

Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Tax Rebate



Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Tax Rebate—English

Child Care Benefit helps with the cost of child care for families who use approved and/or registered care. The Child Care Tax Rebate is additional help for working families with the cost of child care.

Who can get Child Care Benefit?

You can get Child Care Benefit if you meet all of the following conditions:

- You have a child in your care
- Your child attends approved or registered care and you are liable to pay the child care fees
- Your child meets the immunisation requirements (or has an exemption)
- You or your partner meet the residency requirements (or have an exemption)

Approved Child Care is provided by child care services approved by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Most long day care, family day care, before and after school care, vacation care, in home and occasional care service is approved child care.

Registered Child Care is care provided by grandparents, relatives, friends or nannies for work-related care and who are registered with the Family Assistance Office. It can also include care provided by individuals in private pre-schools and kindergartens as well as some outside school hours care and occasional care services. To get Child Care Benefit for registered care, you and your partner must satisfy the work, training, study test.

Eligible Hours

All eligible families using approved care can get up to 24 hours of Child Care Benefit a week per child. You can:

- Get up to 50 hours of Child Care Benefit for each child in approved care if you and your partner are working or looking for work, training, or studying for a minimum of 15 hours per week or 30 hours per fortnight or are exempt from this requirement.
- Get up to 50 hours of Child Care Benefit for each child in registered care if you and your partner are working or looking for work, training, studying at some point during the week or are exempt from this requirement,
- Get more than 50 hours of Child Care Benefit for each child in approved care if you or your partner are not available to care for your child for more than 50 hours a week because of work, study or training commitments (including travel to and from work).

How much Child Care Benefit can I get?

All rates are current from 7 July 2008.

Families using approved care with an annual income of \$36,573 or less can get the maximum rate of Child Care Benefit. The maximum rate of Child Care Benefit for a child who is not school age is \$3.47 per hour or \$173.50 for 50 hours per week. The maximum rate for a school child is 85 percent of the maximum non-school child rate. These rates increase for extra children in child care.

We speak your language ☎ 13 1202

www.familyassist.gov.au



Australian Government
Family Assistance Office

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Child Care Benefit decreases once your family income reaches \$36,573. Families with income above the income limits will no longer receive the minimum rate of Child Care Benefit. The income limits beyond which Child Care Benefit is not payable are \$126,793 for one child, \$131,457 for two children, \$148,452 for three children plus \$28,020 for each child in care after the third child. These families will be assessed as zero rate Child Care Benefit. This will enable these families to continue to receive the Child Care Tax Rebate.

Families using registered care are entitled to a rate of \$0.581 per hour up to \$29.05 per week for 50 hours for a non-school child. The rate for a school child is 85 percent of the non-school rate. It is important to note that you cannot get the Child Care Tax Rebate for registered care.

Who can get the Child Care Tax Rebate

You may also get the Child Care Tax Rebate if you meet all of the following conditions:

- You have used approved child care
- You have been assessed as eligible for Child Care Benefit
- You and your partner meet the work, training, study test (for the purpose of the rebate)

How much Child Care Tax Rebate can I get?

From July 2008, eligible families can get 50 percent of their out-of-pocket child care expenses for approved care up to a maximum of \$7,500 (indexed) per child per year.

For more information:

- Call the Family Assistance Office on **13 1202** between 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. (EST) Monday to Friday for information in languages other than English.
- Visit the website at www.familyassist.gov.au
- Visit your nearest Family Assistance Office located in Medicare Australia offices, Centrelink Customer Service Centres and Australian Taxation Office shopfronts.