

Childcare - coronavirus (COVID-19)

Child Care Subsidy (CCS)

Your childcare arrangements and being able to meet your work or study requirements for CCS, may be impacted. This includes if:

- [your child can't attend childcare](#)
- [your childcare service closes](#)
- [your activity hours change](#)
- [your family income changes](#)
- [you're experiencing financial hardship.](#)

If your child can't attend childcare

In some situations, your child can't attend childcare. This could be because:

- your child is sick or isolated
- you're sick or isolated
- you choose to keep them away as a precaution.

If your service is open and they're charging you fees, you may still get CCS.

You can now get CCS for 20 extra absences per child for the 2019-20 financial year. This means, you can get up to 62 absences. You can use these absence days for any reason. You don't need to do anything for your CCS to continue and we don't need evidence.

The 62 days include absences your children had or will have this financial year, not only absences because of coronavirus. In special circumstances, you may be able to get CCS for more than 62 absence days. Talk to your childcare service about this.

If your childcare service closes

When your service chooses to close

If your service decides to close because of coronavirus, and they can't provide sessions of care, you shouldn't be charged fees.

This is different to other reasons it may close, such as a local emergency or public holiday.

When your service must close

Your service may close temporarily because of public health advice. If this happens, **you may not have to pay a gap fee**. You should talk to your service about payments if this happens.

If your activity hours change

Your hours of activity, such as your work and study, affect how much CCS you can get.

You don't need to update your activity test for CCS if:

- you or your child need to self-isolate
- you're on a period of leave.

If you're casual or have irregular hours of work, we normally ask you to estimate your hours for 3 months. If your hours have reduced because of coronavirus, there's no need to change your hours right now.

You may be exempt from the activity test if you're experiencing exceptional circumstances. We assess these on a case by case basis. Please call the families line to discuss your circumstances.

If your hours change for any reason not related to coronavirus, you should still update your activity test for CCS.

Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS)

If you're in financial hardship

If you use childcare and are in temporary financial hardship because you can't work, you can apply for ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship.

ACCS provides extra help with the cost of approved child care for up to 13 weeks. You can get up to 100 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight.

You'll need to provide evidence of your reduced ability to pay child care fees, like an email from your employer.

To claim ACCS you must:

- be eligible or already get CCS
- have experienced temporary financial hardship due to an event in the last 6 months
- have a substantially reduced ability to pay childcare fees.

If you already get CCS, you need to apply for ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship.

If you don't get CSS, you need to claim CCS and apply for ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship at the same time.