

Fact sheet

Commonwealth Government Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package

Purpose and background

The health and safety of all Australians, including the 1.3 million children using early childhood education and care services and the 200 000 staff working in the sector, are of utmost importance.

This fact sheet provides current research about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Commonwealth Government Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package.

Information for families is available on the [Services Australia](#) website.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus. Symptoms can include fever, cough, a sore throat, and shortness of breath. The virus can spread from person to person, but good hygiene, cleaning and physical distancing can help to prevent infection.

Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package

On 2 April 2020, the Commonwealth Government announced the new Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package. From Monday 6 April 2020, weekly payments are being made directly to early childhood education and care services in lieu of the Child Care Subsidy and the Additional Child Care Subsidy, to help keep them operating and retain their employees.

Payments will be made until the end of the 2019-20 financial year and families will not be charged fees during this time.

The available information sheets cover:

- Early Childhood Education and Care [Relief Package Payments](#)

- Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package- Exceptional Circumstance Supplementary Payment and how to apply
- Early Childhood Education and Care [Relief Package Conditions](#)
- Information for family day care and the In Home Care Program [Information for FDC and IHC](#)

Frequently asked questions

For further support or assistance in applying for the Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package payments, telephone **1300 667 276** between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm (AEST) Monday to Friday, or email ccshelpdesk@dese.gov.au or ChildcareNT@dese.gov.au.

You can also find more information relevant to providers and services on the Commonwealth Government's [frequently asked questions](#) webpage.

Information sessions

The Department of Education holds regular COVID-19 information sessions for early childhood education and care providers and services. The most recent forum was held on 22 April 2020. All services in the NT have been invited to participate through Quality Education and Care NT, the regulatory authority responsible for administering the National Quality Framework across the NT.

Email qualityecnt.det@nt.gov.au if you have not received an invitation.