



# Active Kids program

**Recipient guidelines**

# Message from the Minister

It gives me great pleasure to announce the launch of Active Kids. As a key part of the NSW Budget 2017-2018, it's one way the NSW Government is aiming to reduce childhood overweight and obesity.

Communities in NSW have always had a deep passion for sport. Most of us have grown up loving to run, kick, swim or dance. Today unfortunately, the majority of children in NSW are not meeting the daily recommended levels of physical activity. In 2015, more than 1 in 5 children in NSW was overweight or obese.

There are many great organisations across the state, working tirelessly to introduce kids to physical activity and putting them on a healthy life path. But we know that sports registration and lesson fees can add up for families and prevent them from getting involved.

Active Kids will help reduce the costs for parents by providing \$100 vouchers towards sporting and fitness related costs, giving them more reasons to sign their kids up for local swimming lessons or to join that coaching clinic.

I hope to see thousands of local sports organisations register for the program. With them on board and accepting vouchers, it will provide great options for parents to show their kids the benefits of getting fit and active.



**The Hon Stuart Ayres**  
Minister for Sport

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## About the Active Kids program

From January 2018, the NSW Government will provide \$100 through a voucher system for parents/guardians/carers to contribute to the cost of their children's participation in sport and active recreation.

The voucher can be redeemed towards payment of membership or fees with an approved provider registered with the Active Kids program, each calendar year.

## Program objective

The objectives of the program are to:

- 1.** Increase participation of school-enrolled children in sport and active recreation
- 2.** Support the delivery of the Premier's Priority to reduce childhood overweight and obesity by increasing physical activity levels in children aged 4.5 to 18 years living in NSW
- 3.** Help change the physical activity behaviours of children and young people in NSW.



## Eligibility for vouchers

All children aged 4.5 to 18 years old, enrolled in school from Kindergarten to Year 12, and residing in NSW will be eligible for a voucher.

This includes students who are home-schooled or enrolled in secondary school education at TAFE NSW or equivalent.

### The voucher:

- will not be means tested
- will be available for each school-aged child in the family, every calendar year, over the next four years
- can be used for registration or membership fees for a structured program of at least eight weeks' duration
- can only be used once with one provider i.e. it cannot be split between multiple clubs or activity registrations.

In 2018, parents/guardians/carers can claim one voucher per school-enrolled child.

The voucher can be redeemed through an approved sport, fitness or physical activity provider at the time of registration.

Parents/guardians/carers must apply for their child's voucher.

There will be no limits on the number of applications per family, so long as each child is enrolled in school in NSW.

An application for a voucher can be made any time throughout the year.

Vouchers provided are valid for redemption during the current calendar year activity program (Year 1 will commence from the 31 January and expire on the 31 December). Vouchers shall expire at the end of the calendar year.



## Eligible activities



Sporting pursuits



Outdoor recreation programs



Swimming lessons



Approved active recreation (e.g. dance)



Structured fitness programs



Other structured programs of moderate to vigorous activity (approved by the Office of Sport)

- Physical activity is defined as movement involving large muscles e.g. running, swimming, aerobic activity.
- Physical activity must be planned, structured and involve repetitive bodily movement which improves or maintains physical fitness.
- Physical activity programs must be at least eight weeks in duration.
- Activities for children with disability that may not otherwise meet the above criteria should be discussed with the Office of Sport. Email [activekids@sport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:activekids@sport.nsw.gov.au).



## Ineligible activities

### Activities that are not eligible are:

- programs less than eight weeks' duration
- gym membership that is not part of a structured program
- activities that are part of the school curriculum or conducted during school hours
- after-school care services and tutors
- school-run competitions, including weekend and inter-school sport competitions or activities.

### Costs that are excluded are:

- individual items such as jerseys, socks, boots, clothing or equipment that would usually be purchased from a retailer and paid for by the individual as part of participating in the activity separate to any membership or registration fees charged by the provider
- travel to and from competitions.





## How to apply for and redeem vouchers

There are four simple steps:

1

Visit **[sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids](https://sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids)**.  
Read the **Guidelines** and **Fact Sheets**  
to learn about the program.

2

Visit **[service.nsw.gov.au](https://service.nsw.gov.au)** and create or  
login to your **MyServiceNSW Account**.

3

Complete an **Active Kids application** through your **MyServiceNSW Account**.  
You will receive a voucher with a unique ID number for each  
child you register (available to download, print and email).

4

### Redeem your voucher

Take your child's voucher to a registered activity provider; or log onto your  
**provider's website** to enrol and enter the voucher **ID number**.

When your child commences their chosen sport or activity, your online account  
will show the status of the voucher change from 'Active' to 'Redeemed'.

## FAQs

### About the registration process

#### When does the Active Kids program start?

- From early 2018, parents/guardians/carers can apply online at MyServiceNSW for a \$100 voucher for each eligible school-enrolled child.
- From that date, approved providers registered with the Active Kids program can accept and redeem valid vouchers from recipients.

#### When can families start downloading and using their vouchers?

- From early 2018, families will be able to claim their voucher/s online from MyServiceNSW.
- Vouchers can be used toward the cost of memberships or fees with registered providers immediately.
- Families can apply for a voucher at any time.

#### What information is required to apply for a voucher?

- You will need to have or create a MyServiceNSW account to apply for the voucher. You will need to provide your contact details when registering for a MyServiceNSW account.
- Once your account is activated, you will need to enter details for each child when applying for a voucher. Details include their name, address, date of birth, Medicare number and some basic information about their current activities, if any, and basic information such as height and weight.

#### How do I apply for a voucher if there is no internet access or online connection?

- You can visit a Service NSW Centre and use a self service kiosk to apply. The voucher can be printed at that time.

#### How do I reclaim a lost voucher?

If the voucher has not been used you can:

- check online at MyServiceNSW and download/reprint another copy from MyServiceNSW
- visit a Service NSW Centre and reprint the voucher.

### About the vouchers

#### How do I find an approved provider to accept a voucher?

- Providers must be registered with the program and approved by the Office of Sport prior to accepting vouchers from recipients.
- A list of providers approved and registered with the Active Kids program will be available to see when you apply on MyServiceNSW.
- Approved providers will include clubs affiliated with State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) and active recreation organisations.

#### Can providers increase prices or fees?

- Providers cannot raise their fees above a reasonable level (i.e. pricing of participation shall not be increased directly as a result of the registration of a provider in Active Kids).
- Providers can not apply differential pricing for voucher holders vs non-voucher holders.
- Providers (including sports clubs) shall be subject to audit. Those providers found to have unreasonably increased their fees, or engaged in differential pricing, may be deregistered as an Active Kids provider.

#### How do I know if my voucher has been redeemed?

- You will be able to see the status of your child's voucher in your MyServiceNSW account. The voucher will show as 'Active' if not used, or 'Redeemed' if the provider has applied the discount and been reimbursed.

#### How long are vouchers valid?

- Vouchers provided are valid for redemption during the current calendar year activity program (Year 1 will commence from the 31 January and expire on the 31 December). Vouchers shall expire at the end of the calendar year.
- 2019 vouchers and beyond will commence from 1 January each year and expire on the 31 December.
- No availability exists for retrospective redemption of vouchers.
- Vouchers are available for redemption once only for the nominated registered season or term of activity.





## More information

Website [sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids](https://sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids)

### Contact us

Phone **13 77 88**

Email [activekids@sport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:activekids@sport.nsw.gov.au)

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