



What is Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care fee assistance?

JET Child Care fee assistance is a payment to help you with the cost of your Child Care Benefit (CCB) approved child care by paying some of the 'gap fee' not covered by CCB while you are working, training or studying so you can enter or re-enter the workforce.

Can I get JET Child Care fee assistance?

Yes, if you:

- receive an eligible income support payment*
- have an approved Employment Pathway Plan (EPP)
- receive CCB at the maximum rate
- use CCB approved child care (for example, Long Day Care, Family Day Care and Outside School Hours Care).

*Eligible income support payments include:

- Newstart Allowance
- Parenting Payment
- Widow Allowance
- Partner Allowance
- Community Development Employment Project Participant Supplement
- Youth Allowance (for jobseekers)
- Carer Payment
- Widow B Pension
- A means tested ABSTUDY payment
- Special Benefit (in certain circumstances).

What activities does JET Child Care fee assistance support?

JET Child Care fee assistance supports many activities up to a limited amount of time which varies from activity to activity. Here are the activities:

- searching for a job—up to 20 days in 20 weeks
- paid and unpaid work—for the initial 26 weeks of a job
- study or training[^]—for up to 24 months
- participating in a labour market program—e.g. Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program (LLNP), Work for the Dole (WFD) and Green Corps
- participating in a Government funded rehabilitation program
- other activities that help parents engage in sustainable paid work.

[^]for Certificate II to Graduate Diploma level qualifications only. If you already hold a qualification, further study at the same level is restricted to courses that lead to occupations in high demand as listed on the [Skills Shortage List \(Australia\)](#).

How much can I get?

JET Child Care fee assistance can help meet the cost of child care by paying some of the 'gap fee'. The 'gap fee' is the difference between the amount you are charged and the amount you get for (CCB).

You will need to make a small co-contribution of \$1 for care per hour per child to your service. The Government will pay your CCB and any gap fee. If you use more hours than you are entitled to you will have to pay the full cost for these additional hours.

You may also be eligible for the Child Care Rebate (CCR) which will provide you with 50 per cent of your out-of-pocket child care costs up to the annual cap.

How many hours a week can I get JET Child Care fee assistance for?

This depends on:

- the type of child care you need
- the number of hours you undertake JET Child Care fee assistance activities
- the number of hours you are charged for care by your child care service and
- if you (and your partner, if you have one) meet the work, training, study test.

You can receive JET Child Care fee assistance for up to 24 hours of care per week. To receive more than 24 hours of JET Child Care fee assistance per week, up to a maximum of 50 hours per week, you must be undertaking at least 15 hours of approved JET Child Care fee assistance activities per week.

Note: The number of hours you receive JET Child Care fee assistance for in a week cannot be more than the hours you receive CCB in the same week, i.e. 24 or 50 hours.

How do I receive my JET Child Care fee assistance?

JET Child Care fee assistance is paid just like your CCB. It is paid directly to your approved child care service, so that the fees you pay are reduced.

What if my child is absent from child care?

JET Child Care fee assistance, CCB and CCR can be paid in some situations if you are charged for child care when your child is absent.

You will get JET Child Care fee assistance, CCB and CCR for 42 absence days per child each financial year. These can be for any reason and will not require proof and include public holidays.

You can also get JET Child Care fee assistance, CCB and CCR for additional absence days above this for specific reasons only. There is no limit on these days but you may be required to provide documentation to support the absence. More information is available in Fact Sheet 9—*Absences from child care—Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR)*.

You can also access your child's absence record on your online statement along with your child care attendance and CCB and CCR amounts paid statements. These are available on the [Department of Human Services website](#).

How can I get more information?

For further information on your eligibility for JET Child Care fee assistance please contact the Department of Human Services:



access Online Services at the [Department of Human Services](#)



call 13 61 50 between 8 am and 8 pm (local time) Monday to Friday



visit a Service Centre (located in Medicare Offices and Centrelink Service Centres).

Note: You must notify the Department of Human Services of any event that may affect your JET Child Care fee assistance eligibility, hours or assessment period. For example, if you change child care services, change your approved JET Child Care fee assistance activity or change the hours you use child care.

Useful resources

- for news and information on child care visit the [MyChild website](#)
- to estimate and compare payments access the [Child Care Estimator](#)
- [A Guide to Australian Government payments](#)

If you need to, you can also call:



Teletypewriter (TTY) 1800 810 586 (if you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment).

You need a TTY phone to use this service.

13 12 02 if you need information in a language other than English.