

C&K Coronavirus (COVID-19) childcare update – 26/03/2020

Dear Families,

As the uncertainty around the COVID-19 situation continues, I want to assure you that C&K is working closely with the Australian Government to ensure our families feel secure that they will be able to continue to access childcare in the coming period.

This week, the Federal government made changes to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) to help reduce the impact of COVID-19 on your family and to ensure you can keep your childcare place.

What do these changes mean for you?

- Families receiving CCS can use up to 42 absence days per child, per financial year, for any reason, without having to provide any supporting evidence.
- Where the 42 initial absences have been used, an additional 20 absent days are now allowed in relation to COVID-19 without having to provide documentation. The additional days can be taken up to the 30th June 2020.

The Federal Government Department, Services Australia, have a [dedicated page for families on Coronavirus](#). Here you will find more information regarding the below.

If your activity hours change

Your [hours of activity](#), such as your work and study, affect how much CCS you can get. You don't need to update your activity test for CCS if:

- you or your child need to self isolate
- you're on a period of leave.

If you are [casual or have irregular hours of work](#), we normally ask you to estimate your hours for three months. If your hours have reduced because of coronavirus, there's no need to change your hours right now.

You may be exempt from the activity test if you are experiencing [exceptional circumstances](#). We assess these on a case by case basis. Please call the [families line](#) to discuss your circumstances.

If your family income changes

Your [family income estimate](#) affects how much CCS you can get. If you or your partner stops work, your family's income may change. [You should update your income estimate.](#)

If you are suffering financial hardship

If you use child care and are in temporary financial hardship because you can't work, you can apply for [ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship](#). ACCS provides extra help with the cost of approved child care for up to 13 weeks. You can get up to 100 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight. You will need to provide evidence of your reduced ability to pay child care fees, e.g. an email from your employer.

To claim ACCS you must:

- be eligible for or already receive CCS
- have experienced temporary financial hardship due to an event in the last 6 months
- have a substantially reduced ability to pay child care fees.

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If you already get CCS, you need to [apply for ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship](#). If you don't get CSS, you need to [claim CCS](#) and apply for ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship at the same time.

As we continue to work with both the state and federal government to provide a solution for our families, we encourage you to keep your enrolment at your centre. We will be in touch again soon once we have further updates.

If you have any questions, please contact us at advice@candk.asn.au.

Thank you for your understanding while we work through these challenging times.

Take care of yourself and your family,

Dr. Sandra Cheeseman

Chief Operating Officer

The Creche and Kindergarten Association Limited