

6 March 2025

The Hon Jason Clare MP
Federal Minister for Education
Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia
PO Box 6022
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Federal Minister Clare,

**Re: Urgent request for more local government areas to be added
to the Child Care Subsidy period of emergency**

As you would be aware, for over 50 years, the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) NSW is the peak body for over 1,600 privately-owned predominantly small-to-medium-sized family-owned and operated businesses who provide early childhood education and care services across New South Wales. ACA NSW members employ over 25,000 employees and are committed to providing excellence in early childhood education and care for more than 125,000 children and their families.

Firstly, thank you for the Federal Department of Education's Early Childhood Update dated 5 March 2025 advising that new local government areas (LGAs) have been added to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) period of emergency due to Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Unfortunately, the Federal Department of Education's list of LGAs do not appear to be completely in sync with all the NSW public schools that has been declared to be non-operational from Friday, 7 March 2025 (see <https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/school-operational-status/cyclone-alfred>).

Would you please consider adding those missing LGAs onto your Federal Department's list for the CCS period of emergency, including those south of Grafton NSW? This will significantly allay all unnecessary concerns of local parents and ensure maximum focus on safety for all, including children, parents, families, early childhood educators and teachers and support personnel.

And should ACA NSW be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I will contact your office today to ensure that you have received this letter.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,



Chiang Lim
CEO

encl Early Childhood Update, Federal Department of Education (5 March 2025)
Planned school closures due to Cyclone Alfred, NSW Department of Education (6 March 2025)

cc The Hon Prue Car MP, NSW Deputy Premier & Minister for Education and Early Learning
The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education

From: Australian Government Department of Education <info@e.education.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 March 2025 4:48 PM
To: NSW
Subject: Tropical Cyclone Alfred: new LGAs added to CCS period of emergency



Early childhood update

Information for early childhood education and care providers and services

5 March 2025

Tropical Cyclone Alfred: new LGAs added to CCS period of emergency

We've added extra local government areas (LGAs) to the declared Child Care Subsidy (CCS) period of emergency in parts of Queensland and New South Wales due to Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

The CCS period of emergency applies from 5 March 2025 to 13 March 2025 in the following local government areas:

Queensland

- **Scenic Rim Regional Council**
- **Lockyer Valley Regional Council**
- Gympie Regional Council
- Sunshine Coast Council
- Noosa Shire Council

- Redland City Council
- Brisbane City Council
- Ipswich City Council
- City of Gold Coast
- City of Moreton Bay
- Logan City Council.

New South Wales

- Tweed Shire Council
- Byron Shire
- Ballina Shire
- City of Lismore
- Richmond Valley Council
- Clarence Valley Council.

We continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates as required.

Support during the emergency

The following support is available in affected regions **during** the CCS period of emergency:

- you can continue to get CCS if your service closes as a direct result of the emergency
- you can waive the gap fee if a child doesn't attend, or your service is closed, during the CCS period of emergency
- families will get unlimited allowable absences for the duration of the CCS period of emergency.

Read more about [support during a CCS period of emergency](#).

Support after the emergency

The following support may help you recover **after** an emergency:

- you may be eligible for a [Community Child Care Fund special circumstances grant](#) if the emergency threatens your service's ability to stay open after the event, and you have already accessed other disaster support
- families may be able to access [additional absences](#) if they've exhausted their allowable absences
- families may be eligible for [Additional Child Care Subsidy](#) if they experience temporary financial hardship due to an emergency that happened in the last 6 months.

Read more about [support after an emergency](#).

Other disaster support

You may be eligible for other government disaster support:

- The Australian Government provides help for people affected by natural disasters. Find out whether you're eligible on the [Services Australia website](#).
- Your state or territory government may provide additional support in the event of a natural disaster. Find out more at [Emergency Qld](#) and [Emergency NSW](#).

For action

- Tell us as soon as possible if you close your service. Do this via the [Provider Entry Point \(PEP\)](#) or your third-party software. You also need to tell your [state or territory regulatory authority](#).
- Update your contact details in the Child Care Subsidy System so you don't miss important information. Do this via the [PEP](#) or your third-party software.
- Update your vacancy details on [StartingBlocks.gov.au](#) to help families looking for care. Do this via the [PEP](#) or your third-party software.
- Join our [Facebook group](#) for alerts and updates.
- Keep an eye on [Emergency Qld](#) and [Emergency NSW](#) for current emergency information in your region.

About us

We are the Australian Government Department of Education. We're responsible for the Child Care Subsidy and the legislation that underpins it, known as Family Assistance Law.

[Learn more about what we do](#)

Regulatory authorities

Regulatory authorities administer the National Quality Framework in each state and territory. In most cases, your regulatory authority is your first point of contact.

[Find your regulatory authority](#)

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Planned school closures due to Cyclone Alfred

The following schools will be non-operational on Friday 7 March due to Cyclone Alfred. It is expected that these schools will resume operations on Monday 10 March.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Afterlee Public School
- Albert Park Public School
- Aldavilla Public School
- Alstonville High School
- Alstonville Public School
- Ballina Coast High School
- Ballina Public School
- Bangalow Public School
- Banora Point High School
- Banora Point Public School
- Barkers Vale Public School
- Baryulgil Public School
- Beechwood Public School
- Bellbrook Public School
- Bellingen High School
- Bellingen Public School
- Bexhill Public School
- Bilambil Public School
- Blakebrook Public School
- Boambee Public School
- Bobin Public School
- Bogangar Public School
- Booral Public School
- Bonalbo Central School
- Bonville Public School
- Bowraville Central School
- Broadwater Public School
- Brunswick Heads Public School
- Burringbar Public School
- Byron Bay High School
- Byron Bay Public School
- Cabbage Tree Island Public School
- Caldera School
- Camden Haven High School
- Caniaba Public School
- Cascade Environmental Education Centre
- Casino High School
- Casino Public School
- Casino West Public School
- Centaur Public School
- Chatham High School

- Chatham Public School
- Chatsworth Island Public School
- Chillingham Public School
- Clunes Public School
- Coffee Camp Public School
- Coffs Harbour High School
- Coffs Harbour Learning Centre
- Coffs Harbour Public School
- Coffs Harbour Senior College
- Collins Creek Public School
- Comboyne Public School
- Condong Public School
- Coopernook Public School
- Coorabell Public School
- Copmanhurst Public School
- Coraki Public School
- Coramba Public School
- Corindi Public School
- Corndale Public School
- Coutts Crossing Public School
- Cowper Public School
- Crabbes Creek Public School
- Crescent Head Public School
- Crossmaglen Public School
- Crystal Creek Public School
- Cudgen Public School
- Cundletown Public School
- Dorrigo High School
- Dorrigo Public School
- Dorrroughby Environmental Ed Centre
- Drake Public School
- Dundurrabin Public School
- Dungay Public School
- Dunoon Public School
- Duranbah Public School
- Elands Public School
- Eltham Public School
- Empire Vale Public School
- Eungai Public School
- Eureka Public School
- Evans River Community School
- Fernleigh Public School
- Fingal Head Public School
- Frank Partridge VC Public School
- Frederickton Public School
- Gillwinga Public School
- Gladstone Public School
- Glenreagh Public School
- Goonellabah Public School
- Goonengerry Public School
- Grafton High School

- Grafton Public School
- Green Hill Public School
- Gulmarrad Public School
- Hannam Vale Public School
- Harrington Public School
- Harwood Island Public School
- Hastings Public School
- Hastings Sec College Port Macquarie
- Hastings Secondary College Westport
- Hernani Public School
- Herons Creek Public School
- Huntingdon Public School
- Iluka Public School
- Induna School
- Jiggi Public School
- Karangi Public School
- Kempsey East Public School
- Kempsey High School
- Kempsey South Public School
- Kempsey West Public School
- Kendall Public School
- Kinchela Public School
- Kingscliff High School
- Kingscliff Public School
- Kororo Public School
- Kyogle High School
- Kyogle Public School
- Lake Cathie Public School
- Lansdowne Public School
- Larnook Public School
- Laurieton Public School
- Lawrence Public School
- Leeville Public School
- Lennox Head Public School
- Lismore Heights Public School
- Lismore Public School
- Lismore Public School
- Lismore South Public School
- Long Flat Public School
- Lowanna Public School
- Macksville High School
- Macksville Public School
- Maclean High School
- Maclean Public School
- Main Arm Upper Public School
- Manifold Public School
- Manning Gardens Public School
- Medlow Public School
- Melville High School
- Mitchells Island Public School
- Modanville Public School

- Moorland Public School
- Mount George Public School
- Mullaway Public School
- Mullumbimby High School
- Mullumbimby Public School
- Mummulgum Public School
- Murwillumbah East Public School
- Murwillumbah High School
- Murwillumbah Public School
- Nambucca Heads High School
- Nambucca Heads Public School
- Nana Glen Public School
- Narranga Public School
- Newrybar Public School
- Nimbin Central School
- North East PS of Distance Education
- North Haven Public School
- Nymboida Public School
- Ocean Shores Public School
- Old Bar Public School
- Old Bonalbo Public School
- Orama Public School
- Orara High School
- Orara Upper Public School
- Palmers Island Public School
- Palmers Island Public School
- Port Macquarie Public School
- Pottsville Beach Public School
- Raleigh Public School
- Rappville Public School
- Repton Public School
- Rollands Plains Upper Public School
- Rosebank Public School
- Rous Public School
- Sandy Beach Public School
- Sawtell Public School
- Scotts Head Public School
- Smithtown Public School
- South Grafton High School
- South Grafton Public School
- South West Rocks Public School
- Southern Cross Public School
- Southern Cross School of Distance Ed
- Stokers Siding Public School
- Stratheden Public School
- Stroud Road Public School
- Stroud Public School
- Stuarts Point Public School
- Tabulam Public School
- Tacking Point Public School
- Taree High School

- Taree Public School
- Taree West Public School
- Telegraph Point Public School
- Terranora Public School
- Teven-Tintenbar Public School
- The Channon Public School
- The Pocket Public School
- The Risk Public School
- The Rivers Sec C Kadina High Campus
- The Rivers Sec C Lismore High Campus
- The Rivers Sec C Richmnd Riv High Campus
- Tinonee Public School
- Toormina High School
- Toormina Public School
- Tregeagle Public School
- Tucabia Public School
- Tumbulgum Public School
- Tweed Heads Public School
- Tweed Heads South Public School
- Tweed River High School
- Tyalgum Public School
- Tyalla Public School
- Uki Public School
- Ulmarra Public School
- Ulong Public School
- Upper Coopers Creek Public School
- Upper Lansdowne Public School
- Urbenville Public School
- Urunga Public School
- Wardell Public School
- Wauchope High School
- Wauchope Public School
- Westlawn Public School
- Westport Public School
- Whian Whian Public School
- Wiangaree Public School
- Willawarrin Public School
- William Bayldon Public School
- Wilson Park School
- Wilsons Creek Public School
- Wingham Brush Public School
- Wingham High School
- Wingham Public School
- Wollongbar Public School
- Wollumbin High School
- Woodburn Public School
- Woodenbong Central School
- Woolgoolga High School
- Woolgoolga Public School
- Wooli Public School
- Wyrallah Public School

- Wyrallah Road Public School
- Yamba Public School

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

- Aetaomah School
- Allegra School Coffs Harbour
- Bhaktivedanta Swami Gurukula School
- Biala Special School
- Bishop Druitt College
- Blue Hills College
- Byron Community Primary School
- Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School
- Casino Christian School
- Casuarina Steiner School
- Chrysalis School for Rudolf Steiner Education - Bellingen Campus
- Coffs Harbour Bible Church School
- Emmanuel Anglican College
- Hinterland Christian College
- Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School
- Living School
- Macleay Vocational College
- Pacific Coast Christian School
- Pacific Gulgangali Jarjums Christian School
- Pacific Hope Christian School
- Pacific Valley Christian School
- Rainbow Ridge School for Steiner Education
- Richmond Christian College
- Sathya Sai College
- Sathya Sai College Secondary Campus, Dungay
- Shearwater, the Mullumbimby Steiner School
- Summerland Christian College
- Tallowood Steiner School
- The Small School
- Tunttable Falls Community School
- Tweed Valley Adventist College
- Valley Hope Christian School
- Vistara Primary School

Category:

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Business Unit:

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Last updated: 06-Mar-2025



This information is current as at "6/3/2025 12:46:43 pm", Australian Eastern Time. For the most up-to-date information, go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/school-operational-status/cyclone-alfred>

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