

Are You Ready? The New Child Care IT System is coming

The New Australian Child Care Package Explained|Six Part Series

From July 2, 2018, a new child care package will be in place across Australia. There will be several major changes to child care operations, including a new Child Care Subsidy and the introduction of a new Child Care IT System. To help child care providers get ready for the change, we've put together a 6-part series to guide you through the transition.

Part 1 - Introduction to CCITS: The New Child Care IT System

What

A new integrated [Child Care IT System](#) (CCITS) will support the implementation of the new child care package, replacing the current [Child Care Management System](#) (CCMS).

The Child Care IT System has been designed to provide a simple and easy to use interface for both families and child care services, developed collaboratively by the Departments of Education and Training, Human Services, and Social Services.

Benefits of the new system are set to include:

- Reduced administrative and regulatory burden for child care providers
- Enhanced access to information for families and child care providers
- Improved compliance functionality, including identifying child care providers engaging in high risk behaviours, to reduce incidences of overpayment and non-compliance

Why

Driving these sweeping changes is the reform to government child care assistance. The Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate are being replaced by the single, means-tested [Child Care Subsidy](#) from July 2018.

The Child Care Subsidy has been designed to be:

- Paid directly to child care providers
- Simpler than the current multi-payment system
- Better targeted, and to provide more assistance to low and middle income families

This legislative change has created the need for the new IT system (CCITS) for management of child care payments and records, which will ensure greater controls and security for issues of compliance and fraud detection.

The New Government Interface

The interface for the CCITS system is still evolving, with the release of the 1.0 DRAFT anticipated soon. An industry working group is advising the development to ensure the new interface will be suitable for the industry.

Third Party Software

Third party software will still be needed to access the new CCITS. The new system will feature a Provider Access Portal (PAP) for child care administrators and providers to access limited information and application processes. However the portal will not offer the many features and functions of registered third-party software products like [Xplor](#).

Families Portal

Families will also be able to use the integrated Child Care IT System to interact with the government via a new Families Portal. The platform will provide access to public information about the Child Care Subsidy, as well as the ability to assess eligibility for assistance. Locations of child care services and information about vacancies will be accessible, and families can use the secure portal to make Child Care Subsidy claims and view the status of their claims, as well as enrolment and attendance details.

Transition Year

During the first year of the new child care package, third-party software providers will be required to maintain two systems. One will continue to access the old DSS CCMS gateway, with the second accessing the new CCITS gateway at DHS. This will allow service providers to access the last financial year's data as well as the current financial year's data.

Data Migration

Processes for the migration of enrolments and other data are being formulated. Data augmentation will be required for all registrations, and all new enrolments in CCITS will require a Complying Written Arrangement (CWA). There will likely be provision for a grace period for existing enrolments, but enrolment migration will need to be completed and all formal enrolments approved within a relatively short window.

PRODA

PRODA is an online administration program similar to the AusKey system which business owners who manage their own BAS would be familiar with. All authorised persons will be required to have a PRODA ID in order to interact with CCITS. Once registered, third party CCITS providers like Xplor will then be able to manage that authentication. In the first instance, though, child care providers will need to access the PRODA system and register for access credentials.

Xplor is offering a series of informational seminars to guide child care operators and providers through these changes. It's important to understand what your software provider is doing to ensure you are ready for the switch.

Read more details about [Xplor's Introduction to CCITS seminars](#)

Read the [Child Care IT System Fact Sheet](#)

Follow the [Transition To Do List](#)