

**Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment
Amendment Programme 2019**



Hon CARMEL SEPULONI, Minister for Social Development

At Wellington this *20th* day of *November* 2019

This instrument is made under section 101(1) of the Social Security Act 2018, by the Minister for Social Development.

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Instrument

- 1 Title**

This instrument is the Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment Amendment Programme 2019.
- 2 Commencement**

This instrument comes into force on 1 January 2020.
- 3 Principal Programme**

This instrument amends the Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payment Programme (the Principal Programme) as established and approved on 13 August 2012.
- 4 Clause 14 amended (Ending and continuation of GCAP in certain circumstances)**
 - (1) Clause 14 is replaced with the following clause:

“14.1 If a child who has been granted GCAP under clause 6 or 7 attains the age of 5 years and may not be enrolled in a school with a cohort entry policy until the next term start date or mid-term start date (under section 5B of the Education Act 1989), then GCAP ends on the first term or mid-term start date to occur on or after the child’s 5th birthday.

”

- 14.2 If a child who has been granted GCAP under clause 6 or 7 attains the age of 5 years and is transitioning from early childhood education to attendance at a continuous entry school, then MSD may, as if the child had not attained that age, continue to grant GCAP in respect of the child until a date no later than 4 weeks after the child turns 5 years.”.

Explanatory Note

This note is not part of the instrument, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This instrument, which comes into force on 1 January 2020, amends the Principal Programme to adjust the eligibility criteria for Guaranteed Childcare Assistance Payments (GCAP) in respect of children who are five and yet to be enrolled in a school with a cohort entry policy in place.

Previously, children attending schools with cohort entry policies started school at the beginning of the term closest to their fifth birthday. From 1 January 2020, under the Education Amendment Act 2019, children can start school on a term start date or mid-term start date which is on or after their fifth birthday. The Ministry of Social Development only pays GCAP until children are first able to start school.