



Information for families using child care

Fact Sheet 6

How much Child Care Benefit (CCB) can I get?

Child Care Benefit (CCB) is a payment from the Australian Government for families to reduce their child care fees. CCB is available to families using either CCB approved or registered child care. Most families using CCB approved child care receive this subsidy as a fee reduction at the time they pay their fees. Some receive it as a lump sum at the end of the year.

Your income level and care type determine how much CCB you can receive. If your income is too high, you will not receive any CCB for approved care, but you may still be eligible to receive the Child Care Rebate (CCR).

Families using CCB approved care can access greater rates of CCB than families using registered care. CCB approved child care must meet additional requirements set by the Australian Government. This includes having a licence to operate, having qualified and trained staff, being open certain hours, and meeting health, safety and other quality standards as set out under the Australian Government National Quality Framework.

How much CCB do I get?

The amount you get depends on your circumstances:

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

How much CCB do I get for approved child care?

The information below contains the rates and income limits for the 2012-2013 financial year.

- If your income is \$41,026 or less you may be able to get the maximum amount of CCB. This table shows the maximum amount of CCB you can get for a family with one, two or three children in care.

Number of non-school children in CCB approved care	Maximum amount of CCB for 50 hours of CCB approved care for non-school children, including the multiple child loading	Maximum amount of CCB per hour per non-school child including the multiple child loading
	2012-2013	2012-2013
One	\$195.00	\$3.90
Two	\$407.53	\$4.07
Three	\$635.95	\$4.23
Each additional child	\$211.98	\$4.23

Note: The multiple child percentage is a higher rate of CCB paid to families with two or more children in CCB approved child care. The maximum rate information for two, three or more children in the table above has the multiple child percentage already applied. The formula to calculate the higher rate of CCB for more than one child in CCB approved care includes the standard hourly rate and the family's CCB percentage as advised by the Department of Human Services. The standard hourly rate for 2012-2013 is \$3.90.

Depending on your circumstances (e.g. your income, what type of child care service you use and the number of hours) you may be entitled to a different rate than stated. You should contact the Department of Human Services for a more accurate assessment.

Other circumstances that change the rate of CCB entitlement are:

- rates for school children are 85 per cent of the non-school child rates
- a higher part time loading percentage applies to non-school children attending a long day care service for less than 38 hours a week
- a higher standard hourly rate applies to children attending family day care and in home care services for less than 37.5 hours a week
- a higher non-standard hourly rate applies to children attending family day care and in home care services for any hours outside the service's standard hours
- eligible grandparents who have primary care of a child and receive an income support payment will receive full fee relief for each child in CCB approved child care for up to 50 hours per child per week.

Note: If you receive an income support payment you may also get the maximum rate of CCB.

- As your income increases above \$41,026, the amount of CCB decreases.
- If your income is above the income limits shown in the table below, you will not receive any CCB. However, if your CCB entitlement is zero due to income you may still be eligible for the CCR.

CCB is not available over the following limits

Number of children in approved care	Income limits for 2012-2013
One	\$142,426
Two	\$147,594
Three	\$166,656
Each additional child	\$31,495

Note: You can now use the Child Care Estimator online to work out your possible entitlement to CCB and CCR for CCB approved child care. Visit www.humanservices.gov.au/estimators or www.mychild.gov.au.

What if my child is absent from child care?

CCB, CCR and if applicable Jobs, Education and Training 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)*.

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.

How much CCB do I get for registered care?

The table below outlines the amount of CCB you can receive for registered care for the 2012-2013 financial year. Your family's income does not affect the amount you can get.

Registered Care Rate—Non-school child	2012-2013
Per hour each child	\$0.652
Maximum CCB for 50 hours of care per week for each child	\$32.60

Note: rates for school children are 85 per cent of the non-school rate.

How do I receive my CCB for approved care?

There are two ways families can choose to get their CCB, depending on their preferences:

1. You can have it paid directly to your child care service (this means the fees you pay out of your own pocket are reduced)
2. You can choose to pay full fees throughout the financial year and get your CCB as a lump sum after the end of that financial year from the Department of Human Services

Note: You must claim CCB as reduced fees (even if your entitlement is zero due to your family's income) if you want to receive your CCR as a fortnightly payment (and in many cases weekly) or as a quarterly payment. At reconciliation your final CCB and CCR entitlements will be paid without the need to submit a CCB lump sum claim.

If you choose to receive your CCB as a lump sum, you need to lodge a claim within two years of the end of the financial year for which you are claiming. Any CCR will be paid directly to your bank account at the end of the financial year after you have claimed your CCB.

How do I receive my CCB for registered care?

To get your CCB for registered care, take your child care receipts (given to you by your registered carer) to the Department of Human Services and complete the *Claim for Child Care Benefit for registered care* form (FA018). The Government will pay your CCB into your bank account after you submit a claim. You must claim your CCB within 12 months from when the care was provided.

Your carer cannot receive CCB on your behalf.

If you use a combination of CCB approved care and registered care you need to claim Child Care Benefit separately for each type of care.

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



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

Access the Child Care Estimator at www.humanservices.gov.au/estimators

Family assistance payment rates fact sheet, available at 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.