

# What Is The Additional Childcare Subsidy?

## Temporary Financial Hardship

**Additional Childcare Subsidy (temporary financial hardship) is a short-term payment from the Australian Government to help Families experiencing significant financial stress with the cost of childcare. This payment will help with the continuity of childcare for children and provide support to families when they need it most.**

### Who is eligible?

Additional Childcare Subsidy (temporary financial hardship) is available to families who are eligible for the Childcare Subsidy (which can be applied for at the same time) and where an individual is experiencing temporary financial hardship which has caused a substantial reduction in their ability to pay childcare fees due to:

- Unexpected loss of employment of the individual, or a partner of the individual, other than due to resignation or retirement.
- To receive the subsidy, Families need to apply for temporary financial hardship assistance within six months from the date of the event. Evidence will be required to support the application and may include, but is not limited to:
  - A letter from an employer (for loss of job)
  - Statutory Declaration outlining the nature of the temporary hardship

Evidence will also need to show the circumstance/event occurred within six months from the date of application and identify how the event has resulted in a substantial reduction in their ability to pay child care fees.

## **How many hours of childcare subsidy will an eligible Family receive?**

Families who are eligible for the Additional Childcare Subsidy (temporary financial hardship) will not have to meet the activity test. This means they will be entitled to access up to 100 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight.

Eligible Families will receive a subsidy equal to the actual fee charged by the childcare service, up to 120 per cent of the Childcare Subsidy hourly rate cap, whichever is lower. In most cases, the full cost of child care will be covered.

## **How will the subsidy be paid?**

The Additional Childcare Subsidy (temporary financial hardship) is paid directly to childcare providers to reduce the cost of childcare fees. The subsidy is paid for a maximum of 13 weeks per event.

## **How do Families apply?**

Families can apply for the subsidy by accessing their Centrelink online account through [myGov](#) or by visiting a Centrelink office and applying in person.

## **What if a Family's circumstances change?**

Families need to let Centrelink know as soon as possible if their circumstances change that might affect their eligibility for this additional subsidy.

## **Where can I get further information on the Childcare Package?**

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Childcare Package:

[dese.gov.au/ecc](https://dese.gov.au/ecc)

Services Australia Childcare Subsidy:

[servicesaustralia.gov.au/childcaresubsidy](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/childcaresubsidy)