



## Centrelink Child Care Benefits

### Child Care Benefit

The Child Care Benefit is an Australian Government benefit which aims to assist families with the cost of child care. It helps families to balance work and family life and also provides opportunities for children's learning and development. As a foster or kinship carer, you may be eligible for the Child Care Benefit when you use approved child care or registered child care and meet the necessary immunisation and residency qualification criteria.

Your entitlement to the Child Care Benefit will depend on your family income, the type and amount of care you use, and whether you use the care for work or for other reasons. Carer subsidies and allowances paid by State and Territory governments are not counted as income for the purposes of the Benefit.

Phone the Child Care Access Hotline on 1800 670 305 to find out about:

- child care services in your area;
- the various types of child care available such as long day care, family day care, in-home care, outside school hours care and occasional care;
- Australian Government help with the cost of child care; and
- any issues relating to the quality of child care.

### Additional help for grandparents with child care costs

Grandparents who have the primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren can receive additional help through the Child Care Benefit with the costs of approved child care. This assistance recognises the significant contribution grandparent carers make by caring for two generations.

If you are a grandparent who has the primary care of your grandchild or grandchildren, the Child Care Benefit work/training/study test will be waived so you can access up to 50 hours of Child Care Benefit for each child in approved child care per week.

In addition, if you are an eligible grandparent carer who receives an income support payment from Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, then you may be able to receive Grandparent Child Care Benefit, which covers the full cost of approved child care for up to 50 hours per child per week.

For information about Australian Government approved child care services and vacancies in your area, phone the Child Care Access Hotline on 1800 670 305.





# news & information

For information about eligibility for Child Care Benefit and Grandparent Child Care Benefit phone The Family Assistance Office on 13 6150 or visit their website at:

[www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au).

## Child Care Rebate

The Child Care Rebate is a form of assistance from the Australian Government that helps working families with the cost of child care. From July 2008 the Child Care Rebate is 50% of your out-of-pocket child care expenses for approved child care. Out-of-pocket expenses are child care fees not already covered by the Child Care Benefit or any other financial assistance for child care provided to you.

The rebate is not a 'cash in hand' refund. It is a tax offset that reduces your tax in the year it is claimed.

For more information about Child Care Benefit or the Child Care Benefit work/training/study test, phone the Family Assistance Office on 13 6150 or visit the website at

[www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au).

When you claim the rebate on your tax return, you can confirm your Child Care Benefit entitlement and child care fee information by visiting the Family Assistance Office website at

[www.familyassist.gov.au](http://www.familyassist.gov.au).

You can also use 'e-tax' to download your Child Care Rebate information from the Family Assistance Office into your tax return. If you agree, your registered tax agent can also have access to the same information. If you use your own records, keep your child care fee receipts and similar details, as well as your end-of-financial year Child Care Benefit letter sent to you by the Family Assistance Office.

If you are not required to lodge a tax return you can transfer your rebate to your spouse. To do this, use the Child Care Rebate transfer advice in e-tax. Or you can get a printed copy of the Child Care Rebate instructions and the transfer advice by phoning the Tax Office (see details below).

For more information about the Child Care Rebate, phone the Australian Taxation Office on 13 2861 or visit their website at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au).

