

Questions and Answers for Families

Child Care Benefit (CCB)

Q. When will I get the Child Care Benefit (CCB) increase?

A. The increase in the rate of Child Care Benefit (CCB) is effective from July 2007.

Q. How much will I get from the Child Care Benefit (CCB) increase?

A. For families with one child in approved child care, the rate increase will depend on your income and a number of other factors, and may be up to \$20.50 per week.

Changes to the minimum and maximum rates are outlined in the table below as a guide. More information is available from the Fact Sheet on the website at www.facsia.gov.au or from the Family Assistance Office (FAO) on 136 150.

	Current Rate	New Rate	Increase
Maximum CCB rate per hour	\$ 2.96	\$ 3.37	\$ 0.41
Maximum CCB rate per full-time week	\$148.00	\$168.50	\$20.50
Minimum CCB rate per hour	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.56	\$ 0.07
Minimum CCB rate per full-time week	\$ 24.85	\$ 28.20	\$ 3.35

Q. I have school children. Is the rate any different for me?

A. The rates listed above are for non-school children in approved child care. Rates for school children are 85% of the rates for non-school children.

Q. What do I have to do to receive the Child Care Benefit (CCB) increase?

A. You don't need to do anything to receive the Child Care Benefit (CCB) increase. The Family Assistance Office (FAO) will automatically adjust your entitlement. If you have chosen to receive the entitlement as a lump sum, it will be paid when you complete your tax return at the end of the financial year.

Q. I share the care of my children. How will I be affected by the changes to Child Care Benefit (CCB)?

A. The changes will apply to you in the same way they apply to other families. You will be able to claim for any child care costs incurred by you for any child or children in your care, as you do currently.

Q. I use registered child care. How much will I get from the Child Care Benefit (CCB) increase?

- A. Families using registered child care receive the minimum rate of Child Care Benefit (CCB). For full-time care, this will mean an extra \$3.35 per child per week. More information is available from the "What is Registered Care" Fact Sheet on the Department's website at www.facsia.gov.au.

Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR)

Q. When do the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) changes take effect?

- A. The new Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) payment arrangements apply to child care costs incurred since 1 July 2006. Costs incurred before that date will still need to be claimed through the taxation system.

Q. Are more families now eligible to claim the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR)?

- A. Yes. Previously, the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) has been delivered as a reduction in the amount of your tax liability. This meant that if you had a low tax liability you may not have received the full benefit. If you had no tax liability you were not able to receive any CCTR. The changes mean that all working families using approved child care, even those with a low or no tax liability, can now claim CCTR.

Q. How much Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) will I receive this year?

- A. If you paid for child care in both the 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years you could receive two Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) payments after 1 July 2007 – one through the tax system and one from the Family Assistance Office (FAO), totalling up to \$8,000 (indexed) per child.

Q. What do I have to do to receive the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR)?

- A. For child care costs incurred in 2005-06 you will still need to claim the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) in your 2006-07 tax return.

For child care costs incurred after 1 July 2006 the Family Assistance Office (FAO) will pay the CCTR annually directly into your bank account after you and your partner (if you have one) have lodged your tax return and your child care service has reported how much you had in out-of-pocket expenses.

If you or your partner (if you have one) are not required to lodge a tax return you need to advise the FAO of this so that your CCTR payment (if you're eligible) can still be processed.

Q. Can I receive my CCTR payment more frequently?

- A. The Government is always examining options for families. Upcoming changes to IT systems for child care services may create greater flexibility for the timing of the CCTR payment. However at this time the payment will be made annually.

Q. Can I transfer my CCTR payment to my partner?

A. You no longer need to transfer CCTR between parents because CCTR is no longer limited by your tax liability.

Other Measures

Q. How do I access Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care fee assistance?

A. If you are on an income support payment you may be able to get JET Child Care fee assistance. The Family Assistance Office (FAO) can help determine your eligibility for assistance with the cost of child care and for other family payments. The FAO can be contacted on 136 150. More information is available from the “What is Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Child Care fee assistance?” Fact Sheet on the website at www.facsia.gov.au.

More Information

Q. Where can I find more information?

A. For more information on the new measures you can visit the website at www.facsia.gov.au or ring the Child Care Access Hotline on 1800 670 305 (free call).