



# What are the immunisation requirements for Child Care Benefit (CCB)?

## Fact sheet 20

From 1 January 2016, changes to the immunisation requirements for Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) came into effect.

The child care system is changing from July 2018. As part of the changes, Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) will cease on midnight 1 July 2018. For more information about the new child care fee assistance programs please go to <https://www.education.gov.au/new-child-care-package-families-2-july-2018>

## What are the changes?

- Previously, CCB and CCR payments were conditional on children up to the age of 7 meeting current immunisation requirements. From 1 January 2016, this requirement applies to all children up to 19 years of age.
- Children are no longer exempt from meeting the requirements for CCB and CCR payments if you have registered an objection to vaccination on the basis of personal or philosophical beliefs.
- Your child must be fully immunised, on a catch-up immunisation schedule according to the current Australian Immunisation Handbook or have a valid exemption at the time you *make your very first claim* for CCB. This also applies to CCB for registered care.
- Previously, if you met the other eligibility criteria, your CCB claim would have been approved and you would have been given a 'grace period' for your child to meet the immunisation requirements. From 1 January 2016 the claim will *not* be approved if the immunisation requirements are not met.

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## What stays the same?

- Children with medical contraindications or natural immunity which are certified in writing by a General Practitioner will still be exempt from the immunisation requirements.
- You still have the right to choose not to vaccinate your child.
- Child care services can still set their own policies around whether or not they provide care to unimmunised children (in accordance with their state or territory requirements).
- If child care service providers or state/territory laws allow it, parents who are not eligible for child care payments can still use child care and pay the full fee.
- If you are already eligible for CCB and your child misses a scheduled vaccination, you will receive a letter from Centrelink letting you know the vaccination is overdue. You will also be given time to catch up your child's vaccinations to become up-to-date again and remain eligible for CCB and CCR.
- If you lose your eligibility for CCB and CCR because your child did not stay up-to-date with their vaccinations, you will need to reclaim CCB when they meet the requirements.

## How can I get more information about immunisation requirements?

For more information, you can visit:

- The [Department of Human Services<sup>1</sup>](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register) for information about the importance of immunisation, the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) and how a family can check their child's immunisation schedule.
- The [Department of Health<sup>2</sup>](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au) for information about the National Immunisation Program and catch-up arrangements.
- [The Department of Social Services<sup>3</sup>](http://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/benefits-payments/strengthening-immunisation-for-young-children) for information about Family Tax Benefit and immunisation changes.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register)

<sup>2</sup> [www.immunise.health.gov.au](http://www.immunise.health.gov.au)

<sup>3</sup> [www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/benefits-payments/strengthening-immunisation-for-young-children](http://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/benefits-payments/strengthening-immunisation-for-young-children)