



Jobs for Families Child Care Package

Child Care Safety Net

As part of the *Jobs for Families* Child Care Package, the Government is investing \$1 billion to establish a **Child Care Safety Net**, which will be progressively rolled out from July 2016.

The Child Care Safety Net will provide targeted assistance to disadvantaged communities and vulnerable and at-risk children and their families to address barriers in accessing child care, while encouraging parents to enter and return to the workforce.

The Child Care Safety Net has three components:

- **Additional Child Care Subsidy**
- **Community Child Care Fund**
- **Inclusion Support Programme**

Additional Child Care Subsidy (\$173 million) – July 2018

The Additional Child Care Subsidy is a top up payment in addition to the Child Care Subsidy. The Government recognises that extra support is needed for:

- children at risk of serious abuse or neglect
- families experiencing temporary financial hardship
- grandparents on income support who are the primary carer of their grandchildren
- parents transitioning to work from income support
- low income families who do not meet the activity test.

Case Study – Additional Child Care Subsidy

Natasha is not currently working but is studying in order to better her chances of future employment. Her two year old daughter attends a local long day care centre which currently charges \$78.50 per day. By 2018-19 the cost will be \$92.44 per day.

As Natasha is transitioning to work she will be eligible for assistance under the Additional Child Care Subsidy.

As this assistance is activity tested, Natasha would be able to access 50 hours of child care per week as she is studying for 49 or more hours per fortnight (compared to the current maximum of 36 hours per week allowed for approved study activities under the current system). Natasha would be subsidised for up to 95 per cent of her child care costs, leaving her only five per cent (\$23.11 per week) out of pocket.

Community Child Care Fund (CCCF) (\$284 million) – July 2018

Under the CCCF, child care services (including former Budget Based Funded services) will be able to apply for supplementary funding through a competitive grants programme to:

- reduce the barriers in accessing child care, in particular for disadvantaged or vulnerable families and communities
- provide sustainability support for child care services experiencing viability issues
- provide capital support to increase the supply of child care places in areas of high unmet demand.

As part of the CCCF, commencing in July 2016, \$20 million over 2 years will provide for the integration of child care, maternal and child health, and family support services in a number of Indigenous communities experiencing disadvantage, as recommended by Andrew Forrest in his review of Indigenous jobs and training - *Creating Parity*.

Inclusion Support Programme (\$543 million) – July 2016

The Inclusion Support Programme will assist mainstream services to improve their capacity and capability to provide inclusive practices and address barriers to participation for children with additional needs, particularly children with disability.

The programme includes:

- practical inclusion advice and support for services
- access to specialist equipment
- additional funding to the service to assist inclusion of children with additional needs.

For more information on the *Jobs for Families Child Care Package*, please go to www.education.gov.au.