



CHANGES TO Child Care Subsidy Gap Fee Payments

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

From 1 July 2023, families will be required to pay the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) gap fee via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is the CCS gap fee?

The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is an Australian Government subsidy to assist families with the cost of child care. Families receiving CCS are also required to make a contribution to their child care fees. This is referred to as the "gap fee". The CCS gap fee is the difference between the child care full fee and the amount of subsidy families are entitled to receive.

What changes are being made to the CCS gap fee payment?

From 1 July 2023, families using child care must pay their CCS gap fee using Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The changes being made to the method of CCS gap fee payments will not affect the amount of child care subsidy families receive.

What is EFT?

EFT is where you pay a bill via electronic means i.e. not cash. Examples of common EFT methods include bank transfer, direct deposit, bank or credit card payments, mobile wallets, BPAY and Centrepay.

Why are these changes being made?

The Australian Government is making these changes to ensure that CCS is being paid for eligible sessions of care only. An eligible session

of care means a child care session that is actually attended by a child, or an absence is reported, and the CCS gap fee is actually being paid by parents/guardians and collected by the educator or service.

The changes are also designed to ensure transparency for auditing purposes and to prevent fraudulent CCS claims.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

You may have to change the way you pay your CCS gap fee

To comply with the new requirements for CCS gap fee payments, your service and/or educator may make changes to the way families are required to pay the CCS gap fee.

Contact your family day care service and/or educator to find out about any changes to their payment processes and confirm their preferred EFT payment options.

If you already pay your CCS gap fee via EFT, you may not need to change how you pay your CCS gap fee at all.

If you are currently paying your gap fee in cash, you will need to establish an EFT method with either your service or educator. Families may be





WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

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required to provide their bank account information to their family day care service or educator, including their account name, account number and BSB (Bank State Branch) code.

What EFT payment methods will I be able to use to pay the CCS gap fee?

The EFT options available may vary according to the payment systems and policies that your service and educator uses. In the first instance, consult with your service and/or educator.

What if I am unable to pay the gap fee via EFT?

There may be exemptions available to families, however these will only apply in very limited circumstances. If you believe you are unable to pay the gap fee using EFT, contact your service in the first instance.

What if I am on a payment plan?

If you are on a payment plan to pay your CCS gap fee, you will continue to be able to do this from 1 July 2023 as long as:

- the gap fee is received as an electronic payment.
- the service has a record of the payment plan arrangement.

USEFUL RESOURCES:

- Visit www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/child-care-subsidy to learn more about the Child Care Subsidy
- Visit www.familydaycare.com.au for more information or contact us on 1800 658 699 or at enquiries@fdca.com.au

