

Stay up to date

We continue to update the sector on restrictions, Australian Government support and the impact on child care services. Please check in regularly to our [Early Childhood COVID-19 home page](#).

COVID-19 Disaster Payment

Information about the [COVID-19 Disaster Payment](#) is available on the Services Australia website.

Support for families

Families experiencing difficulty may be eligible for support under [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](#).

Support for services

Providers and services in the Northern Territory 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](#). Applicants can request funding after an event has occurred and they have accessed other COVID support.

If you have to close

You must also 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 COVID-19 response website](#) for local information.

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