



## ▶ Information for families using child care

Fact Sheet 10

### What is the Child Care Rebate (CCR)?

The CCR is a payment from the Australian Government that helps working families with the cost of child care. If you are using approved child care for the purposes of Child Care Benefit (CCB) for work, training or study-related reasons the Government will provide you with 50 per cent of your out-of-pocket child care costs, up to the annual cap. For the 2012-2013 income year, the CCR annual cap is \$7,500 per child per year.

You have the option to receive your CCR paid fortnightly, either directly to your bank account, or through your child care service provider as a fee reduction. You still have the option of having your CCR paid quarterly or annually as a lump sum directly to your bank account.

### Who can get the CCR?

There are certain requirements you must meet to get the CCR. You must have:

- used CCB approved child care
- been eligible for CCB (entitled at a rate of zero or more)\*
- passed the work, training, study test (for the purposes of the rebate).

***\*Note: To receive CCR you must claim CCB. There is no income test for CCR. If you are eligible for CCB but your CCB entitlement is zero due to income, you may still be eligible for CCR.***

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

To get the CCR, both you and your partner (if you have one) must have had work, training or study-related commitments at some time during a week or have an exemption. No minimum number of hours is required.

For more information about this test, contact the Department of Human Services by visiting [www.humanservices.gov.au/childcare](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/childcare) or calling 13 61 50.

### What is CCB approved care?

CCB approved care covers child care services approved by the Government because they meet certain quality standards and operating requirements. 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.

To find out if your child care service is CCB approved, search the [www.mychild.gov.au](http://www.mychild.gov.au) website or call the Child Care Access Hotline on 1800 670 305.

*It is important to note that you cannot get the CCR for registered care.*

## How much CCR can I get?

If you meet the eligibility criteria you can get 50 per cent of your out-of-pocket child care expenses up to the annual cap. For the 2012-2013 income year, the CCR annual cap is \$7,500 per child per year.

Out-of-pocket expenses mean the amount you pay for child care after your CCB and Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care fee assistance amounts are taken out. For more information on CCB and JET Child Care fee assistance please see the specific fact sheet on the web site at [www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Resources](http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Resources).

## Payment process to receive CCR

There are four ways to receive your CCR:

1. Direct to your CCB approved child care service paid fortnightly
2. Direct to your bank account paid fortnightly
3. Quarterly payment to your bank account
4. Annual payment to your bank account

The payment option you choose for CCR will be applied for the entire 2012-2013 financial year. A new payment option cannot be applied until the start of the next financial year, unless exceptional circumstances apply.

### *Fortnightly payments*

The timing of the fortnightly payment depends on how frequently your child care service provider submits your child care attendance records. For some families this will mean a fortnightly payment but for others it will actually be paid weekly.

Where you are receiving a higher than zero rate of CCB and you choose the CCR fortnightly payment option, the Department of Human Services will withhold 15 per cent of the payment to ensure that you do not accumulate a debt or overpayment of CCB or CCR within a financial year. The balance of these funds withheld will be reconciled at the end of the financial year (when your tax returns have been lodged and all your child care attendance information has been received). Any outstanding amounts will be paid as a direct payment to your bank account.

Where your CCB entitlement is zero you will receive your full 50 per cent CCR as a fortnightly payment up to the annual cap. As you do not receive CCB during the year, there is no risk of a debt after the end of the financial year reconciliation process.

You must claim CCB as reduced fees if you want to receive your CCR as a fortnightly payment (and in many cases weekly) even if your CCB entitlement is zero due to income.

### *Quarterly Payments*

If you choose to receive your Child Care Rebate as quarterly payments, they will be paid once the Department of Human Services has received child care attendance details from your CCB approved child care service/s for the quarter. If you already receive your Child Care Rebate as a quarterly payment then this will continue unless you nominate to receive fortnightly payments.

At the end of the financial year, the CCR will be reconciled against your actual income and adjusted for the financial year. Payment of the last quarter of the CCR will be "held" until CCB reconciliation occurs (when your tax returns have been lodged and all your child care attendance information has been received).

This will then be used in any adjustments as part of the reconciliation. The CCR entitlement is paid directly into your bank account by the Department of Human Services.

You must claim CCB as reduced fees if you want to receive your CCR as a quarterly payment even if your CCB entitlement is zero due to income.

By choosing to receive CCB as reduced fees at the zero rate (or more than the zero rate), your CCR can be paid fortnightly (and in many cases weekly) or quarterly. At reconciliation your final CCB and CCR entitlements will be paid without the need to submit a CCB lump sum claim.

### Annual Payment

Your CCR will be paid directly to your nominated bank account as a lump sum, once you have claimed CCB, you and your partner's tax return/s have been lodged and your child care attendance has been received. This payment option is only available if you receive your CCB for approved child care as a lump sum.

### When can I get my quarterly payments?

The table below contains the CCR quarterly payment timelines for the 2012-2013 financial year.

**Table 1: CCR quarterly periods and payment timelines for 2012-2013.**

Quarter	Child Care Rebate Quarterly Periods	Child Care Rebate Payment Periods If you have not received your payment within a week of the end of the relevant payment period below you may need to contact the Department of Human Services on 13 6150
	2012-2013	2012-2013
One	2 July 2012—30 September 2012	17 October 2012—30 October 2012
Two	1 October 2012—30 December 2012	16 January 2013—29 January 2013
Three	31 December 2012—31 March 2013	17 April 2013—30 April 2013
Four	1 April 2013—30 June 2013	22 July 2013 onwards  If your tax returns have been lodged for the 2012-2013 financial year with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and attendance information is received from your Child Care Service Provider.

### What if my child is absent from child care?

CCB, CCR and if applicable JET Child Care fee assistance can be paid in some situations if you are charged for child care when your child is absent. You will get CCB and CCR for 42 absence days per child each financial year. These can be for any reason and will not require proof.

You can also get CCB and CCR for additional absence days above this for specific reasons only. There is no limit on these days but you may be required to provide documentation to support the absence.

More information is available in Fact Sheet 9—Absences from child care—Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR)

**Note: CCB, CCR and JET Child Care fee assistance are not payable for absences if your child uses more than their 42 absence days for the financial year and does not meet the conditions for additional absences.**

You can also access your child's absence record on your online statement along with your child care attendance, CCB and CCR amounts paid statements. This is available by visiting [www.humanservices.gov.au/onlineservices](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/onlineservices).

### What if I did not get CCB?

If you have now identified that you are eligible for CCB but have not received it, you can lodge a lump sum claim with the Department of Human Services. You must do this within two years of the end of the financial year for which you are claiming. Once you have received your CCB entitlement, you are then eligible for the CCR if you used CCB approved care and were working, training or studying or had an exemption.

If you were not eligible for CCB, you will not be able to get the CCR.

## How can I get more information?

For further information on your eligibility for CCB and CCR please contact the Australian Government Department of Human Services:



access Online Services at [www.humanservices.gov.au/onlineservices](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/onlineservices)



call 13 61 50 between 8 am and 8 pm (local time) Monday to Friday



visit a Service Centre (located in Medicare Offices and Centrelink Service Centres)

### Useful resources

For news and information on child care visit the mychild website available at [www.mychild.gov.au](http://www.mychild.gov.au)  
Access the Child Care Estimator at [www.humanservices.gov.au/estimators](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/estimators)  
Family assistance payment rates fact sheet, available at [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au)

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



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.