

## Queensland Kindergarten Funding

# Affordability subsidies for sessional kindergartens

### Affordability subsidies

Affordability subsidies are provided to service providers for each eligible child who meets one of the specified criteria. They are designed to offset a family's kindergarten fees.

The affordability subsidies are:

- Kindy Plus
- Kindy Family Tax Benefit (FTB).

A child is only eligible for one subsidy. If a child becomes eligible for the Kindy Plus subsidy, they are not able to claim the Kindy FTB subsidy for that same child.

### Subsidy amounts

Refer to [Appendix 4](#) of the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Essentials (sessional kindergartens) for the current rates.

### Kindy Plus subsidy

The Kindy Plus subsidy is provided each semester for each eligible child.

Eligible parents or guardians are required to meet one of the following specified criteria:

- The parent or guardian (including foster families and kinship care families as determined by the *Child Protection Act 1999*) of the child must present one of the following:

- an Australian Government Health Care Card with the child named on the card; or
  - a current Australian Government Concession Card with automatic Health Care Card entitlements; or
  - a Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or White Card; or
  - evidence of formal foster or kinship care arrangements.
- The child is living in a formal child protection out-of-home-care arrangement.
  - The child or parent identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
  - The family (including blended families) has three or more children of the same age attending a kindergarten program at the same time.
  - The family and child have entered Australia under the Australian Government's Refugee and Humanitarian Program or are in the process of seeking asylum and holds a temporary visa. A [list of eligible visa card holders \(Appendix 5\)](#) is included in the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Essentials (sessional kindergartens).
  - Temporary financial hardship (equivalent to the Australian Government's Additional Child Care Subsidy). Download the [Affordability – Kindy Plus \(temporary financial hardship\) category record of application and service decision form \(Appendix 6\)](#).

## Eligibility for free kindergarten

A child who is eligible for Kindy Plus will be eligible to access a kindergarten program for free.

The parents/carers do not receive the subsidy directly as it is deducted from the parent/carer fees each week/fortnight.

## Family Tax Benefit

Family Tax Benefit is an Australian Government payment that helps eligible families with the cost of raising children and is available in two components, FTB Part A and FTB Part B.

## Criteria for Kindy FTB subsidy

A family who was eligible for FTB Part A or FTB Part B or both as a result of the submission of their previous year's tax return, e.g. 21/22, will be eligible for the Kindy FTB subsidy in the 2023 kindergarten year.

## Checking for FTB eligibility

A family can check their eligibility for FTB by visiting the [Services Australia Family Tax Benefit website](#). Families will be required to show evidence, such as a [letter from Services Australia \(Centrelink\)](#), that they were assessed as eligible for FTB for the 2021-22 financial year.

## Reducing a family's fees

A child who is eligible for Kindy FTB will be eligible for fee-reduced kindergarten. The Kindy FTB subsidy is applied quarterly by the service provider.

## Eligibility for FTB in the 2021-2022 financial year

If a family was not eligible for FTB in the 2021–22 financial year, they are not entitled to the Kindy FTB subsidy for the 2023 kindergarten year.

## Becoming eligible for Kindy FTB in 2023

Some families may receive confirmation of eligibility during 2023 as families have until 30 June 2023 to lodge claims for the 2021–22 financial year. In this instance, and where the child has been enrolled since the start of the 2023 kindergarten year, the family will be eligible for the Kindy FTB subsidy for the whole year.

A claim for back-payment of the subsidy can be made by the kindergarten service through their central governing body (CGB).

If a child starts at a service or becomes eligible during the term/semester, the child will be eligible to receive the subsidy pro-rata based on the commencement date.

## Eligibility for free kindergarten

A child who is eligible for the Kindy FTB subsidy is not eligible to access a kindergarten program for free, but is eligible for fee-reduced kindergarten which will reduce the family's out-of-pocket costs for the kindergarten year.

## Spending rules

Affordability subsidies must only be used to offset the cost of kindergarten fees paid by families through reducing out-of-pocket kindergarten costs for each eligible child's family.

Periodic fee deductions may be made on a daily/weekly/fortnightly/quarterly basis.

The subsidies must be applied to each eligible child only. Affordability subsidies cannot be applied by the service provider to reduce the overall kindergarten fee for all eligible children.

## Financial obligations

The CGB must be able to demonstrate to the department how the affordability subsidies have been used to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for families whose eligible child/ren are enrolled in the approved kindergarten program.

Each CGB or sessional kindergarten service must retain and provide on request evidence to demonstrate compliance with the above. This evidence may include:

- enrolment policy and procedures supported by enrolment forms
- fee structure for the service
- family fee statements
- service management software program reports
- evidence (including expiry dates) of any applicable Veterans, Health Care or Concession cards, kinship or foster care arrangements, or a copy of the Services Australia letter confirming FTB eligibility for the current kindergarten year

- Kindy Plus (temporary financial hardship) subsidy record of application and service decision form to support all financial hardship decisions.

## Child no longer eligible

Where a child has been claimed in a service forecast, and the child leaves the service, or the child becomes ineligible during the term, the department will not recoup the funding.

## More information

- Refer to the [Queensland Kindergarten Funding Essentials](#) on the Department of Education website.
- Contact the Grants Management team on (07) 3035 2244 or by email at [QKFS.LDC@ged.qld.gov.au](mailto:QKFS.LDC@ged.qld.gov.au).
- Contact your CGB.