



Child Care Subsidy: Fact Sheet

What is CCS?

The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is a government initiative in Australia designed to assist families with the costs of approved childcare services, making childcare more affordable. Families must meet eligibility criteria to qualify for the CCS.

The amount of CCS a family can get depends on their individual circumstances. You can check your eligibility on the [**Services Australia**](#) website.

How do I apply for CCS?

To apply for the Child Care Subsidy, you will need to submit a claim through your myGov account. Follow the below steps:

1. Link your Centrelink account to your myGov account – you may need your individual customer reference number (CRN)
2. Make a claim – on your Centrelink account, select 'Make a Claim' from the sidebar options. Select 'Families', then 'Child Care Subsidy'.
3. Complete the application – you will need to answer questions about your family income, activity levels and your child's details.

Please note, the claim can take several weeks to process, so it is best to have this done prior to enrolling at a centre. If your claim is not finalised prior to your child's first attendance, you will be paying fees at the full rate upfront until your claim is approved.

Once your claim has been approved, you will be allocated your entitlements. You will need to let the centre know to submit your child's enrolment to Centrelink, then confirm the enrolment via myGov. Once confirmed, your subsidy can be applied to your fees.

How is CCS paid?

CCS is paid directly to service providers, so families only pay the gap fee. In some cases, CCS may be paid directly to the family and the family will be required to pay the service in full.

If I have 60% subsidy, does this mean I receive 60% off the fees?

Not necessarily – please see the next page for information on the Hourly Rate Cap and how that may affect your gap fee payable.



Child Care Subsidy: Hourly Rate Cap

Hourly Rate Cap

The hourly rate cap is a rate set by the government and reviewed each year. There's a different hourly rate cap depending on both:

- the type of approved childcare you use
- your child's age

Your (CCS) percentage will apply to the lowest of either the hourly:

- hourly rate cap
- hourly fee you're charged by your childcare service.

Children below school age. A child below school age is a child who is either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• not attending school• is younger than 6 years old.	
Centre Based Day Care - long day care and occasional care.	\$14.63
Family Day Care	\$13.56
Outside School Hours Care - before, after and vacation care.	\$14.63
In Home Care	\$39.80 per family

Children above school age. A school aged child is a child who is either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• in school, including being home schooled• aged 6 years or older.	
Centre Based Day Care - long day care and occasional care.	\$12.81
Family Day Care	\$13.56
Outside School Hours Care - before school, after school and vacation care	\$12.81

The hourly fee is the amount your childcare service charges you for each hour of care. If your service charges a daily session rate, divide this by the number of hours in the session.

The number of hours in a session may not be the number of hours your child actually attends. Check with your childcare service to find out the number of hours in a session.

EXAMPLE: CHILD'S CCS is 75%

Please note, Centrelink withholds a minimum of 5% to reduce the chances of overpayment.

DAILY FEE IS \$155 / DAILY SESSION IS 10 HOURS

Hourly Fee: $\$155 / 10 \text{ hours} = \15.50 per hour

Hourly Rate Cap: \$14.63.

The difference is 87c.

Since the Hourly Fee is higher than the Hourly Rate Cap, the family will not receive CCS for the extra 87c per hour. The 75% CCS will only apply to the \$14.63 per hour.

75% CCS of \$14.63 (hourly rate cap) = \$10.97. This is the approximate amount covered by CCS per hour (please note this does not include the 5% withheld).

Gap fee payable: $\$15.50 - \$10.97 = \$4.53 \text{ per hour}$.

Family will pay $\$4.53 \text{ per hour} \times 10 \text{ hours} = \$45.30 \text{ per day out of pocket}$.

(please note this is a basic example to show the basic equation - it is not 100% accurate and also does not include the 5% withholding)

For more information please visit <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/child-care-subsidy>