

Types of childcare available

Age	Early Learning Payment (ELP)	Childcare Subsidy (CCS)	OSCAR Subsidy (OSCAR)	Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment (GCAP)	20 hours free Early Childhood Education	Flexible Childcare Assistance	Childcare Subsidy or OSCAR Subsidy if you're getting Child Disability Allowance, or have a child in hospital
0–17 months	Nil	Up to 50 hours a week if the person is working, studying or training and their partner can't provide childcare. Up to 9 hours a week if the person isn't working, studying or training.	Nil	Up to 50 hours a week if the person is generally under 19 and meets their youth activity obligations.	Nil	Between \$65.44 and \$196.32 a week for up to 26 weeks if person meets qualifications.	CDA or family member in hospital: 50 hours if person meets the income test.
18–29 months	20 hours a week if the person meets full qualifications.	Up to 50 hours a week if the person is working, studying or training and their partner can't provide childcare. Up to 9 hours a week if the person isn't working, studying or training.	Nil	Up to 50 hours a week if the person is generally under 19 and meets their youth activity obligations.	Nil	Between \$65.44 and \$196.32 a week for up to 26 weeks if person meets qualifications.	CDA or family member in hospital: 50 hours if person meets the income test.
30–35 months	20 hours a week if the person meets full qualifications.	Up to 50 hours a week if the person is working, studying or training and their partner can't provide childcare. Up to 9 hours a week if the person isn't working, studying or training.	Nil	Up to 50 hours a week if the person is generally under 19 and meets their youth activity obligations.	Nil	Between \$65.44 and \$196.32 a week for up to 26 weeks if person meets qualifications.	CDA or family member in hospital: 50 hours if person meets the income test.
3–5 years old	Nil	Up to 50 hours a week if the person is working, studying or training and their partner can't provide childcare. Up to 9 hours a week if the person isn't working, studying or training.	Once the child starts school (if they start in the term before they turn 5), up to 20 hours a week during school term and up to 50 hours a week during school holidays if person is working, studying or training and their partner can't provide childcare.	Up to 50 hours a week (excluding ECE hours) if the person is generally under 19 and meets their youth activity obligations.	Up to 6 hours a day and a maximum of 20 hours a week	Between \$65.44 and \$196.32 a week for up to 26 weeks if person meets qualifications.	CDA or family member in hospital: 50 hours (excluding ECE hours) if person meets the income test.
5–13 years old	Nil	If the child hasn't started school yet (as they don't start until the term after they turn 5), up to 50 hours a week if the person is working, studying or training and their partner can't provide childcare, and up to 9 hours a week if the person isn't working, studying or training.	Up to 20 hours a week during school term and up to 50 hours a week during school holidays if person is working, studying or training and their partner can't provide childcare.	If the child hasn't started school yet (as they don't start until the term after they turn 5), up to 50 hours a week (excluding ECE hours) if the person is generally under 19 and meets their youth activity obligations.	Nil	Between \$65.44 and \$196.32 a week for up to 26 weeks if person meets qualifications.	CDA or family member in hospital: If the child hasn't started school yet (as they don't start until the term after they turn 5), 50 hours (excluding ECE hours) if person meets the income test. Once the child starts school, 20 hours during school term and 50 hours during school holidays if person meets the income test.
14–18 years old	Nil	Nil	See OSCAR Subsidy if you're getting Child Disability Allowance or have a child in hospital.	Nil	Nil	Between \$65.44 and \$196.32 a week for up to 26 weeks if person meets qualifications.	CDA only: 20 hours during school term and 50 hours during school holidays if person meets the income test.

	Early Learning Payment (ELP)	Childcare Subsidy (CCS)	OSCAR Subsidy (OSCAR)	Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment (GCAP)	20 hours free Early Childhood Education	Flexible Childcare Payment	Childcare Subsidy or OSCAR Subsidy if you're getting Child Disability Allowance, or have a child in hospital
Rates	\$9.72 an hour.	Childcare and OSCAR Subsidy rates are the same (Rates as at 1 April 2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate 1: \$6.52 Rate 2: \$5.20 Rate 3: \$3.64 Rate 4: \$2.03 		\$6.52 an hour, up to \$326.00 a week, per child.	Please refer to Ministry of Education Funding Handbook.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 child: \$65.44 per week 2 children: \$98.16 per week 3 children: \$130.88 per week 4 children: \$163.60 per week 5 or more children: \$196.32 per week. 	Rate is the Childcare or OSCAR Subsidy rate
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be the caregiver of a dependent child Be enrolled in a Family Start or Early Start programme Child attends an Early Childhood Education centre or service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be the main caregiver of a dependent child under 5 (or over 5 if the school has advised they can't start until the beginning of the term straight after their 5th birthday) Meet an income test Child attends an approved early childhood programme for at least 3 hours a week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be the main caregiver of a dependent child under 14 (or under 18 if the person gets Child Disability Allowance) Meet an income test Child attends an approved OSCAR programme for at least 3 hours a week Child is at school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get Young Parent Payment or have youth obligations or generally be under 19 and not getting a benefit Be the main caregiver of a child under 5 (or over 5 if the school has advised they can't start until the beginning of the term straight after their 5th birthday) Child attends an approved early childhood education programme or service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered at risk of long-term benefit receipt In or starting work, employment-related education or training for at least three hours a week Unable to access formal childcare during those hours 	<p>CDA only: The child must be under 6 years old for Childcare Subsidy and up to 18 years old for an OSCAR Subsidy</p> <p>Family member in hospital: must provide medical evidence, generally partners are not expected to care for the other children</p>