

Can I claim the Childcare Rebate on GAP fees?

Yes and no. You can claim the Family Assistance Office child care benefit (CCB) payment (about 50 cents per hour of care); but you cannot claim the Tax Office's childcare rebate (CCR) (usually around 50%).

Tell me more about the childcare benefit (CCB) and childcare rebate (CCR).

“Approved” childcare providers can only offer you the CCR if they operate 40 hours a week. As the GAP runs less than 40 hours a week, we can only offer you the lesser benefit (CCB), and we are a “Registered” childcare provider.

GAP – now a registered childcare provider

GAP has now become a 'registered' child care provider with the Family Assistance Office (FAO) (www.familyassist.gov.au).

This means that parents may be eligible to obtain the minimum 'Child Care Benefit' (CCB) payment, which is independent of their salary level. Families would obtain a reduction of \$0.497/hour of care.

(http://www.familyassist.gov.au/Internet/FAO/fao1.nsf/content/payments-ccb-how_much-what_registered_care.htm)

Who is eligible to claim 'Child Care Benefit'?

You may be eligible for 'Child Care Benefit' (CCB) if:

- you use approved or registered child care, and
- you or your partner (if you have one) are living permanently in Australia , and
- you are either an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen, the holder of a permanent visa, the holder of certain temporary visas, an Australian Government sponsored student or in other special circumstances, and
- your child is immunised or exempt from the immunisation requirements, and
- you are liable for child care fees for your child.

Guardians, including foster parents and grandparents, responsible for the day-to-day care of children/grandchildren may be eligible for Family Assistance and should contact the Family Assistance Office for more information.

For more info see:

<http://www.familyassist.gov.au/Internet/FAO/fao1.nsf/content/payments-ccb-eligible>

What do eligible parents need to do?

If eligible, they can use the receipts they get from GAP and claim the minimum CCB either:

- together with any regular FAO payments they receive,
- or as a lump sum at the end of the financial year by filling in the form:

'Claim for a Lump Sum Payment of Child Care Benefit for Registered Care' at

<http://www.familyassist.gov.au/internet/fao/fao1.nsf/content/claimforms-ccb.htm>

In this form, you will see that you will need to satisfy the work test.

You satisfy the work test if:

- you OR your partner get Carer Allowance for a child (Carer Allowance is a Centrelink payment that provides assistance to parents and guardians who care for a child with a disability)

OR

- you AND your partner (if you have one) meet the eligibility requirements listed below at some time during the week in which the care was provided.

Working Working includes: paid full time, part time or casual work; self employment; paid leave; unpaid sick leave; paid or unpaid maternity leave; and setting up a business

Voluntary work Voluntary work for 15 hours or more per week; any voluntary or unpaid

work to improve your work skills

Looking for work

Studying/training Studying and training includes undertaking a course to increase your job

prospects; attending a school, university or college; and being on a semester break

Other circumstances Have a disability, caring for an adult, child who has a disability, are

overseas or in prison

Can't I just pay a reduced fee?

Parents will not be able to receive CCB through a reduced fee (this is only possible for CCB-*approved* childcare providers). (The GAP is *registered* for the CCB, not *approved* for the CCB.)