To find out more about the Australian Institute of Family Studies and to read our publications and research reports, visit our website: aifs.gov.au

To find out more about the Child Care Package Evaluation project or to sign up for updates, visit our website: aifs.gov.au/projects/child-care-package-evaluation

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Follow us

How we're discovering what works for families
We are evaluating the Australian Government’s new child care package (the Package). The evaluation will find out the outcomes and impacts of the Package for families, services and providers.

What are we doing?
We are collecting and analysing a range of information over the next three years. This will include information collected from surveys of and interviews with parents, people working in the child care sector and other key stakeholders. It will also involve analyses of administrative data.

Who is doing the evaluation?
The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) has been commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training to lead a group of organisations to independently evaluate the package.

AIFS’ research partners on the evaluation are:
- the Centre for Social Research and Methods (CSRMR) at the Australian National University (ANU)
- the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) at the University of New South Wales
- the Social Research Centre (SRC).

How long will the evaluation take?
The evaluation team has been commissioned to evaluate the Package until 2021. They will report to the Department of Education and Training over this time.

Ethics
The evaluation will meet the ethical standards outlined by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

Data protection and management
We meet strict Australian Government criteria for the secure management, storage and transmission of data collected for the evaluation.

What will we focus on?
The evaluation will focus on how well the Package delivers the outcomes and impacts as shown in the following diagram:

INPUTS
- Child Care Subsidy
- Child Care Safety Net
  - Additional Child Care Subsidy
  - Inclusion Support Program
  - Community Child Care Fund
- In home Care Program

OUTCOMES
- Child care services are accessible and flexible relative to families’ needs including disadvantaged.
- Access to child care support is simple for families and services.
- Child care is affordable to families especially those with limited means.
- Child care services are viable and the sector is robust.

IMPACTS
- Parents of children can engage in work, education and the community.
- Vulnerable and disadvantaged children are engaged and supported.
- Child care funding is sustainable for government.

In addition, we will look at whether there have been any unanticipated outcomes as a result of the child care package.