



Child Care Information for Families

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR FAMILIES

Are you yet to lodge a lump sum claim for Child Care Benefit and/or Child Care Rebate and Family Tax Benefit for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 financial years?

If the answer is YES, you have until **Monday 30 June 2014** to lodge a lump sum claim with Centrelink.

Child Care Benefit and Family Tax Benefit lump sum claim period has been reduced from two years to one year!

Did you pay full child care fees for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 and want to claim Child Care Benefit and consequently Child Care Rebate as a lump sum? Do you want to claim Family Tax Benefit as a lump sum for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013? If you received fortnightly Family Tax Benefit payments, do you need to lodge a tax return?

From 1 July 2013, changes have been made to the time periods families have to lodge lump sum claims for Child Care Benefit and Family Tax Benefit, and to confirm their income for Family Tax Benefit purposes.

Child Care Benefit

To be paid Child Care Benefit and/or Child Care Rebate as a lump sum for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 you (and/or your partner) will need to:

- lodge your tax returns for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 with the Australian Taxation

Office (ATO) (or notify Centrelink you are not required to lodge a tax return) and

- lodge a lump sum claim with Centrelink by 30 June 2014.

Centrelink will also need:

- Details of the child care you have used throughout 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013. This will be supplied by your approved child care service after you provide them the Customer Reference Numbers (CRN) and dates of birth for the parent who is assessed for Child Care Benefit and the children attending care.

Family Tax Benefit

To be paid Family Tax Benefit as a lump sum for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 you (and/or your partner) will need to:

- lodge a lump sum claim with Centrelink by 30 June 2014 and
- lodge your tax returns with for 2011-2012 and/or 2012-2013 by 30 June 2014 (or notify Centrelink you are not required to lodge a tax return).

What has changed?

The period families have to lodge lump sum Child Care Benefit or Family Tax Benefit claims has been reduced from two years after the end of the financial year to one year after the end of the financial year.

To lodge a claim for the 2011-2012 financial year families have two years to lodge a lump sum claim. This means you have until **30 June 2014** to lodge a claim.

From 2012-2013 onwards, families have one year to lodge a lump sum claim. This means you have until **30 June 2014** to lodge a claim for 2012-2013.

Additionally, the period families have to confirm their income for Family Tax Benefit purposes has been reduced from two years to one, starting from the 2012-2013 financial year.

Note: You (and/or your partner) must lodge your tax return by **30 June 2014**, (or notify Centrelink you are not required to lodge a tax return) to ensure you receive your full Family Tax Benefit entitlements including Family Tax Benefit end of year supplements.

If you have received Family Tax Benefit by fortnightly instalments you (and/or your partner) must also lodge your tax return by **30 June 2014**, (or notify Centrelink you are not required to lodge a tax return) to receive your full Family Tax Benefit entitlement including Family Tax Benefit supplements.

How to claim Child Care Benefit as a lump sum

You can claim:

- online at humanservices.gov.au/centrelinkonline or
- by lodging a *Claim for Approved Child Care payments as an annual lump sum payment Form (FA011 or FA052)* with Centrelink.

Any Child Care Rebate eligibility will be assessed automatically as part of your lump sum claim and paid directly to your bank account at the end of the financial year after you have claimed your Child Care Benefit (if eligible).

If you claimed Child Care Benefit as reduced fees paid to your service, your Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate entitlements will be reconciled and paid without the need to submit a Child Care Benefit lump sum claim form.

How to claim Child Care Benefit as reduced fees

If you prefer not to lodge a Child Care Benefit lump sum claim at the end of every financial year you should consider claiming Child Care Benefit as reduced fees paid to your service.

You can claim for Child Care Benefit as reduced fees:

- online at humanservices.gov.au/centrelinkonline or
- by lodging a *Claim for Approved Child Care payments Form (FA002)* with Centrelink or
- by visiting a Centrelink Service Centre.

There is no need for you to claim Child Care Rebate separately. Centrelink will automatically assess your eligibility for Child Care Rebate once you've lodged a claim for Child Care Benefit. If your income is too high for Child Care Benefit, you may still be able to get Child Care Rebate.



How to get more information

For further information about Child Care Benefit, Child Care Rebate and Family Tax Benefit contact Centrelink:

- visit humanservices.gov.au/families
- like us at [Family Update](#) on Facebook or tweet [@FamilyUpdateUA](#)
- access online services at humanservices.gov.au/centrelinkonline
- call 136 150 between 8 am and 8 pm (local time) Monday to Friday
- visit a Centrelink Service Centre
- call 131 202 if you need information in a language other than English
- call teletypewriter (TTY) 1800 810 586 (if you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment). A TTY phone is needed to use this service.