



Child Care: We help

The Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services can help parents who need child care.

The Commonwealth Government funds child care services to meet the needs of working families with children.

These services cater for those with special needs such as Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islanders, children with disabilities, and from a non-English speaking background.

This brochure outlines services provided and funded through the Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services.

Child Care Centres

Child Care Centres are mainly for children of working parents, aged 0 - 5 years of age. They are also called: **Day Nurseries, Long Day Care Centres, Child Minding Centres or Creches.**

These centres are open for at least 8 hours per day, 48 weeks or more per year.

Fees vary from Centre to Centre, but most receive Commonwealth Government subsidies, to help low and middle income families with their fees. Fee Relief (reduced fees) might be available to you.

Long day care centres normally provide a nutritious meal during the day, and encourage children to take a rest.

Some centres have full-time, part-time or casual ethnic, or bilingual workers, trained in providing multicultural programs for the children and some offer translated material.



Family Day Care

A Family Day Care Scheme is a network (group) of people providing child care and developmental activities in their homes.

It aims at children under school age but is also open to older children (up to 12 years) who need care before and after school. It can be long day, parttime, occasional, emergency, and before and after school.

Carers can look after a number of pre-school age children, including their own, and school age children.

They give the personal care, warmth and attention vital to help children develop new skills and interests.

Family Day Carers belong to local networks (groups) run by local Councils and community groups.

They attend regular organised playgroups with other carers so that the children can play together in larger groups.

Fees vary between schemes and most families receive Fee Relief (reduced fees).

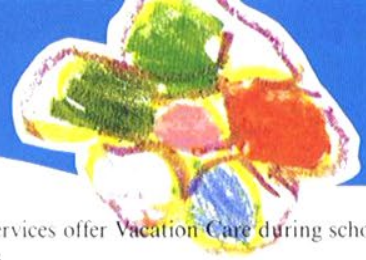


Outside School Hours Care

Outside School Hours Care Services (OSHC) provide child care for primary school aged children (5-12 years) before and after school.

Most services are open for at least 2 to 3 hours everyday, between 7.30 and 9 am or between 3.30 and 6 pm.

They operate at schools, community centres or child care centres.



Some services offer Vacation Care during school holidays.

The children take part in supervised, safe, fun, outdoor and indoor activities with time for rest and homework.

Fees are charged by the hour or by the session, and they depend on your income. Fee Relief (reduced fees) may be available to some families on low incomes.

Occasional Care

Occasional Care is available for parents at home who need child care for short periods.

Centres accept children from 0-5 years and each has its own opening hours. All centres employ qualified staff and booking in advance is necessary in most centres.

What parents should discuss with any Child Care Service:

- Ages of children accepted,
 - Opening and closing hours,
 - When does it close for holidays,
 - What fees are charged,
 - Is fee relief (reduced fees) provided,
 - Are the staff trained to care for special needs,
 - What does it offer for children of non English speaking background,
 - Does it provide meals,
 - What happens if you are late to pick up your children,
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