



# Child Care Subsidy Service Types

## What service types can be approved for CCS?

Under the family assistance law, the following service types can be approved to administer the CCS and ACCS payment:

- [Centre Based Day Care](#)
- [Outside School Hours Care \(OSHC\)](#)
- [Family Day Care \(FDC\)](#)
- [In Home Care \(IHC\)](#).

## What is a Centre Based Day Care Service?

The *Child Care Subsidy Minister's Rules 2017* (the Minister's Rules) describe Centre Based Day Care as a service that is:

- Approved as a centre-based service under the *Education and Care Services National Law 2010* (the National Law); **or**
- Licensed or registered to operate as an occasional care service under state/territory law; **or**
- Specified in the Minister's Rules as a provider not required to meet state/territory requirements; **or**
- A service in respect of which the provider holds any other approvals or licences that are relevant to providing child care and which are required to operate the service under the law of the state or territory in which the service is situated (where the service is not an education and care service under the National Law); **and**
- **Not operating as an outside school hours care** (i.e. it must not primarily provide care to children who are school aged\*).

A Centre Based Day Care service may offer sessions of care to school aged\* children (i.e. wraparound or vacation care) where this suits the needs of its families however this must not be the care they predominately provide.

The minimum operating period for a Centre Based Day Care service is 48 weeks each calendar year\*\*. There is no minimum requirement for hours per day or days per week.

## What is an Outside School Hours Care Service (OSHC)?

The Minister's Rules describe OSHC as a service that is:

- Approved as a centre-based service under the National Law; **or**
- A service in respect of which the provider holds any other approvals or licenses that are relevant to providing child care and which are required to operate the service under the law of the State or Territory in which the service is situated (where the service is not an education and care service under the National Law); **and**
- **Primarily** providing care outside normal school hours to children who are school aged\*.

An OSHC service may also offer care to non-school aged children (such as siblings of school aged children using the service) during normal school hours where this suits the needs of its families. However, this must not be the care they predominately provide.

The minimum operating period for an OSHC is seven (7) weeks each calendar year\*\*. There is no minimum requirement for hours per day or days per week.

## What is a Family Day Care Service (FDC)?

The Minister's Rules describe an FDC as a service that is:

- Approved as a Family Day Care service under the National Law; **or**
- A provider not required to meet state or territory regulatory requirements for child care services (and covered by Section 50 of the Minister's Rules).

The minimum operating period for an FDC service is 48 weeks each calendar year\*\*. There is no minimum requirement for hours per day or days per week.

## What is an In-Home Care Service (IHC)?

IHC is a flexible form of child care provided in the family home that supports families' workforce participation and child care requirements where other child care options are not available or appropriate **and** where one or more of the following criteria apply:

- parents or carers are working non-standard or variable hours
- parents or carers are geographically isolated from other types of approved child care, particularly in rural or remote locations
- the family has challenging or complex needs.

An IHC service may provide care to both school age\* and non-school age children.

## Hourly Rate of CCS

The CCS hourly rate for care provided by a CCS approved Centre-based Day Care, Outside School Hours Care or Family Day Care service for a session of care will depend on the age of the child. The hourly cap amounts for the current financial year are available on the [Services Australia website](#). The age of the child is not a factor for determining the hourly cap for IHC.

The IHC hourly rate cap is per family and not per child as with other care types.

### **\*What is a school aged child?**

For the purposes of the CCS hourly rate, a school aged child is a child who meets one or more of the following conditions:

- has turned six years of age
- attends the year of school before grade one, or primary or secondary school
- is being home schooled as recognised in the state or territory in which they reside or would be attending school except that they are absent from school, or on holidays.

### **\*\*Determining a shorter minimum operating period**

Subsection 195C (4) of the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999* gives the power to the Secretary to allow for a service to operate for a shorter period in special circumstances. An example of these special circumstances might be a service operating in an area where seasonal demand is high; or the service is in a geographic location of outer regional, remote or very remote and the service is the sole provider or the sole provider of a service of that type.

Providers that consider their services have special circumstances that make it appropriate for the Secretary to determine a shorter minimum operating period should contact the CCS Assessment Team in their state or territory.

More information about special circumstances which may apply to minimum operating periods is contained in the [Child Care Subsidy Minimum Operating Periods - Special Circumstance Requirements](#) fact sheet available from the department's [Applying for CCS Approval](#) website.

## More information

Information about how to apply to become a CCS approved service is available on the department's [Applying for CCS Approval](#) website.

If you need additional information or assistance, you contact the department's CCS Assessment Team by email at [CCSAssessments@dese.gov.au](mailto:CCSAssessments@dese.gov.au)