

**From:** Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment <DESE-ECCCSectorCommunication@dese.gov.au>  
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**To:** NSW  
**Subject:** 📢BREAKING // Gap fee waiving and additional allowable absences

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Australian Government  
Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment

**Gap fee waiving and additional allowable absences are now available to services in NSW until restrictions lift.**

Details about restrictions in NSW are available on the [NSW Government website](#).

## Gap fee waiving

Until 18 October, **long day care services** in NSW can waive the gap fee for families who keep their children at home.

For **Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)** services, this date is 25 October to coincide with when all primary school aged children are permitted back at school.

Gap fee waiving is a business decision for services. However, if your service is getting business continuity payments from us, you must waive gap fees.

Services that choose to waive gap fees will continue to receive the Child Care Subsidy.

Gap fee waiving helps parents keep their children enrolled without having to pay for a service they are not using.

## Additional allowable absences

Until 18 October, families using care in NSW can continue to access additional allowable absences.

For **OSHC services**, this date is 25 October to coincide with when all primary school aged children are permitted back at school.

This means families will not use up their 42 allowable absences.

## Updates to our website

We are in the process of updating [our website](#) to reflect this and other important information about COVID-19 support in your region. Please check back often.

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DESE early childhood website

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