



# The Australian Government's new child care package

The *Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Act 2017* introduces major reforms to Australia's child care system. The Australian Government's new child care package will provide greater choice for around one million Australian families by delivering more affordable, more flexible and more accessible child care.

## Child Care Subsidy System

The Government has provided \$175.3 million for the development of the new Child Care Subsidy System that will support the new child care package. The Departments of Education and Training, Human Services, and Social Services are working collaboratively to ensure this system will support the implementation of the new package from 2 July 2018.

The new Child Care Subsidy System will be built in the SAP environment, and will support reforms by:

- providing a simpler user interface for families and child care services
- simplifying, streamlining and automating administration of child care payments and programs
- ensuring effective compliance and minimising fraudulent misuse of taxpayer funds.

Integrated system testing and transition activities supported by the new IT system will occur between April – June 2018.

## Benefits of the Child Care Subsidy System

Major benefits of the Child Care Subsidy System include:

- reduced administrative and regulatory burden for child care providers
- enhanced access to information for families and child care providers
- improved compliance functionality, including identifying child care providers engaging in high risk behaviours, to reduce incidences of overpayment and non-compliance.

## **Families**

To make Child Care Subsidy claims and view the status of their claims, families will be able to go to my.gov.au and sign in to access their Centrelink online account. If they do not have a myGov account, they can create one and link it to their Centrelink online account.

A communications campaign and helpdesk facilities will provide support to families to transition to the new arrangements.

## **Third party software**

Third party software will still be used to access the new Child Care Subsidy System. The new IT system will also include a Provider Entry Point to access information or apply for approval under Family Assistance Law. The Provider Entry Point will not provide the additional functionality that many registered third party software products will continue to provide. The Provider Entry Point is likely to be accessed by only a small number of child care operators.

Software registration for the new Child Care Subsidy System will be available in the lead up to the July 2018 implementation. A [list of registered CCMS software](#) is available from the Department of Education and Training website.

## **Community Grants Hub – Child Care Grant Programs**

The Community Grants Hub will be available from 2 July 2018. Child care providers will be able to use the Community Grants Hub to access child care grant programs under the new child care package, including the Community Child Care Fund. The existing Inclusion Support Portal will be modified to also support child care providers to make claims.

Child care providers will continue to be supported through dedicated help desk facilities for service and technical issues.

**For more information on the new child care package, visit [www.education.gov.au](http://www.education.gov.au).**

