



Additional Child Care Subsidy – improving access

From October 2023, the Government will simplify and streamline access to Additional Child Care Subsidy (child wellbeing) to remove barriers to essential early childhood education and care services for vulnerable or at-risk children.

Why is this important?

The Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) provides extra help with fees for families facing barriers to early childhood education and care.

ACCS (child wellbeing) helps ensure children at risk of serious abuse or neglect can access and remain engaged in quality and supportive early childhood education and care.

Quality early childhood education and care benefits all children. However, vulnerable and at-risk children often gain additional benefit from these services.

Simplifying and streamlining the process for ACCS (child wellbeing) by consolidating service delivery within Services Australia will deliver efficiencies for providers applying for extra assistance on behalf of families.

The changes will also see additional circumstances for extended backdating of the subsidy, reducing the risk of families falling through the gaps in getting access to early education and care support.

Who will benefit?

The changes will enable applications for at-risk children to be assessed in a more streamlined manner, reducing double handling and the risk of potential gaps in entitlement for the subsidy.

These changes will particularly benefit First Nations children and families who are disproportionately represented in access to the additional support available through ACCS (child wellbeing).

How much will it cost?

The Government will invest \$2.8 million to simplify and streamline the process to access ACCS (child wellbeing).