

Additional Childcare Subsidy

Available at your Outside School Hours Care

The Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) offered by the Government is part of the Child Care Safety Net, to give the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children, as well as those from regional and remote communities, a strong start through access to quality early childhood education and care.

The ACCS includes four elements:

- ACCS (child wellbeing) - for families who require practical help to support their children's safety and wellbeing.
- ACCS (grandparent) - for grandparents who are the primary carers of their grandchildren.
- ACCS (temporary financial hardship) - for families experiencing temporary financial hardship.
- ACCS (transition to work) - for families transitioning from income support to work.



Are you struggling to pay your Child Care Fees?

Has one or more of the following happened to you in the past 6 months? If so, you could be eligible for Temporary Financial Hardship.

- Death of a partner or child.
- Unexpected loss of employment, other than due to resignation or retirement.
- Loss of income or business failure due to circumstances outside of your control (such as serious illness).
- Loss of income due to the death of a former partner who was providing ongoing financial assistance in relation to the child.
- Adverse effects from a major disaster event
- Destruction of, or severe damage to, home.
- Having to leave home and not being able to return because of an extreme circumstance (such as domestic violence).
- For individuals who are still living at home and a family member has left or has been removed because of domestic violence against the individual.

ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship

To be eligible for ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship, an individual must have had a substantial reduction in their ability to pay child care fees as a direct result of the temporary financial hardship circumstance.

Eligible families can receive a subsidy equal to the actual fee charged or up to 120% of the relevant CCS hourly rate cap (\$10.67), whichever is lower, up to maximum of 100 hours per fortnight. In most cases this means the full cost of childcare will be covered or you may be left with a small out-of-pocket cost per booking.

Individuals will need to provide evidence to demonstrate there is a link between the

circumstances they are experiencing and the financial hardship (including evidence of a substantial reduction in their ability to pay child care fees). Evidence will also need to show that the circumstance or event occurred within six months from the date the application was made.

In some cases, more than one of these circumstances may affect a family at the same time, increasing and compounding the hardship that the family is facing. Individuals can nominate one or more circumstances that have led to their situation of temporary financial hardship.

How to apply for ACCS

Before applying for ACCS, you need to apply for the Childcare Subsidy (CCS).

You can apply for the CCS by first registering for a MyGov account at my.gov.au. Follow the prompts to apply for CCS, ensure you confirm your activity hours and then start creating your bookings with Camp Australia.

If you already have bookings with us, you should apply as soon as possible as new claims can only be backdated for a maximum of 28 days.

An application for ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship may be made by the family through their Centrelink online account. Centrelink will assess the application and advise the provider if ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship is to be paid.

If you would like to apply for ACCS Temporary Financial Hardship and Transition to work, please contact Centrelink directly on 136 150.

For ACCS (grandparent), please call the Grandparent Advisory Line on 1800 245 965. An application for ACCS Child Wellbeing is generally requested by a Government Department to Camp Australia.

For more information: <https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-provider-handbook>