

Young Parent Childcare Payment

Source: <http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/individuals/a-z-benefits/young-parent-childcare-payment.html>

The Young Parent Childcare Payment helps parents aged under 18 years who need support to pay childcare costs while they attend secondary school.

This help is offered during the time the young parent is at school, and possibly also to help with childcare centre fees over the school holidays.

We pay the childcare centre directly.

Who can get it

You may get the Young Parent Childcare Payment if you are:

- aged under 18
- responsible for the day to day care of your child
- in secondary school (including a Teen Parent Unit or Correspondence School)
- a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident
- not getting a Domestic Purposes Benefit, Emergency Maintenance Allowance or a Widow's Benefit.

You should also normally live in New Zealand and intend to stay here.

Your child should be under five years old, and at an approved childcare centre.

Payment

The rate of the Young Parent Childcare payment depends on the number of eligible children the young parent has that are attending a childcare centre or service **and** the number of hours that the young parent is attending the secondary institution.

The rate of payment must not exceed the maximum levels per child, which are:

- \$6 per hour
- **up to \$180 per week**

Payment must not be more than the fee the childcare centre or service charges.

The Young Parent Childcare payment must not be paid for more than 40 weeks per year.

The Young Parent Childcare payment is paid directly to the approved childcare centre or service that the child attends on a weekly basis.

Note some childcare centres attached to Teen Parent Units receive financial assistance to reduce the childcare costs for young parent attending the unit. In this case the Young Parent Childcare payment should only be paid for the reduced amount of childcare costs.

Determining the rate payable

To determine the rate of the Young Parent Childcare payment you must complete a DREW assessment.

To complete this assessment you will need to work out the number of hours paid for childcare and calculate the hourly rate charged by the childcare centre or service.

Note the number of hours attended by the child/ren must be calculated on an hourly basis to work out the weekly rate.