



Information for families using child care

Fact Sheet 1

What assistance does the Australian Government give me for the cost of my child care?

The Australian Government understands that high quality child care is important for many Australian families. High quality child care plays an important role in improving children's educational and developmental outcomes. Child care also enables parents to participate in the workforce and the broader community. To help you with the cost of your child care, the Australian Government provides the following assistance.

Child Care Benefit

Child Care Benefit reduces the cost of your total child care fees. It is available to you if you are a parent, foster parent or grandparent with a child in your care who is attending child care approved by, or registered with, the Government. There are certain eligibility requirements you must meet to get Child Care Benefit.

Child Care Rebate

The Child Care Rebate is additional assistance if you use approved child care, and you are working, studying or training at some time during the week or have an exemption. The Child Care Rebate covers 50 per cent of your out-of-pocket costs up to the annual cap. From 1 July 2011 the Child Care Rebate annual cap is \$7,500 per child per year.

From July 2011 you have the option to receive your Child Care Rebate paid fortnightly, either directly to your bank account, or through your child care service provider as a fee reduction. You still have the option of having your Child Care Rebate paid quarterly or annually as a lump sum directly to your bank account.

Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care fee assistance

JET Child Care fee assistance provides extra help if you are a parent on an income support payment and looking for work, studying or starting a job. It will cover most of your child care costs. Eligibility for JET Child Care fee assistance increased from 12 months of study, regardless of the course duration, to up to 24 months.

Child Care Services Support Program

The Child Care Services Support Program provides funding to support child care and related services.

- **Quality**—Promote quality care for all children in Australian child care services.
- **Community Support**—for programs designed to support access to child care for families in identified areas of need.
- **Inclusion Support**—helps child care services to build their capacity to include children with additional needs.
- **Professional Support**—provides child care workers with access to advice, training and resources to assist them build their skills and capacity to provide quality care.

What other information on child care is there?

The following fact sheets are available if you have questions about your child care needs:

- Fact Sheet 2** What is Child Care Benefit (CCB)?
- Fact Sheet 3** What is approved child care?
- Fact Sheet 4** What are the different types of approved child care?
- Fact Sheet 5** What is registered child care?
- Fact Sheet 6** How much Child Care Benefit (CCB) can I get?
- Fact Sheet 7** What is the work, training, study test?
- Fact Sheet 8** What are my responsibilities for receiving Child Care Benefit (CCB)?
- Fact Sheet 9** Absences from child care—Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR)
- Fact Sheet 10** What is the Child Care Rebate (CCR)?
- Fact Sheet 11** Is there extra help I can get with my child care cost?
- Fact Sheet 12** What is Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care fee assistance?
- Fact Sheet 13** What child care services are available in regional and remote and Indigenous communities?
- Fact Sheet 14** Is there any extra assistance for my child with additional needs?
- Fact Sheet 15** A new Quality fact sheet coming soon.
- Fact Sheet 16** Will my child be given priority for child care services?
- Fact Sheet 17** Where can I find a child care service that meets my needs?
- Fact Sheet 18** Where do I go for more information on child care?
- Fact Sheet 19** Absences from child care due to a local emergency—Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR)

How can I get more information?

For further information on your eligibility for CCB, CCR and JET Child Care fee assistance please contact the Family Assistance Office:



access online services at www.familyassist.gov.au



call 13 61 50 between 8 am and 8 pm (local time) Monday to Friday



email through www.familyassist.gov.au



visit a Family Assistance Office (located in Medicare Offices and Centrelink Customer Service Centres).

Useful resources

For news and information on child care visit the mychild website available at www.mychild.gov.au
Centrelink/Family Assistance/Child Support/Child Care Estimator at www.familyassist.gov.au
Family Assistance, The What, Why and How booklet, available at www.familyassist.gov.au
Family Assistance Office Guide to Payments fact sheet, available at www.familyassist.gov.au

If you need to, you can also call:



Teletypewriter (TTY) 1800 810 586 (if you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment).

You need a TTY phone to use this service.

13 12 02 if you need information in a language other than English.