



# Questions and Answers – 22 April 2020

**These answers were prepared on 22 April 2020 to questions asked since 15 April.**

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**1. We have a new educator wishing to commence with us in the next fortnight, will she be entitled to any funding?**

- Will she get JobKeeper? Probably not.
- Will you get any additional funds for her through the Relief Package? No. But if you had withheld funds from the Relief Package, you could pay her through these funds.
- Can you put in an exceptional circumstances Supplementary Relief Payment application to cover her? Yes.

**2. Educators who wish to transfer to our service from another FDC service: does their JobKeeper money still get paid to them?**

Yes.

**3. If we take on a new educator and existing educators from other services, can we apply for supplementary payments for them in the future or is it a cost we would have to incur to pay them the BCP equivalent?**

Yes, you can apply for supplementary payments. As yet, we don't know whether these applications would be successful but yes, you can apply.

**4. Can you please tell me if there have been any changes to the 'relative care' requirements applicable to FDC? Can an educator care for her grandchildren 50% or more during this period of no CCS?**

The Minister's Rules state that:



#### **47 Provision of care by an FDC educator to relatives**

*For section 195E of the Family Assistance Administration Act, it is a condition for continued approval in relation to an FDC service that the provider ensures that less than 50% of the children to whom any FDC educator is providing care within any CCS fortnight at the service are related to the FDC educator as:*

- (a) a niece or nephew; or*
- (b) a cousin; or*
- (c) a grandchild (including a great-grandchild).*

This is still in force. So there have been no changes in the rules.

5. **We have an educator who has been with us for approximately 10 months when she went to fill out her JobKeeper application yesterday: if she did not answer “yes” to the question about lodging a tax return for last financial year it said that she was “not eligible”.**

**If she said “no” there was nowhere to state that she had only been an educator less than a year. We have the draft letter you sent for us to use completed but it also did not give you the option to attach any documentation.**

**She has answered “yes”, but now does that mean she will either go through or later down the track asked to give the money back because of ticking yes to submitting a tax return last year and she did not.**

**I thought that the government said that the educators who worked less than a year and showed a loss they could get JobKeeper. We do not want her having to pay back the money this would cause us no end of grief.**

Despite having only worked as an educator and as a sole trader for only 10 months, she would still have been responsible for putting in a personal tax return. If she didn't do this, she should seek the advice of a tax agent. Has she been remitting tax quarterly to the tax office since starting as an educator? If she has, then she can show the drop in income. It may be best to suggest to her that she talks to her tax agent regardless. She is eligible for JobKeeper if her income has dropped or will drop by 30%, despite the fact she has not worked as a sole trader for a full 12 months.



**6. I was just after some advice; I am currently the manager a not for profit FDC service and have only been in this role for a few months. It looks like we might need to make some changes to the way our coordination unit is being run during this time of COVID-19. Currently, our coordination unit is open 4 days (Monday - Thursday) per week from 9am-3pm, with the manager being on call during the hours that the educators are working, outside of the office hours. I currently have an admin person who works Tuesday and Wednesday 9am-3pm and an CDO/Educational leader who works Monday to Wednesday 8am-4pm. Could you please tell me if it would be possible to change the hours that everyone works to the following:**

**Manager: Tuesday to Thursday 9am-3pm  
CDO: Monday to Wednesday 9am-3pm  
Admin: Tuesday and Wednesday 9am-3pm**

**We are looking at the above changes with the manager being on call Tuesday to Friday (while educators are working) and the CDO being on call to educators on the Monday (and being the responsible person in charge). I guess my question is, would we still be meeting all regulations if we were to make these changes or do we need the manager to continue working the 4 days that the office is open (and be on call on the Friday)? And does the CDO have to continue working the number of hours that the coordination unit is open (24 hours) in order to stay compliant?**

**If we did make these changes, do we need to notify ACECQA or wouldn't that be necessary, as someone would still be qualified and working during the coordination unit standard hours?**

Essentially, despite COVID-19, you still need to abide by the Education and Care Regulations and Law. A responsible person needs to be available for your educators whenever a child is in care. How you organise that is up to you, and no you do not need to inform ACECQA.