

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ECEC Relief Package FAQs – June 2020



Background

On 2 April 2020, the Australian Government announced the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Relief Package, which replaced the [Child Care subsidy \(CCS\)](#) on Monday 6 April.

Federal Minister for Education Dan Tehan confirmed that the ECEC Relief Package will be switched off on 12 July 2020, which means an end to free child care and a return to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) system from 13 July 2020.

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) has created a useful [frequently asked questions](#) article that outlines the key tenets of the new policies, rules and conditions, which can be found on their website.

What You Need to Know

- **Activity test requirements will be relaxed** – From 13 July 2020, the Australian Government is easing the activity test for CCS. This means you may be able to apply for extra activity hours if COVID-19 has affected you. There will be more information about how to do this in July.
- The number of **allowable absences** will return to **42** (from 62).
- If you're [new to child care](#), you should [claim CCS](#) **as soon as possible**. From 13 July 2020, you'll pay full fees unless you're getting CCS.

Please Follow These Steps

With the ECEC Relief Package coming to an end and the resumption of the CCS on Monday 13 July, it's important to follow these steps to avoid paying full fees.

- Give Centrelink your 2020–21 [family income estimate](#) to receive the correct CCS percentage and avoid an overpayment.
- Check your [activity hours](#) to receive the correct amount of hours of CCS per fortnight.
- Make sure your child meets [immunisation requirements](#).
- Check your child's [enrolment details](#) are current and re-enrol if you need to.
- [Confirm your income for 2018–19](#) if you haven't already by 30 June 2020. If you don't confirm your 2018-19 income by 30 June 2020, your CCS will stop from 13 July 2020. If you've already confirmed your family income for 2018-19, there's nothing else you need to do.

You can find out more about [Child Care Subsidy](#) on the Services Australia website.

Communities@Work's response to COVID-19?

Communities@Work is Canberra's largest not-for-profit community organisation, providing a wide range of high-quality early education and care services and community services in the ACT and Capital region.

Communities@Work has a commitment to the Canberra community, and we are working hard to ensure we continue to provide our essential community services to children, families, clients and our community during the COVID-19 crisis. We are here for you, now and into the future.

First and foremost, our highest priority is your children's health and wellbeing and the health and wellbeing of our educators and staff. We have implemented increased hygiene, cleaning and other measures across all of our services to reduce the risk of infection and spread of COVID-19. More information can be found on the [dedicated COVID-19 page on our website](#).

Have a Question?

If you have any questions about the new arrangement, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Children's Services Enrolments Team on **1300 212 273** between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday or email them at enrolments@commsatwork.org.