



What is the Child Care Rebate?

Fact sheet 10

The Child Care Rebate (CCR) is a payment from the Australian Government that helps working families with the cost of child care.

Who can get the CCR?

To receive the CCR you must:

- have used Child Care Benefit (CCB) approved child care
- have been eligible for CCB (entitled at a rate of zero or more)*
- meet the work, training, study test (for the purposes of the rebate).

* **Note:** To receive CCR you must claim CCB. There is no income test for the CCR. If you are eligible for CCB but your CCB entitlement is zero due to income, you may still be eligible for CCR.

What is the work, training, study test?

To get the CCR, both you and your partner (if you have one) must have had work, training or study-related commitments at some time during a week or have an exemption. No minimum number of hours is required.

What is CCB approved care?

CCB approved care covers child care services approved by the Government because they meet certain quality standards and operating requirements. Services include:

- Long Day Care
- Family Day Care
- Outside School Hours Care (including Before School Care, After School Care and Vacation Care)
- Occasional Care

- In Home Care.

To find out if your child care service is CCB approved, search the [MyChild website¹](#) or contact the Child Care Benefit Approvals Team in your State or Territory on 1300 653 227. (For the cost of a local call unless calling from a mobile phone. This number is Australia wide and callers must identify which State or Territory office they wish to speak with).

Note: You cannot get the CCR for registered care.

How much CCR can I get?

If you meet the eligibility criteria you can get 50 per cent of your out-of pocket child care expenses up to the annual limit. The CCR annual limit is \$7,500 per child per year. Out-of-pocket expenses mean the amount you pay for child care after your CCB and Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA) amounts are taken out.

How do I receive my CCR?

There are four ways to receive your CCR:

1. Direct to your CCB approved child care service paid fortnightly
2. Direct to your bank account paid fortnightly
3. Quarterly payment to your bank account
4. Annual payment to your bank account.

The payment option you choose for CCR will be applied for the entire financial year. A new payment option cannot be applied until the start of the next financial year, unless exceptional circumstances apply.

¹ www.mychild.gov.au

When can I get my quarterly payments?

Table 1: Child Care Rebate Quarterly Payment Periods 2015-2016

Quarter	Child Care Rebate Quarterly Periods 2015-2016	Child Care Rebate Payment Periods 2015-2016
One	6 July 2015—4 October 2015	21 October 2015—3 November 2015
Two	5 October 2015—3 January 2016	20 January 2016—2 February 2016
Three	4 January 2016—3 April 2016	20 April 2016—3 May 2016
Four	4 April 2016—3 July 2016	27 July 2016 onwards if your tax returns have been lodged for the 2015-2016 financial year with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and attendance information is received from your Child Care Service Provider.

Note: If you have not received your payment within a week of the end of the relevant payment period stated above you may need to contact the Department of Human Services on 136 150.

What if my child is absent from child care?

CCB, CCR and JETCCFA 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](#).²

What if I did not get CCB?

If you have now identified that you are eligible for CCB but have not received it, you can claim by lodging a [Claim for Approved Child Care payments as an annual lump sum payment \(FA011\)](#)³ with the Department of Human Services.

Families now have one year to lodge lump sum claims for CCB. This means to lodge a claim for 2014-2015 you have until 30 June 2016.

Extensions to the 12 month period may be provided in special circumstances.

You must be assessed as eligible for CCB (even at the zero rate due to your family's income) to get the CCR.

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:

² docs.education.gov.au/node/3206

³ www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/forms/fa011

- visiting [Department of Human Services families website](#)⁴
- logging on to your **Centrelink online account** through [myGov](#)⁵ and selecting 'Child Care' and then 'View Child Care Details and Payments'. If you do not have a [myGov account](#), you can create one by visiting [myGov](#) 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](#)⁶
- to estimate and compare payments access the [Child Care Estimator](#)⁷
- [A Guide to Australian Government payments](#).⁸

⁴ www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/themes/families

⁵ <https://my.gov.au>

⁶ www.mychild.gov.au

⁷ www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/online-estimators

⁸ www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/publications-and-resources/a-guide-to-australian-government-payments