



What assistance does the Australian Government give me for the cost of my child care?

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that Australian families are able to access affordable, flexible and high quality child care. Child care enables parents to participate in the workforce and the broader community, and plays a central role in improving children's educational and developmental outcomes. To help you with the cost of your child care, the Government provides the following assistance.

Child Care Benefit

Child Care Benefit is a means-tested payment which reduces the cost of your total child care fees. It is available to you if you are a parent, foster parent or grandparent with a child in your care who is attending child care approved for the purposes of Child Care Benefit by, or registered with, the Government. There are certain eligibility requirements you must meet to get Child Care Benefit.

Child Care Rebate

The Child Care Rebate is additional assistance if you use Child Care Benefit approved child care, and you are working, studying or training at some time during the week or have an exemption. The Child Care Rebate covers 50 per cent of your out-of-pocket costs up to the annual limit, regardless of your income. For the 2014-2015 income year, the Child Care Rebate annual limit is \$7500 per child per year.

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

Note: To receive Child Care Rebate as an annual lump sum you must also choose to receive Child Care Benefit as a lump sum.

Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA)

JETCCFA provides extra help if you are a parent on an income support payment and looking for work, studying or starting a job. Access to JETCCFA is time-limited depending on the study, training or employment activity that an eligible parent undertakes.

How can I get more information?

For more information about your eligibility for child care payments, please go to **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 and then linking it to Centrelink.
- going to **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.