

Information for Families about



Child Care Rebate

Helping families with the cost of child care

What are my Child Care Rebate (CCR) payment options?

Option 1	CCR paid to your service. This allows your service to reduce your child care fees and means the amount you need to pay to your service (the gap fee) will be less. CCR payments will be made to your service weekly or fortnightly after your service submits a report with the details of the care they provide to your child.
Option 2	CCR paid to your bank account weekly or fortnightly after your service submits a report with the details of the care they provide to your child.
Option 3	CCR paid to your bank account every quarter (3 months).
Option 4	CCR paid to your bank account (every year). This option is now only available when claiming Child Care Benefit as a lump sum after the financial year.

When can I change my payment options?

If you would like to change your payment option for the next financial year you must do it soon. **The cut off date is 30 June 2012.** Please contact the Department of Human Services (DHS) to change your payment method.

How do I contact the Department of Human Services (DHS)?

The easiest way to change your payment method is to go online. Updates to the CCR payment choice can be made online from April to June. Follow the link below to the Human Services website. If you are using Online Services for the first time, you need to register to get a Customer Access Number (CAN) and password. Once you have registered, you can logon and select *Child Care* then *Update Child Care Rebate Payment Frequency*. The option you choose will apply for the full financial year (July 2012 to June 2013) unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you are unable to use the online service you can call 13 61 50 or go to your nearest DHS Office.

☐☐
Change your
Child Care
Rebate
payment
method before
30 June 2012
☐☐

What if I don't want to change my payment method?

If you don't want to change your payment method you do not need to do anything. Your current payment method will apply again for the next financial year. If you are unsure about which payment method you currently use, DHS will be able to help.

For more information visit www.humanservices.gov.au or call 13 61 50

How do I know if I'm eligible for Child Care Rebate?

Child Care Rebate is **not income tested**. However, you must be eligible for Child Care Benefit (CCB) and pass the Work, Study, Training Test for CCR. To pass the test you must have a work, study or training related commitment at some time during the week. There is no minimum number of hours required. If you and your partner (if you have one) are working, looking for work, training, studying or doing voluntary work to improve work skills you may be eligible. For more information about the work test for CCR contact DHS.

What do I need to do to get Child Care Rebate?

If you haven't already done so, contact DHS to claim Child Care Benefit. Even if you are not eligible to receive any CCB payments because your family income is too high you may still be able to receive CCR payments. You may be assessed as a zero rate customer for CCB but still be eligible to receive CCR.

How much Child Care Rebate will I receive?

The Child Care Rebate payment is up to half of your out-of-pocket child care costs. You may receive up to \$7500 per child per financial year.

Do I have to make a payment choice every year?

No. If you are happy with your current payment option, you don't need to do a thing. Your chosen payment option will continue until you decide to change.

Should I change my payment choice?

If you are still receiving your CCR as a quarterly or annual payment, and thinking about switching to weekly/fortnightly payments, now is the time to do so. Choosing this payment option will make it easier to pay your child care bills during the year. If you choose the 'direct to service' option, the service will use your CCR entitlement to reduce your fees.

How will my child care service know I am eligible for CCR?

After you have been assessed by DHS for Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate you need to give your details to your service. The details you need to provide are the Customer Reference Numbers (CRN) and dates of birth for your child and the parent who was assessed for child care payments. Your service will report attendance information for your child. This information allows the calculation and payment of CCB and CCR.

How does CCB and/or CCR affect my fees?



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