



▶ Information for families using child care

Fact Sheet 12

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

If you are on an income support payment you may be able to get JET Child Care fee assistance. This is a payment to help you with the cost of your approved child care by paying some of the 'gap fee' not covered by Child Care Benefit 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 Centrelink payment*
- have an approved Centrelink activity agreement
- receive Child Care Benefit (CCB) at the maximum rate
- use approved child care (for example, Long Day Care, Family Day Care and Outside School Hours Care).

**Eligible Centrelink 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 from July 2008
- participating in a labour market program e.g. Personal Support Program—up to 12 months but may be extended
- participating in a Government funded rehabilitation program
- other activities that help parents engage in sustainable paid work.

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 Child Care Benefit (CCB).

You will need to pay 10c 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 (24 or 50) you will have to pay the full cost for these additional hours.

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 are charged for care by your child care service and
- if you (and your partner, if you have one) meet the CCB work/training/study test.

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 can be paid in some situations if you are charged for child care when your child is absent. Payment can be made for up to 30 days of absences for each child per financial year. Talk to your service about the reason for the absence. If you have a special reason, the absence may not be counted as one of your child's 30 allowable absences.

All child care services are changing over to the new Child Care Management System (CCMS). Once a service is on the CCMS, new absence rules will apply.

You will get CCB for 42 absence days per child each financial year. These can be for any reason and will not require proof.

You can also get CCB 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.

How can I get more information?

For further information on your eligibility for JET Child Care fee assistance please contact the Family Assistance Office:



access online services at familyassist.gov.au



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



email through familyassist.gov.au



visit a Family Assistance Office (located in Medicare Offices, Centrelink Customer Service Centres and Australian Taxation Offices).

Useful resources

Family Assistance, The What, Why and How booklet, available at familyassist.gov.au

Family Assistance Office Guide to Payments fact sheet, available at familyassist.gov.au

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.