

# Child care



The Australian Government announced an Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package, to enable parents to continue to access child care at no cost. This also assists in helping services to remain open to support parents to continue to work, with priority given to essential workers and vulnerable children.

Like in our schools, the advice is that the best place for children to be is at home with their parents, however child care support is there for families who need to access it.

At a local level, our Department has been extremely flexible and responsive in order to meet the ongoing needs of the ECEC sector.

A key change implemented by the Department has included refocusing the Education and Care Unit to ensure that the ECEC sector has access to current advice about Government support. In addition to the ECEC hotline, the Department is working with State Growth to ensure ECEC business receive appropriate and timely advice to support the viability of their services.

This is will involve employing staff with expertise in this area. Hotline number – 1800 816 057.

To further support the sector, we have reduced red tape by waiving fees and charges for COVID-19 applications, we are fast-tracking qualification waivers, suspending assessments and rating and making rapid operational adjustments as requested.