

Dear Families,

As you are probably already aware the Australian childcare system will be overhauled from Sunday night for at least 6 months to offer children and their parents' free education during the coronavirus pandemic. This will happen automatically for families enrolled.

How will the new childcare system work?

From Sunday night, the old childcare system will be turned off and the new system will turn on.

The amount paid to each provider will be worth 50 per cent of their fee revenue – up to the childcare subsidy hourly rate cap – based on how many children they had in their care in the fortnight leading up to March 2nd.

Is the new system free for parents?

YES. All families regardless of your income will receive free childcare from Monday 6th April.

We ask families to immediately cancel any Direct Debit payments they have set up with their bank for Childcare fees. This needs to be completed today.

Is it free for parents even if they're not working?

YES. While the government wants to prioritise the children of essential workers, vulnerable children and those families who have an existing relationship with a childcare centre, any parent who needs a placement for their child will be able to access free childcare for the next 6 months.

Will after school and vacation care be free too?

YES. Any service provider that receives the childcare subsidy will be free for parents during the coronavirus pandemic.

Which centres will be eligible for the new childcare payments?

Any of Australia's 1300 childcare centres will be eligible.

To receive the weekly payment payments, a centre must remain open and provide care for those parents who need childcare during the coronavirus crisis.

The government wants to prioritise children of essential workers and vulnerable children.

Childcare centres must also seek to re-enrol children whose parents already withdrew them from the facility.

Do childcare workers get the Job Keeper payment?

YES. The government said early education and childcare services do not need to apply for payments, they will be paid automatically.

This is because once the government begins paying providers 50 per cent of their fee revenue instead of childcare subsidy, their annual turnover will be reduced by 50 per cent and they will become eligible for the Job Keeper scheme.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful committed staff who have excelled during these unprecedented times. To our families thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to continuing our relationship with you and your family.

Regards

Kate and Kirsty