

Healthy Start for School Initiative



What is Healthy Start for School about?

From 1 July 2011, if you and/or your partner receive an income support payment at any time during the financial year in which your child turns four, your child will be required to undergo a relevant health check to ensure they are healthy, fit and ready to start school.

You will need to do this to receive the Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement* for the financial year in which your child turns four.

What is a relevant health check?

A health check, for the Healthy Start for School initiative, is an assessment of your child's physical health and general well-being and will include height, weight, hearing and vision.

This basic health check will help with the early identification of life risk factors and development delays and conditions.

The relevant health checks, which can be completed between three and six years of age, can include:

- an age appropriate health check conducted by State and Territory child and maternal health clinics, **or**
- a Healthy Kids Check or similar health check conducted by a recognised health professional, for example your local doctor, a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal health worker.

For more information about relevant health checks, please consult your health professional or health clinic.

Does it affect me?

You may be affected if you and/or your partner:

- are receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A
- have a child turning four, **and**
- have received an income support payment from Centrelink (e.g. Parenting Payment, Newstart Allowance, etc) or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, at any time during the financial year in which your child turns four.

What do I need to do?

You need to:

- arrange for a health check to be completed for your child
- tell the Family Assistance Office the health check has been completed within the standard timeframe** to ensure your Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement is not withheld.

How do I tell the Family Assistance Office?

The letter you receive about the need for your child to undergo a health check, will include details about how you can tell us. The easiest way to tell us is by visiting www.centrelink.gov.au

- If you are already registered for Online Services—login using your Customer Access Number (CAN) and password, go to *Family Assistance*, then select *Update your Healthy Start for School Review* and complete the notification.
- If you are not registered for Online Services—select *Online Services* in the left menu, then select *Update your Healthy Start for School Review* in the *Features* panel on the right, then enter your Customer Reference Number (CRN), and the One Time Access Code provided in your letter.



What happens if I don't tell the Family Assistance Office?

- If the health check is not completed or you do not tell the Family Assistance Office within the standard timeframe, part or all of your Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement for your child for the financial year in which your child turns four will be withheld when your payment is balanced after the end of the financial year.
- If your supplement has been withheld, you have an extended timeframe*** of two years, from the end of the financial year in which your child turns four, to have the health check completed and to tell the Family Assistance Office for your supplement entitlement for the financial year in which your child turns four to be reviewed.
- If the health check is not completed and/or you do not tell the Family Assistance Office within the extended timeframe, you will not be entitled to the Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement for your child for any period when you and/or your partner were receiving an income support payment in the financial year your child turns four.

Does my child need to have a health check?

Yes, however if there is a reason a health check is unable to be completed for your child:

- call the Family Assistance Office on **13 6150**
- call the Indigenous Call Centre on **13 6380**
- call **13 1202** for information in languages other than English.

Case studies

Billy's health check is completed and the Family Assistance Office notified within the standard timeframe

Billy is turning four in the financial year, 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and his mother, Rose, receives a letter telling her a health check for Billy must be completed and the Family Assistance Office notified by 30 June 2012. Billy has a health check and Rose tells the Family Assistance Office. By notifying within the standard timeframe, Rose has ensured the Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement for Billy for the 2011–2012 financial year will not be withheld as a result of the Healthy Start for School initiative.

Suzie's health check is completed and the Family Assistance Office notified within the extended timeframe

Suzie is turning four in the financial year, 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and her mother Mary receives a letter telling her a health check for Suzie must be completed and the Family Assistance Office notified by 30 June 2012. Mary decides not to have a health check completed for Suzie.

Mary receives a letter after the end of the financial year advising that her Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement for Suzie for the 2011–2012 financial year was withheld because the health check was not completed. Mary may still be eligible for the Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement for the 2011–2012 financial year if a health check for Suzie is completed and she tells the Family Assistance Office before 30 June 2014.

Suzie has a health check and Mary tells the Family Assistance Office within the extended timeframe. Since Mary has notified within the extended timeframe, Mary's entitlement for the Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement for Suzie for the 2011–2012 financial year will be reviewed.

**Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement*

The supplement is available to all families eligible to receive the Family Tax Benefit Part A and is paid as a lump sum when your payments are balanced at the end of the financial year. The supplement amount for the 2011–2012 financial year is up to \$726.35 per eligible child.

***Standard Timeframe*

Notifying within the standard timeframe is telling the Family Assistance Office before the end of the financial year in which your child turns four.

****Extended Timeframe*

Notifying within the extended timeframe is telling the Family Assistance Office within two years from the end of the financial year in which your child turns four.

Disclaimer

This information is accurate as at July 2011. If you use this publication after that date, please check with us that the details are current.