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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



Extension of child care relief package

Dear Erandi,

The Australian Government has confirmed a two-week extension of the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package to **Sunday 12 July 2020**, which means free child care will continue until this time.

From **Monday 13 July 2020**, the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) will return and families will be required to make gap fee payments as per their current details registered with Centrelink.

As we embark on this next phase, we want to reassure families we are here to support you in continuing your child's early learning journey. For those not currently attending, we're really looking forward to welcoming your children back to the centre and re-establishing the close connections they have with their Educators.

We understand many people's circumstances have changed due to COVID-19, so below we've detailed key information to help you navigate the next steps.

[Sign into My Family Lounge](#) to update your existing booking or re-enrol to our service. Booking availability can also be discussed directly with your Centre Manager.

Returning to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS)

Included in the announcement is a transition period where the Government is easing the CCS activity test for 12 weeks from **Monday 13 July** to **Sunday 4 October**, to support eligible families whose employment has been impacted as a result of COVID-19.

These families will receive up to **100 hours per fortnight** of subsidised care during this period to assist the transition of returning to their pre COVID-19 level of activity.

Maximise your subsidy

Families can claim subsidised hours for a range of [recognised activities](#), including:

- Work
- Study
- Training
- Job hunting
- Starting a new business
- Volunteering.

The Services Australia website has a [helpful guide for updating your activity details](#).

Confirm income for 2018/19

To continue receiving CCS payments, eligible families must confirm their income for the last financial year 2018/19 with Centrelink by **Tuesday 30 June 2020**.

Income can be confirmed with Centrelink by either:

- Lodging your tax returns with the [Australian Taxation Office](#), or:
- Completing an '[Advise non-lodgement of tax return](#)' with Centrelink, if you don't need to lodge a tax return.

Please note if your CCS does stop, the Government will not pay CCS for the period between when it stops and when you confirm your income.

Absences

On Tuesday 30 June 2020, the 62 absence days per child will be replaced with 42 initial absence days in the 2020/21 financial year.

Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS)

If you are worried about the return of the subsidy, you may be eligible for the Additional Child Care Subsidy.

ACCS provides support to families experiencing a significantly reduced ability to pay child care fees, such as if a parent has lost income due to being unable to attend work.

The Services Australia website has [further information about ACCS](#).

We also want to thank our families for their ongoing support and understanding as we work through the implications of this announcement.

Should you have any questions about the above information, please contact our **Customer Service Team** via email (childrensservices.vic@ymca.org.au) or call (03) 8371 0500.

Stay safe and take care,
YMCA Children's Programs

YMCA Children's Programs

IKON Park, Gate 3, Royal Parade

Carlton North VIC 3054

(03) 8371 0500

childrensprogramms.ymca.org.au



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