Child Care Benefit Information Sheet

Helps with child care costs such as long, family or occasional day care, outside school hour care, vacation care, pre-school, and kindergarten.

Eligibility Basics

- use approved or registered child care
- be responsible for paying the child care fees
- have immunised your child

Payment Rates for Child Care Benefit

Child Care Benefit rates are adjusted on 1 July each year, in line with the Consumer Price Index—changes to the cost of living. This means that the rates are different for each new financial year. Child Care Benefit is either paid to the service provider who cares for your child, or paid to you directly.

You may be able to receive a higher payment if you are a grandparent, or if your child has special needs. Grandparent Child Care Benefit and Special Child Care Benefit have additional eligibility requirements.

The following payment rates for 2013-14 are a guide only.

At the end of each financial year, your Child Care Benefit is balanced against your actual annual family income when you and your partner lodge your tax returns. The amount of Child Care Benefit you received throughout the year will be checked against the amount you should have received. This review can identify whether a top-up payment is required, no adjustment is needed or an overpayment has been made.

Approved care

The current approved care rate for a non school-aged child in up to 50 hours of care per week is $3.99 per hour, or $199.50 per week.

Payment rates for school-aged children are 85 per cent of the non-school-aged rate.

You can claim up to 24 hours of care per child per week, unless you and your partner meet the Work, Training, Study test for Child Care Benefit. If you meet the test, or are exempt from it, you can get up to 50 hours of care per child per week.

Registered care

The current registered care rate for a non school-aged child in up to 50 hours of care per week is $0.666 per hour, or $33.30 per week.

Payment rates for school-age children are 85 per cent of the non-school-age rate.

You are paid Child Care Benefit for registered child care directly if you lodge a claim and provide your child-care receipts to us.