

Quick facts – Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment

The Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment (GCAP) is for young parents who are in education, training or work-based learning to assist with the cost of childcare for children under five.*

Who is Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment for?

You may be able to get GCAP if you are:

- receiving a Young Parent Payment (or 16 – 18 years old and included as a partner in a main benefit), and
- in full-time education, training or work-based learning, and
- the main caregiver for a child under the age of five.

or, if you are not on a benefit, and you are:

- under 18, and
- attending secondary school full-time, and
- the main caregiver for a child under the age of five.

If you have a partner, in order to receive GCAP there needs to be a good reason why your partner can't provide childcare. For example, your partner is studying, working or actively seeking work.

What is covered?

GCAP can be paid for the hours you are attending school, training or work-based learning (including travel time). GCAP may also be paid while you are working part-time (for up to 15 hours a week) if you are in full-time education, training or work-based learning.

GCAP covers the actual childcare service costs, up to \$6.00 an hour and up to 50 hours a week for each child.

GCAP is paid straight to the early childhood centre or service. It can't be paid to you as the parent.

* Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment (GCAP) replaces the Young Parent Childcare Payment from 20 August 2012.

What isn't covered?

GCAP can't be used:

- to pay for an informal carer
- if you are receiving a Childcare Subsidy or Early Learning Payment
- for the same hours you are receiving 20 Hours ECE (paid by the Ministry of Education).

What type of childcare?

Your child/children need to be attending an **approved** early childhood education programme. Approved programmes include:

- early childhood education and care services such as:
 - Kohanga Reo, Punanga Reo, Aoga and other programmes with a language and culture focus
 - kindergartens
 - preschools, childcare centres and creches
 - playcentres and playgroups
- home-based education and care services.

Talk to the centre or service you are interested in to check if they offer an approved programme.

Term breaks (including Christmas holidays)

If you are still eligible for GCAP after a term break, it can be paid to ensure your child retains their place.

Absences

GCAP will continue to be paid if an absence fee is charged while your child is temporarily sick or away.

For more information or to apply:

If you are a Youth Service client, please talk to your Youth Service provider.

Otherwise, please contact Work and Income on 0800 559 009 or visit www.workandincome.govt.nz.