



24-hour care

It is a condition of approval and continued approval for Child Care Benefit (CCB) purposes that services must comply with Family Assistance Law.

The rules for 24-hour care are governed by the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999* and the *Child Care Benefit (Eligibility of Child Care Services for Approval and Continued Approval) Determination 2000*.

Failure to meet these rules is a breach of the conditions of continued approval and may result in a service being sanctioned under the Act.

What is 24-hour care?

A child is considered to be in 24-hour care if he or she does not return to the care of their parents or guardians for any time during a 24-hour period and is cared for by an approved child care service, other than an Occasional Care service.

24-hour care can only be approved by an approved child care service when a child needs care because neither the parent or guardian, nor their partner (if any) is able to care for the child due to:

- work-related commitments, or
- exceptional circumstances that exist during that period (for example, short-term family crises or emergencies).

Provision of 24-hour care

- An approved child care service must not provide a period of 24-hour care to a child unless the period of 24-hour care has been approved.
- Services can only approve up to fourteen periods of 24-hour care per child in a financial year.
- The service must seek approval from the Family Assistance Office prior to care being provided for more than fourteen periods of 24-hour care in a financial year.
- Services must keep copies of all approvals in relation to 24-hour care.
- CCB will be paid for authorised 24-hour care only.

Recording 24-hour care

- Details of each child receiving 24-hour care should be recorded using an *Approval of 24-hour care child care for up to 14 periods in a financial year* form. These records must be completed and kept by the service.
- Requests for the extension of care beyond fourteen periods of 24-hour care must be made using the *Application for Child Care Benefit for 24-hour care beyond 14 periods in a financial year* form, and must be approved by the Family Assistance Office.

These rules apply to Long Day Care, Family Day Care, Outside School Hours Care and In-Home Care services.