

## The Child Care Subsidy (CCS)

As a government approved childcare provider, you could be entitled to a government subsidy on your fees.

The initiative is designed to enable low and middle-income families to access affordable, flexible and high-quality childcare. The Government reduces the amount you may pay for your childcare, to increase the level of care your child can receive. This enables parents or carers to allow their child to attend childcare, so that they can either work or study more hours.

Subsidies are paid directly to Bilbies ELC & Kinder, we then pass them to you as a fee reduction. You then pay the difference between the subsidy and the fees charged.

Families with an adjusted taxable income of \$0 to \$80,000 p.a. receive a subsidy of 90% (subject to CCS hourly rate cap)

Families with an adjusted taxable income between \$80,001 to \$530,000 p.a. will receive a subsidy of between 89% and 1%. The percentage reduces by 1% for every \$5,000 of income earned.

Families with an adjusted taxable income of \$530,000 p.a. or more will not be eligible to receive a subsidy.

### How much Child Care Subsidy can I receive?

Child Care Subsidy is calculated using:

- Your combined family income
- The number of children under five you have in childcare
- The level of activity you may be doing; if you are studying or volunteering, this may work in your favour towards your childcare subsidy
- Your childcare provider's hourly rate

Families with more than one child aged five or under in care can get a higher subsidy. The higher CCS will be paid to their second child and younger children.

Eligible children will get a 30% higher subsidy up to a maximum of 95%. If you have children born on the same day, such as twins, Services Australia should be contacted to ensure one child is determined as receiving the standard CCS rate with the other, the higher rate.

**You can utilise this [subsidy calculator](#) to estimate your fees.**

The results from this calculator are estimates only and whilst the calculator is based on government provided information, your actual outcomes may depend on a range of factors outside our control. Please ensure that you contact the Australian Government's Department of Education before making a financial decision on your childcare. Bilbies ELC &

Kinder expressly disclaim all liability and responsibility to any person who relies, or partially relies, on the results of the information provided by this calculator.

## Who is eligible for CCS?

Families must meet eligibility criteria to get CCS.

Parents must:

- Care for their child at least 2 nights per fortnight or have 14% share of care
- Be liable for child care fees at an approved child care service
- Meet residency requirements

Their child must:

- Meet immunisation requirements
- Not be attending secondary school (unless an exemption applies)
- Be 13 or under (except in certain circumstances)

If a child doesn't attend a session of care at least once in 26 consecutive weeks, they will stop being eligible for CCS. If a child starts to attend care again, a family can make a new claim for CCS.

## Additional Support

Some families can get additional Child Care Subsidy to provide extra support with childcare fees.

There are four different types of additional Child Care Subsidy that you can apply for if you're either:

- a grandparent
- transitioning to work
- experiencing temporary financial hardship
- caring for a child who is vulnerable or at risk of harm, abuse, or neglect

## Options to increase your subsidy

Activities such as studying and volunteering also work in your favour towards your childcare subsidy. Taking some extra time to follow your interests or develop some new skills, even utilising online learning platforms like Coursera, or other online TAFE and university courses, will count as activity towards your subsidy.

## How does the activity test work?

The hours of subsidised care a family can get each fortnight depends on their activity level. The higher the level of activity, the more hours of subsidised care families can get. Services

Australia looks at both parents' activity level and use the parent with the lower activity level to determine a family's hours of subsidised care. Families need to do a recognised activity to get CCS. Exemptions apply for parents who cannot meet activity test requirements.

For more information about how your activity level affects CCS, please go to the Services Australia website.

| Hours of activity each fortnight | Hours of subsidised care, per child, each fortnight                          |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Less than 8 hours                | 0 hours if you earn above \$72,466<br>24 hours if you earn \$72,466 or below |
| 8 hours to 16 hours              | 36 hours   |
| More than 16 hours to 48 hours   | 72 hours   |
| More than 48 hours               | 100 hours  |