



# Higher Child Care Subsidy

We're increasing the amount of Child Care Subsidy (CCS) families can get.

From 7 March 2022, families with more than one child aged 5 or younger in care may get a higher subsidy for some children.

## Who will get the higher subsidy

You'll get the higher subsidy if all of these apply:

- you get or will be eligible for CCS
- your family's combined income is under \$354,305
- you have more than one child aged 5, or younger, in child care.

We'll automatically work out the higher subsidy for your family and start paying it from 7 March 2022. We do this by working out which child is the 'standard rate child' and which are the 'higher rate child' or 'higher rate children'.

The 'standard rate child' is usually your CCS eldest eligible child, aged 5 or under. For this child, you'll continue to get the standard CCS rate that you're eligible for based on your family income estimate.

The 'higher rate child' refers to your younger eligible child or children. You'll get the higher subsidy rate for them.

If you're unsure what your standard rate is, you can check it in your Centrelink online account through myGov. Select the MENU then 'My family'. From this menu select 'Child Care' then 'Child Care Subsidy summary'. From here you'll be able to see your CCS rate.

For children born on the same date, such as twins, we'll automatically determine one child as the 'standard rate child'. We'll then apply the higher rate to other eligible children. You may be able to change which of these children is the 'standard rate child'. Please contact Services Australia to do this.

We won't pay the higher subsidy for sessions of In Home Care (IHC). This is because IHC is subsidised for each family, rather than for each child.

## How much the higher subsidy is

You'll get a 30% higher subsidy for your 'higher rate child'. This is a 30% increase on your standard CCS rate. We'll cap this at a maximum of 95%.

You'll continue to get your standard CCS rate for your 'standard rate child' and any children aged 6 or above.

You can check your standard CCS rate using your Centrelink online account through myGov. Select the MENU then 'My family'. From this menu select 'Child Care' then 'Child Care Subsidy summary'. From here you'll be able to see your standard CCS rate.

The table below shows the standard CCS rates, which are a percentage, based on family income for 2021–22.

<b>Your family income</b>	<b>Standard CCS percentage</b>
\$0 to \$70,015	85%
More than \$70,015 to below \$175,015	Between 85% and 50% The percentage goes down by 1% for every \$3,000 of income your family earns
\$175,015 to below \$254,305	50%
\$254,305 to below \$344,305	Between 50% and 20% The percentage goes down by 1% for every \$3,000 of income your family earns
\$344,305 to below \$354,305	20%
\$354,305 or more	0%

## **When you'll get the higher subsidy**

We'll automatically work out the higher subsidy for your family and start paying it from 7 March 2022.

### **Combined families and higher child care subsidy**

Combined families are families where each parent or carer gets CCS for different children in their family.

The timeframe is slightly different for combined families. If you're in a combined family, we'll start paying the higher subsidy automatically from July 2022. We'll back pay any higher subsidy you were eligible for between 7 March and July 2022. You'll continue to get your standard CCS rate during this time.

If you want to get the higher subsidy straight away, you can choose one parent or carer to claim CCS for all children in your family. This person must:

- make a new CCS claim as soon as possible to get the higher subsidy – we can only backdate claims up to 28 days
- contact the child care service and create a new enrolment for the relevant child or children.

A small number of combined families may get the higher subsidy in March 2022. This will happen if you're eligible for higher CCS in your own right. For example, if you are eligible for CCS for 2 children aged 5 or under and the other parent or carer has claimed for other children in the family.

We'll still assess your combined family as a whole from July 2022. When we do this, we'll pay the higher subsidy for any other eligible children who've been claimed for by the other parent or carer.

## **What you need to do**

You don't need to do anything to get the higher subsidy.

We'll automatically work out if you're eligible. If you are, we'll apply the higher subsidy to any eligible children in your family and start paying it to your child care service to reduce your fees.

You may want to consider if this impacts your work or study hours for the year ahead. Speak to your child care service now if you think this will impact the number of days you need to send your child to care in 2022.

In early March 2022 we'll send you a letter with the new CCS rate for each of your children. You can view your letters in your myGov Inbox or through your Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

## **Where to find more information**

For more information about Higher Child Care Subsidy go to

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/higherccs](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/higherccs)

You can also ask us questions on [Family Update on Facebook](#)

To keep up with the latest news from us, subscribe to 'News for when you're raising kids' at

[www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/news](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/news)

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **What if my children go to different child care centres?**

It doesn't matter if your children attend different child care centres. If you meet all the other criteria, you'll still be eligible for the higher subsidy for one or more of your children.

### **What if my children go to child care on different days of the week?**

It doesn't matter if your children attend different care on different days of the week. If you meet all the other criteria, you'll still be eligible for the higher subsidy for one or more of your children.

### **What if one child goes to child care for more days than the others?**

It doesn't matter if your children attend care for more or fewer days. If you meet all the other criteria, you'll still be eligible for the higher subsidy for one or more of your children.

### **Does it matter what type of care we use?**

We'll pay the higher subsidy for the following types of care:

- Centre Based Day Care, including long day care and occasional care
- Family Day Care
- Outside School Hours Care, including before, after and vacation care.

We won't pay the higher subsidy for In Home Care (IHC) sessions of care. This is because IHC is subsidised per family. IHC will continue to be paid at your family's income tested rate.

### **What happens when one of my children turns 6?**

Once your child turns 6 they aren't eligible for higher CCS.

If this happens, we'll automatically check your family's details and your entitlement to the higher subsidy. This could result in one of the following:

- If you still have two or more CCS eligible children aged 5 or under, your standard rate child will change. Any younger children will still get the higher rate.
- If you now only have one eligible child in care, you'll stop getting the higher subsidy, and receive your income tested CCS rate for all of your children.