



The Early Childhood Workforce Strategy

Removal of TAFE fees for diploma and advanced diploma child care courses

What is this initiative?

The Australian Government has provided \$60.3 million to support an expected 8000 people, including existing child care workers, to gain a vocational education and training qualification in early childhood. The funding will be used to remove fees for child care diplomas and advanced diplomas, delivered by a TAFE institute or other government training provider, from 2009.

How will it work?

The Australian Government will pay the TAFE fees for students enrolling in TAFE delivered Diplomas of Children's Services and Advanced Diplomas of Children's Services. Students enrolling in child care courses at TAFE institutes generally incur upfront fees which can be quite substantial.

When does it start?

From January 2009, students enrolling in a Diploma of Children's Services or an Advanced Diploma of Children's Services at a TAFE institute or other government training provider will be eligible to have their course fees paid.

Who will benefit?

Anyone wishing to become a diploma or advanced diploma qualified child care worker, who enrolls to study at a TAFE institute or other government training provider. This will include existing child care workers looking to upgrade or obtain qualifications as well as prospective new workers to the industry.

Are all child care courses going to be free?

This initiative supports students undertaking child care diplomas and advanced diplomas at TAFE institutes and other government training providers, such as agricultural colleges and universities offering vocational courses. Private training providers are not part of this initiative.

When will I know the specific courses and fees that are included?

Information on the removal of fees will be available ahead of the 2009 academic year.

The Australian Government is working collaboratively with the State and Territory Governments, through the Council of Australian Government process to develop the detailed arrangements for the payment of these fees. The outcome of the current discussions will include describing the types of fees to be covered by the initiative, taking into account the varying arrangements in setting TAFE fees across states and territories.

How do I find out more about this initiative?

Details of this initiative are still being finalised. Keep up to date on progress by monitoring the Office of Early Childhood Education and Child Care website (www.oceccc.gov.au).

How do I find out more about the training opportunities available under this initiative?

Contact your local TAFE institute or other government training provider, or look on your state or territory's TAFE website:

NSW: www.tafensw.edu.au
Victoria: www.skills.vic.gov.au/tafe_students
Queensland: www.tafe.qld.gov.au
Western Australia: www.tafe.wa.edu.au

South Australia: www.tafe.sa.edu.au
Tasmania: www.tafe.tas.edu.au
Australian Capital Territory: www.cit.act.edu.au
Northern Territory: www.deet.nt.gov.au/training