

# New Commonwealth Child Care Subsidy

From 2 July 2018, the Commonwealth will introduce the new Child Care Subsidy. It replaces the current Child Care Rebate and Child Care Benefit. Further detail is available at [www.education.gov.au/ChildCarePackage](http://www.education.gov.au/ChildCarePackage).

The Commonwealth is also introducing the Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) as a payment on top of the Child Care Subsidy that provides targeted fee assistance to families and children facing barriers to accessing affordable child care. More information can be found at [www.education.gov.au/additional-child-care-subsidy](http://www.education.gov.au/additional-child-care-subsidy).

## Online assessment

The transition to the new system is not automatic. To transition, you will need to complete an online Child Care Subsidy assessment for your family using your online Centrelink account through MyGov at <https://my.gov.au> or the MyGov App.

This online assessment must be completed by 2 July 2018 or families may not receive any child care fee assistance. Please visit your local Centrelink office if you need help to complete the online assessment.

Once the online assessment is completed, you will receive an assessment notice of your subsidy type, percentage, annual cap, subsidised hours per fortnight and withholdings.

## ACCS (Child Wellbeing)

The vast majority of carers with children under care arrangements in NSW will be eligible to receive an additional payment through the ACCS (child wellbeing). The ACCS (child wellbeing) applies to children who have been deemed at risk of serious harm in the past as well as those with orders under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*.

Your child care provider will apply for the ACCS on your behalf. In order to do this, they should be made aware of your child's care arrangements. You will need to liaise with your caseworker to ensure your child care provider receives the necessary documentation to assist with the application or provide it directly. This may include a letter from FACS, your child's case plan or a court order.

Carers who are not eligible for the ACCS (child wellbeing) may be eligible for the ACCS grandparents, temporary financial hardship or transition to work subsidies. Your eligibility for these subsidies may have been assessed with your initial online assessment. If you believe you are eligible for these additional subsidies, you can

apply for them at any time using your online Centrelink account through MyGov, or in person at a Centrelink office.

### Payment

The Commonwealth will pay the Child Care Subsidy and any ACCS (child wellbeing) directly to your child care service provider, reducing your cost of child care by the calculated subsidy amount.

It is expected that the Child Care Subsidy and ACCS will cover the full cost for child care for carers. However, depending on the hourly rate that is charged at each child care service, there may be a small 'gap' fee.

The gap between the child care costs and subsidy paid by the Commonwealth is referred to as your co-contribution. The service provider will invoice you to pay your co-contribution and advise you on how often they will generate these invoices.

### The role of FACS

FACS remains committed to assisting with the costs of child care for children in statutory out-of-home care by paying the gap between child care fee assistance and full child care fees **when included in an approved case plan**. If you have any questions about your child care needs, talk to your caseworker.

FACS can pay the gap directly to the service provider where the ACCS applies. This arrangement will be made between FACS and your child care service provider.

Please contact your caseworker or local CSC if you have any questions.