

Childcare Assistance changes to income thresholds

Many people in New Zealand receive Childcare Assistance through:

- Childcare Subsidy for pre-school children
- Out of School Care and Recreational Subsidy (OSCAR) for children aged five to 13 (or under 18 if the child receives a Child Disability Allowance).

The subsidy depends on the size of your family, weekly income (including your partner's), and how many hours a week your child goes to the childcare or OSCAR provider. The subsidy is paid directly to the childcare or OSCAR provider.

Changes to income thresholds to qualify

- On 27 September 2010, changes were made to the income people could earn to qualify for Childcare or OSCAR Subsidies. The income levels (thresholds) were reduced which meant some people were eligible for a smaller subsidy or no longer eligible.
- If you received a Childcare or OSCAR Subsidy at any time from 27 September 2009 to 27 September 2010 inclusive, your Childcare or OSCAR Subsidy has been based on the earlier income thresholds. This is changing from 9 February 2015 when the income thresholds introduced in 2010 will apply to everyone. **We will contact you if your subsidy may be reduced or stopped because of this change, so you have time to prepare.** Any change in your subsidy will affect the amount you're charged by your provider.
- Note, if you apply for assistance for a child in your family for whom you haven't received a Childcare or OSCAR subsidy on or before 7 February 2014, your subsidy for this child will be assessed at the new income threshold levels listed in the table over the page.

Childcare Assistance income thresholds

The table over the page shows the income thresholds that will apply to everyone from 9 February 2015. To check what Childcare Assistance you may be eligible for:

Count all dependent children in your household (not just those in Childcare or OSCAR).

Work out your weekly income.

This is any income or earnings you receive, including, but not limited to:

- earnings from wages or salary
- the amount of any benefit (including Accommodation Supplement, Disability Allowance, Temporary Additional Support and Special Benefit)
- the amount of any Child Support received under the Child Support Act 1991, and
- any income received directly from any liable parent.

If you have a **partner**, their income should be included as well. All amounts should be before tax.

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Income does not include:

- Working for Families tax credits from Inland Revenue or Work and Income
- Away from Home Allowance
- Child Disability Allowance
- Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit
- Participation Allowance
- Special Transfer Allowance
- other childcare subsidies.

Number of dependent children	Weekly income (before tax)	Childcare or OSCAR Subsidy rate (an hour, for each eligible child)
One child	Less than \$1,200.00	\$3.98
	\$1,200.00 to \$1,299.99	\$2.78
	\$1,300.00 to \$1,399.99	\$1.54
	\$1,400.00 or more	Nil
Two children	Less than \$1,380.00	\$3.98
	\$1,380.00 to \$1,489.99	\$2.78
	\$1,490.00 to \$1,599.99	\$1.54
	\$1,600.00 or more	Nil
Three or more children	Less than \$1,540.00	\$3.98
	\$1,540.00 to \$1,669.99	\$2.78
	\$1,670.00 to \$1,799.99	\$1.54
	\$1,800.00 or more	Nil



Work and Income
Te Hiranga Tangata

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