



Child care support data

Suspension of the Child Care Subsidy activity test

- From 13 July 2020 until 4 October 2020, individuals who can no longer engage in the same number of hours of work, training, study or other activity recognised by the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) activity test immediately prior to the COVID-19 crisis, can advise Services Australia they meet the requirements to access 100 hours of subsidised child care, per child, per fortnight for up to 12 weeks.
- As at 6 August 2020, Services Australia have recorded 'Eased Activity Test COVID-19' exception for the 2020-21 CCS entitlement year for 7,117 customers (parents/guardians).

Additional Child Care Subsidy Temporary Financial Hardship Payments

- In July 2020, Services Australia advise that the number of Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) (temporary financial hardship) claims approved for the month was 5,032 with a median of 15 days to process.
- In comparison to the months pre-COVID-19 (Jan-Feb 2020), the average number of ACCS (temporary financial hardship) claims approved per month approximately 1,000 claims, with a median of 23 days to process.
- The number of ACCS (temporary financial hardship) claims increased by approximately 400 per cent from the usual average in July 2020.

ACCS Transition to Work Payments

- In July 2020, Services Australia advise that the number of ACCS (transition to work) claims approved for the month was 1,366.
- In comparison to the months pre-COVID-19 (Jan-Feb 2020), the average number of ACCS (transition to work) claims finalised per month was 1,600.
- The number of ACCS (transition to work) claims has decreased by 17 per cent compared with pre-COVID claim rates.

Victorian early educators receiving JobKeeper

- Jobkeeper data questions should be referred to Treasury.
- JobKeeper eligibility ceased on 20 July 2020 for employees of a CCS approved provider operating a child care service. Employees include all staff within the organisation, including all educators, centre directors and managers, administration staff, cooks and cleaners.
- In recognition that this is a transition period from the Relief Package, all approved early childhood education and care providers will receive a Transition Payment with the CCS and parent gap fee payment, instead of the Relief Payment and JobKeeper, for the period 13 July 2020 to 27 September 2020. Stage 3 and 4 areas will receive further payment.

Child care enrolment and attendance, including for the week ending 7 August and the February reference period

- CCS restarted on Monday 13 July 2020. Services have up to 28 days to finalise (submit and vary) sessions of care data.
- The provisional data below is for the **weeks ending**:
 - 1 March 2020 (reference week)
 - 19 July 2020 (week 1)
 - 26 July 2020 (week 2)
 - 14 July and 21 July 2019 (this time last year to factor in seasonality of child care)
- The data is current as at Sunday 2 August 2020.

Enrolment data

National data

- 16 Feb – 14 March 2020 – average daily enrolment count: 1,541,188
 - End of Relief Page – 1-12 July average daily enrolment count: 1,495,680 (2.9% less than pre-COVID period)
 - 13-26 July 2020 average daily enrolment count 1,527,528 (0.9% less than pre-COVID period)
- Average daily enrolment count data not available for Victoria (this data cannot be broken down by state)
 - Strict enrolment counts are not the best predictor of either usage or revenue – they are a unique count of enrolment IDs

- A child may have more than one enrolment (e.g. across different services)
- And enrolment itself is not indicative of care being provided by a service.
- The better measure is charged hours, as it incorporates both attendance (for which services receive CCS and fees) and use of allowable absence days – services' revenue is typically based on 'charged hours.'

Charged hours

Victoria

- Charged hours in VIC for weeks 1 and 2 in comparison with the reference week stands at 95.8% and 92.2% respectively (noting session reports are not yet final for these weeks).
- Enrolment related to sessions of care (which is not the same as the average daily enrolment figure above) also showed an encouraging trend between weeks 1 and weeks 2 for Victoria (noting this data is not available before week 1)
 - 0.5% enrolment shift in first two weeks after restrictions, from 213,302 to 212,329 enrolments.

Other states

- For week 1 every state except Victoria submitted more charged hours i.e. more than 100% compared to reference period ending 1 March.
- For week 2 every state except Victoria submitted at least 98.5% or higher charged hours compared with ref period.