



# What is Child Care Benefit?

Child Care Benefit (CCB) is a payment from the Australian Government that helps you with the cost of your child care.

## Who can get CCB?

You can get CCB if you are a parent, relationship parent, foster parent or grandparent with a child in your care who is attending a child care service which is approved to receive CCB on your behalf, or you use registered care. You must meet certain requirements to get CCB (see also work, training, study test later in this fact sheet).

From 1 July 2009, the Department of Human Services recognises all couples, opposite-sex and same-sex.

## What eligibility requirements do I have to meet to get CCB?

To get CCB, you need to meet these requirements:

### 1. Residency

You or your partner must be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident living in Australia or be exempted from the Government's residency requirements.

### 2. Immunisation

Children under seven must meet the Government's immunisation requirements or have an exemption.

### 3. Responsibility for child care payments

To get CCB you must be the one responsible for your child care costs. If your employer contributes to your child care through salary sacrificing or packaging, you may not be eligible to receive CCB. Similarly, if another agency or individual pays your child care on your behalf you should test your eligibility with the [Department of Human Services](#)

## Is there an exception to the eligibility requirements to get CCB?

One of the eligibility requirements to receive CCB is that you must have a Family Tax Benefit or regular care child in your care. Your child cannot be your Family Tax Benefit or regular care child if they receive a social security benefit or pension. It is possible, however, if your child is on a Disability Support Pension to receive an exception.

This exception allows your child who is in receipt of a Disability Support Pension to be deemed to be your Family Tax Benefit or regular care child, if they are living at home with you and they are under 21 years of age. This exception recognises the difficulties you are facing in this situation and allows your family to receive CCB to assist with your child care costs.

## How do I receive this exception?

To ensure you receive this exception and to avoid the cancellation of your child care payments you must contact the Department of Human Services before your child turns 16, advise of your change in circumstances and that the child still lives at home and intends to claim the Disability Support Pension.

Refer to the exemption information available in the Family Assistance Guide at section 2.6.2.10 Regular Care Child Exceptions for CCB.

## How much CCB can I get?

The amount of CCB you get depends on:

- Yours and your partner's (if you have one) income
- the type of care you use (CCB approved or registered)
- the amount of care you use
- the reason you are using care
- the number of children you have in care.

## What is the work, training, study test?

This test determines how many hours of CCB you can get.

- For CCB approved care all families can get up to 24 hours of CCB per child per week. To get up to 50 hours you and your partner need to be working, training or studying for at least 15 hours per week (or 30 hours per fortnight) or have an exemption from this test.
- For registered care you and your partner must be working, training or studying or have an exemption from this test to get up to 50 hours of CCB per child per week. No minimum number of hours is required.

## What is CCB approved or registered care?

### CCB Approved care

These are services approved by the Government to receive CCB on behalf of families because they meet certain high quality standards and operating requirements. You can choose to allow a CCB approved child care provider to receive CCB on your behalf from the Government, which means you pay less in fees out of your own pocket.

Approved services include:

- Long Day Care
- Family Day Care
- Outside School Hours Care (including before and after school and during school holidays)
- Occasional Care
- In Home Care

### Registered care

This is child care provided by individuals - grandparents or other relatives, friends or nannies for work-related child care. It can also include care provided by individuals in private pre-schools and kindergartens as well as some outside school hours care and occasional care.

You can receive the registered care rate for CCB if your carer is registered with the Department of Human Services. The CCB is paid by the Government into your bank account after you submit a claim.

It is important to note that you cannot get the Child Care Rebate for care provided by a registered carer.

## How can I get more information?

For more information about your eligibility for child care payments, please go to **[humanservices.gov.au](https://humanservices.gov.au)**

You can view your child care details and payments by:

- using the Express Plus Families app and selecting 'Child Care'. If you do not have an app, you can download one to your smart device from the App Store or Google Play™. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. Google Play is a trademark of Google Inc.
- going to your myGov account and selecting 'Child Care' and then 'View Child Care Details and Payments'. If you do not have a myGov account, you will need to create one first by going to [my.gov.au](https://my.gov.au) and then linking it to Centrelink.
- going to **[humanservices.gov.au/online](https://humanservices.gov.au/online)** and logging on to Centrelink services online.

## Useful resources

- for news and information on child care visit the [MyChild website](#)
- to estimate and compare payments access the [Child Care Estimator](#)
- [A Guide to Australian Government payments](#)

## If you need to, you can also call:

- 136 150 for complex queries about your child care payments
- 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.