



Friday 26 June 2020

Dear Families,

This week we come to the finalisation of our 'Lighting UP with Gratitude' initiative, which has been a rewarding and uplifting experience for all involved, as our Staff, Services, Children, Families and Communities received messages of thanks and acts of kindness throughout the month. It gives me great pride to see this gratitude extended to our Educators. These unsung heroes have truly cemented their role as key workers, ensuring that children can safely return to the new world in which we now live. The gratitude shown throughout our Services and local Communities has also ensured that we remain focussed on the positives, such as family and friends, building strong relationships and lending a helping hand as we battle adversity. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives, and we will ensure that Gratitude remains a constant component that is nurtured within our Services and Busy Bees as a whole, to give every child the best start in life.

Visit our social media pages, Like and Follow us to stay up to date with everything that's happening in our Services: [Follow us on Facebook](#) | [Like our Instagram](#) | [Connect on LinkedIn](#)

Supporting our Families

As you know, the past few months have been challenging and have impacted us all in many ways and as further restrictions are lifted, we continue to support our Families' needs. We are delighted to see so many Families returning to care. We have observed a significant increase in enquiries and new Families ready to commence care over the next few weeks.

There are many options available to assist Families during the transition to the re-commencing of fees on 13 July 2020. The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) is returning, along with new transition measures to support Families as we transition to the CCS model. The CCS Activity Test requirements will be eased for 12 weeks, from 13 July to 4 October 2020, for Families who have been impacted by COVID-19. During this period, impacted Families will be able to access up to 100 hours per fortnight of subsidised care. This will assist Families to access affordable care as they return to the level of work, study or training you were undertaking prior to COVID-19.

Eligibility for Additional Child Care Subsidy – Temporary Financial Hardship, can include:

- Experienced temporary hardship due to an event that happened in the last 6 months (e.g. Job loss, reduced income)

It is best to apply as soon as possible, ahead of the return of CCS on July 13. For more information, visit [Services Australia](#).

In addition to the relaxed Activity Test, I encourage you to speak to your Service Manager in relation to other options that exist to support you, including sessional care.

To assist with our continued forward-planning, including rostering of staff, we would appreciate if you notify your Service Manager of any changes relating to your care requirements and to discuss your ongoing care needs.

No Increase in Fees

Just a reminder that Busy Bees can also confirm that there will be no fee increase for at least the period the CCS Activity Test is relaxed.



Recommencing of Fees

Direct Debit of fees will commence 29 June, this will cover the two weeks of care from the 13 the July, 2020 to align with our Fee Payment Policy. If you haven't done so already, **please return your updated Debit Success form to the Service.**

Updating your Income and Activity Test

It is important for Families to update your **income** and **activity levels** as [Child Care Subsidy \(CCS\) is starting again](#) on 13 July 2020.

If you were receiving CCS before 6 April 2020, it will automatically start again if you've stayed eligible and your enrolment is current and confirmed.

Follow these five steps to make sure you've stayed eligible and receive the right amount of CCS:

1. Provide Centrelink your [2020-21 family income estimate](#) to receive the correct CCS percentage and avoid an overpayment.
2. Check your [activity hours](#) to receive the correct amount of hours of CCS per fortnight*.
3. Make sure your child meets [immunisation requirements](#).
4. Check your child's [enrolment details](#) are current with your child care service and re-enrol if you need to.
5. [Confirm your income for 2018-19](#) if you haven't already by 30 June 2020.

*From 13 July 2020, the Australian Government is easing the activity test for CCS. This means you may be able to apply for extra activity hours if COVID-19 has affected you. There will be more information about how to do this in July.

If you're [new to child care](#), you should [claim](#) CCS as soon as possible. From 13 July 2020, you'll pay full fees unless you're receiving CCS.

If you have any further questions in regards to the above, please visit the Services Australia website via the following link: [Services Australia](#).

All prior communications sent to Families for your reference can be located on the Busy Bees Website <https://www.busybees.edu.au/corona-virus-updates>

Thank you for your continued support as we look forward to welcoming you back into our Services.

Warm Regards.

Robert Hughes
Chief Executive Officer