



Child Care Subsidy activity test

Changes to the Child Care Subsidy activity test help remove some of the barriers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families accessing early learning.

Since July 10, 2023, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have been able to access at least 36 hours of subsidised care every fortnight, regardless of the amount of their family's recognised activity.

A family's Child Care Subsidy rate will continue to be based on their income. Some families may get more than 36 hours of Child Care Subsidy per fortnight, and this will not change. If the family's activity changes, say from 48 hours of activity to less than 8 hours, the number of subsidised hours per fortnight will not go below 36 hours.

These changes are a step in the right direction for getting more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children into early education and ready for big school.

Why is the activity test such a barrier for our mob?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are currently underrepresented in early childhood education and care across the country. They are also twice as likely as non-Indigenous children to be developmentally vulnerable when they start school. This means that our children are at a greater risk of not being school-ready and of falling behind when they start school.

We know that we can turn the tide on this trend by investing in high-quality, culturally safe, early childhood education and care, and removing roadblocks like cost.

The 36 hours of subsidised early childhood education and care per fortnight will positively impact the efforts being made in closing the gap on developmental targets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, specifically towards school readiness.

It allows families to access more support when they need it.

The increased benefits also extend into workforce participation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, ensuring that services can provide culturally safe environments that understand the challenges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families face.

Though a small change, the momentum is building in the right direction. The changes to the Child Care Subsidy activity test will give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children the opportunity to thrive.

For more information about what providers and families need to do please visit
www.education.gov.au/first-nations-activity-test

