

Full name: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Proposal 9–1:

Proposal 9–2:

Proposal 9–3:

Proposal 9–4:

Proposal 9–5:

Proposal 9–6:

Question 10–1:

Proposal 10–1:

Proposal 10–2:

Question 10–2:

Proposal 10–3:

Question 10–3:

Proposal 10–4 :

Proposal 10–5:

Proposal 10–6:

Proposal 10–7:

Question 10–4:

Proposal 11–1:

Proposal 11–2:

Proposal 11–3:

Proposal 12–1:

Proposal 12–2 :

Proposal 12–3:

DEEWR supports the listing of family violence as an example of “exceptional circumstances” as further clarification of current policy governing access to special Child Care Benefit (SCCB).

The example would still need to be considered in the context of current SCCB policy criteria:

- that the risk of abuse or neglect is serious
- that the child’s circumstances will be improved by increased access to child care
- that a financial barrier to accessing child care exists: or
- that the family is experiencing hardship such that a family’s income does not truly reflect their capacity to pay the normally charged fee.

It should be noted that in regard to Proposal 12-3 (b), no action is necessary. These circumstances can already be addressed in accordance with current policy guidelines. However, we do not support the specification of hours with the use of the example. Access to SCCB is granted on a case by case basis and the current proposal would limit flexibility of access. The limit for CCB per child per week is 24 hours unless both parents (or the sole parent) are working, studying, training or looking for work, or

have an exemption from the limit. The number of hours granted should reflect the needs of the child and family, taking into account their particular circumstances and needs, assessed against the policy criteria.

Proposal 12–4:

While DEEWR strongly agrees that the abuse or neglect of a child is unacceptable we do not support the omission of the word “serious”.

SCCB is a payment that recognises that the circumstances of a child at serious risk of abuse or neglect will be improved by increased access to child care by removing any financial barrier to accessing child care that may exist. It is essential to recognise the link to child care, particularly as in most instances the decision maker regarding access to SCCB is a child care service provider, with child care as the focus rather than social policy. SCCB assists to ensure that child care is used as an intervening short-term solution where a more effective and appropriate action or program is needed. “Serious” as a descriptor, assists decision makers to further understand and apply SCCB policy. It is not a barrier to access to SCCB but ensures that approval is evidence based, appropriate and that funding is delivered to those truly in need.

It also serves as a reminder to service providers of their obligations as mandatory reporters of abuse and neglect.

This proposal would also have significant fiscal implications to Child Care Benefit appropriations and would require additional modelling and funds to support it.

Proposal 12–5:

Other comments:

Upload supporting documents:

File 2: