

# Fee relief in long day care services

In 2026, fee relief is increasing for families who need it the most. Fee relief funding at eligible long day care services reduces fees by up to \$2,563 per year for children aged 4 and above and up to \$769 per year for children aged 3.



**Fee relief is available to children aged 3-5 years old through the 2026 Start Strong for Long Day Care program. Fee relief is paid to the service you nominate and passed on to you as a reduction to your fees after the Child Care Subsidy.**

Your service will let you know if fee relief has been applied to reduce your fees, such as through a regular invoice or statement.

You may still need to pay any remaining fees and/or levies after the fee relief has been applied.

## How is my fee relief calculated?

**In 2026, there will be 2 categories of fee relief:**

Children eligible for the maximum fee relief rate can receive up to:

- \$2,563 per year for children aged 4 and above
- \$769 per year for children aged 3 years.

All other children can receive up to:

- \$1,783 per year for children aged 4 and above
- \$423 per year for children aged 3 years.

**A child is eligible for maximum funding if one of the following criteria is met:**

1. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children, or
2. Children enrolled in a service:
  - in a regional or remote area, or
  - in an area of greater socio-economic disadvantage, or
  - operated by an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation.

**For example, if a service is open 50 weeks a year, they will pass on a fee relief reduction after the application of the Child Care Subsidy of:**



up to  
**\$51.26** per week

for children eligible for **maximum funding** who are **at least 4 years old** on, or before, 31 July 2026



up to  
**\$35.66** per week

for **all other children** who are **at least 4 years old** on, or before, 31 July 2026



up to  
**\$15.38** per week

for children eligible for **maximum funding** who are **3 years old** on, or before, 31 July 2026



up to  
**\$8.46** per week

for **all other children** who are **3 years old** on, or before 31 July 2026.

## Can I get fee relief from more than one service?

No, you can only access fee relief from one eligible service at any given time.

An eligible service may include a long day care service or a community preschool.

All parents or caregivers are required to complete a *Fee Relief Declaration and Consent Form* nominating which service you are choosing to receive your fee relief from. Your service will assist with this process. It is your choice which service you would like to receive fee relief from.

## What information will I need to provide to access fee relief?

You will need to complete a [Fee relief declaration and consent form \(PDF 106 KB\)](#) and provide it to your nominated service.

You will need to consent to your service sharing some of your child's information with the NSW Department of Education.

## What happens if my child is sick and does not attend the service for the day?

Your fee relief is linked to enrolment not attendance and the amount does not change if your child is sick and does not attend one of their enrolled days. You will still receive the weekly fee relief from your service.

## What happens if my child starts later in the year?

Fee relief starts from the date your child is enrolled.

When a child starts later in the year, the fee relief is applied only for the weeks they are enrolled. The weekly fee reduction amount remains consistent, but it's only applied from the week the child's enrolment begins.

## Where can I find more information?

Speak to your service to better understand how fee relief is being passed on to you.

For more information on fee relief, visit [education.nsw.gov.au/startstrong](https://education.nsw.gov.au/startstrong)

Contact us by emailing [ecce.funding@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ecce.funding@det.nsw.edu.au)