

What is Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance?

Fact Sheet 12

Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA) provides parents receiving an income support payment an opportunity to improve their skills and job prospects by providing additional child care assistance, over and above their Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) entitlements.

# Can I get JETCCFA?

Yes, if you:

* receive an income support payment\*
* have an approved Job Plan
* receive CCB at the maximum rate
* use CCB approved child care (for example, Long Day Care, Family Day Care and Outside School Hours Care) while you undertake an approved work, study or training activity.

\*Income support payments include, Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment, Widow Allowance, Partner Allowance, Youth Allowance (for jobseekers), Carer Payment, Widow B Pension, Farm Household Allowance, A means tested ABSTUDY payment, Special Benefit (in certain circumstances).

# What activities does JETCCFA support?

JETCCFA parents receive an allocation of weeks for which they can claim JETCCFA for their activity. These include:

* searching for a job—up to 20 days in 20 weeks
* paid and unpaid work—the initial 26 weeks of a job
* study or training at Certificate II to Graduate Diploma level qualifications — up to 104 weeks
  + If you already hold a qualification, further study at the same level is restricted to courses that lead to occupations in high demand as listed on the [Skills Shortage List (Australia)](http://docs.employment.gov.au/documents/skill-shortage-list-australia).[[1]](#footnote-1)
* participating in a labour market programme—e.g. Skills for Education and Employment (SEE), Work for the Dole (WFD) and Green Corps
* participating in an Australian Government funded rehabilitation programme
* other activities that help parents engage in sustainable paid work.

In most cases, this allocation can be used flexibly over any period of time to suit a parent’s circumstances. For example, a parent undertaking a three year degree qualification can use their 104 weeks of JETCCFA across the three years providing they can find child care that closely aligns with their study schedule and allows for holiday breaks.

# How much can I get?

JETCCFA will cover the cost of child care after your CCB entitlement, up to a maximum of $8.14 per hour (indexed annually). You will need to make a small co-contribution of $1 for care per hour per child to your service, provided your child care service charges $13.31 an hour or less. If you use more hours than you are entitled to you will have to pay the full cost for these additional hours.

Teenage parents (up until the age of 20) will only need to make a co-contribution of $0.10 per hour per child.

You may also be eligible for the Child Care Rebate (CCR) which will provide you with 50 per cent of your out-of-pocket child care costs up to the annual limit.

# For how many hours a week can I receive JETCCFA?

This depends on:

* the type of activity you are undertaking
* the type of child care you need
* the number of hours you undertake JETCCFA activities
* the number of hours you are charged for care by your child care service
* whether you (and your partner, if you have one) meet the work, training, study test.

You can receive JETCCFA for up to 24 hours of care per child per week, irrespective of your activity hours.

To receive more than 24 hours of JETCCFA per week, up to a maximum of 50 hours per week, you must be undertaking at least 15 hours of approved JETCCFA activities per week. However, if you are undertaking a study or training activity only (that is, not undertaking study in conjunction with another activity), your JETCCFA will be limited to up to 36 hours per child per week. These hours can be spread across the entire week as required, rather than limited to three days only. Some exemptions may apply.

**Note:** The number of hours you receive JETCCFA for in a week cannot be more than the hours you receive CCB in the same week, i.e. 24 or 50 hours.

# How do I receive my JETCCFA?

JETCCFA is paid directly to your CCB approved child care service, so that the fees you pay are reduced.

# What if my circumstances change?

You need to advise the Department of Human Services immediately to cease or suspend your JETCCFA if one of the following occurs:

* you cease working
* your course/study requirements change
* you cease attending a course you are enrolled in

The Department of Human Services may issue a debt notice to repay any amounts of JETCCFA owing if a change of circumstance is not notified.

# What if my child is absent from child care?

JETCCFA, CCB and CCR can be paid in some situations if you are charged for child care when your child is absent. More information is available in [Fact Sheet 9—Absences from child care](http://www.dss.gov.au/node/39996).[[2]](#footnote-2)

# How can I get more information?

To access your details or check your eligibility for child care payments, please contact the Department of Human Services by:

* visiting [Department of Human Services families website](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/themes/families)[[3]](#footnote-3)
* logging on to your **Centrelink online account** through [myGov](https://my.gov.au/)[[4]](#footnote-4) and selecting ‘Child Care’ and then ‘View Child Care Details and Payments’. If you do not have a [myGov account](https://my.gov.au/), you can create one by visiting [myGov](https://my.gov.au) and then linking it to your Centrelink online account
* using the **Express Plus Centrelink mobile app** and selecting ‘Child Care’. Express Plus Centrelink is available for Apple devices with iOS7+ on the App Store and Android devices with version 4.0 and above on Google Play
* visiting a service centre
* calling **136 150**, or
  + Teletypewriter (TTY) service on **1800 810 586** if you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment. You need a TTY phone to use this service
  + **131 202** if you need information in a language other than English.

# Useful resources

Other useful resources include:

* for news and information on child care visit the [MyChild website](http://www.mychild.gov.au/)[[5]](#footnote-5)
* to estimate and compare payments access the [Child Care Estimator](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/online-estimators)[[6]](#footnote-6)
* [A Guide to Australian Government payments](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/publications-and-resources/a-guide-to-australian-government-payments).[[7]](#footnote-7)

1. http://docs.employment.gov.au/documents/skill-shortage-list-australia [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. www.dss.gov.au/node/39996 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/themes/families [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://my.gov.au/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. www.mychild.gov.au [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/online-estimators [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/publications-and-resources/a-guide-to-australian-government-payments [↑](#footnote-ref-7)