

Return to CCS update 15/6/2020

Dear Families,

The recent announcement about the end of the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package on 12 July 2020 may have left you with questions about the impact this will have on your family. We are providing some information about changes to the guidelines for child care subsidy (CCS) to assist you in understanding what to expect in the coming weeks and months.

Activity test for Child Care Subsidy (CCS) payments

As part of the move back to the CCS, there are some minor transitional changes to the activity test for families that will be in place from 13 July 2020 until 4 October 2020. In order to assist families who have experienced a reduction in their hours of work, training, or study, these transitional provisions enable those families to continue to access up to 100 hours of child care over this period.

To be eligible under this transitional arrangement, individuals must be:

- *doing less recognised activity than they were immediately prior to COVID-19*
- *a member of a couple who is doing less recognised activity than they were immediately prior to COVID-19*
- *in receipt of carers allowance who have reduced any other recognised activity than what they were engaged in immediately prior to COVID-19.*

If you think you may be eligible, it is important to contact Services Australia. This can be done through your [Centrelink online account](#) through [myGov](#) or the [Express Plus Centrelink mobile app](#). You will have the option to select if you are eligible for the 100 hours of CCS.

At this stage, no other CCS activity test requirements have changed.

CCS rates

The percentage of subsidy a family is entitled to depends on their combined family income. To find out how much CCS you are entitled to, please visit [Services Australia](#).

Ensure you remain eligible for CCS payments

If you received CCS in 2018-19 and haven't confirmed your income for that financial year, you must do so by 30 June 2020. If you don't, CCS will not start again for you on 13 July 2020. If you have already lodged your tax return for 2018-19 with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), you do not need to do anything else.

We recommend that you log into your [myGov](#) account and check your details, including your family income estimate for 2020-21, to make sure it is up to date.

If you are new to childcare, you should complete a Child Care Subsidy (CCS) claim as soon as possible to ensure you receive your CCS entitlements from 13 July 2020. For more information relating to CCS, please visit the [Services Australia](#) website.

When will childcare fees be applied?

For families paying **fortnightly** by direct debit, your payments will begin again, and advance payments will be deducted from 29 June 2020. For those families paying **weekly**, your payments will start again from 6 July.

If you do not have a direct debit arrangement in place, you can either:

1. Make a BPAY payment weekly (must be made one week in advance) or fortnightly (must be made two weeks in advance) – see the bottom of the first page of your customer account statement for details; or
2. Log into your [iParentPortal account](#) and either add payment details or make a one-off payment.

If applicable, please provide a copy of any concession card such as a Health Care Card, Veterans Affairs Card, or an Australian Government Concession Card to your Director, or reply to this email with a copy to ensure any applicable subsidies are applied.

Fee increase delayed

Childcare fees are usually increased once per year in July. However, C&K will be delaying any increase to fees until later this year.

For more information about C&K fees, please visit our [Fees policy page](#). Alternatively, please contact your Director.

Fee assistance

For families experiencing vulnerability and financial disadvantage, the Australian Government provides Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS). This subsidy is available under a number of different circumstances, including for families experiencing temporary financial hardship. For more information about ACCS, please visit the [Additional Child Care Subsidy](#) page or contact us.

Alternatively, if you are experiencing financial hardship and would like to make a payment plan arrangement, please contact our Accounts Receivable team at accountsreceivable@candk.asn.au or speak with your Director.

Allowable absences

As part of the COVID-19 Childcare Relief package, families have been allowed 62 absence days per child up until 30 June 2020. Beginning 1 July 2020, this will go back to 42 allowable absences per child in the 2020-21 financial year.

Thank you for your understanding and support over this period. We will continue to update you with information as it becomes available. If you would like to make any changes to your enrolment or have any questions, please contact your Director.

Take care,

Dr Sandra Cheeseman
Chief Operating Officer