

FAMILY DAY CARE NEWSLETTER



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AID

AUGUST 2009

CHECK CENTRELINK STATEMENT

Recently, one of Carers discovered that for weeks she had not been asking enough in weekly fees, because she had not checked the statement that she receives each fortnight. Because of the way Child Care Benefit is calculated now, Carers won't know until after the payment is made how much has been allowed for each family. This could mean that sometimes parents will need to pay extra.

If you use two child care services, the service that submits timesheets to the FAO first will get paid first, and the other service will only be able to claim the rest of that family's entitlement. It makes it difficult to predict how much parents owe so those fortnightly statements are very important.

From July we are also required to send **monthly** childcare usage statements to all families. (Replacing the quarterly statements) This is going to be a costly and time consuming exercise; however we can email them which would mean you will get them more quickly and it will save lots of trees! If you would like to take advantage of this option please email Diane stating "please send my monthly statement by email."

Remember to include your name and your child's name (email addresses don't always tell you who the sender is!)

GOVERNMENT CHANGES TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

Changes for the way all children's services in Australia are regulated and accredited have been proposed and are in the consultation phase. We are strongly in favour of streamlining the process, but

have some concerns about the cost implications with some of the recommendations.

There is a proposal that FDC Carers be limited to 4 children under school age and 3 more who attend school. The school aged children are often the carer's own children, but even if they are FDC children they attend less hours and days. This would mean that costs to parents would have to increase unless the rate of CCB increases dramatically (unlikely). It would also mean the levy would have to increase to maintain the support services, training for Carers etc.

For childcare centres they are proposing that there be a ratio of 1 adult for every 4 children UNDER 2 years of age, 1 adult for 5 children FROM 2 to 3 years and 1 adult for 10 or 11 children OVER 3.

We believe that in FDC there should be a limit of 3 children under 2 plus 2 more under school age, a total of 5 children under school age plus 2 more who attend school. This would seem to be more equitable with the proposal for centres.

There is also a proposal that Carers have a minimum qualification of a Certificate III in Child Care studies. We support this concept and are now requiring all new Carers to obtain this qualification, however there are quite a number of wonderful Carers who have been working in FDC for a long time and who would find formal study very difficult. It could mean that some of these wonderful women will choose to leave our service and that would be a great loss. We are asking, in separate submission, for the Carers who have been working for more than 5 years to be exempted from this requirement.

All of this is background to asking you to go on line and complete a survey and if you choose, a

submission as well. The web address is below, look for the parent and families survey. The Regulation Impact Statement is also available on the website if you want more detail. Please look at it.

http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/Quality/Pages/RISConsultations.aspx

Please take some time to contribute to this Australia wide consultation process. The closing date for surveys is 31 August.

NATIONAL CHILD CARE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL SPOT CHECK

The NCAC is responsible for accreditation of child care services. Last year we were re-accredited, but part of the process is for a validator to come and do a spot check. They check on things at the office and then visit a Carer. This was our first ever spot check, so it was pretty exciting! The Carer she chose to visit was Joyce Chan. Joyce has been a Carer for nearly 7 years, she completed her Diploma last year and she provides a lovely service.

The result was wonderful, not one single unsatisfactory comment. Congratulations Joyce on your excellent Family Day Care service! Thank you for the wonderful way in which you represented CCA Family Day Care.



Joyce and Toni

ALLERGY FAST FACTS

The following comes from the website of:



- 5% of Australian children will develop food allergy by school age.
- 1% of Australian adults currently have food allergy
- There is evidence that food allergy has increased in Australia and other countries in the last decade.
- Peanut allergy is estimated to affect 2-3% of children by school age.
- In 80% of children with peanut allergy, it remains a lifelong problem.
- Allergic disease costs Australia \$21 billion/year in direct and indirect medical costs, lost productivity and impact on quality of life (ASCIA-Access Economics Report, Nov 2007).
- References are available upon request - email education@allergy.org.au

PARENTS PLEASE DO NOT SEND FOOD WITH NUT PRODUCTS (this includes Nutella)
If a child has other allergies try to avoid those foods.

TRICYCLE FOR SALE



\$100 (Cost \$261)

This tricycle is a prize won by the scheme which is not suitable for Playsession. It is an excellent quality and retails for \$261. If you are interested, (maybe a Christmas gift), please phone the office and speak to Pam or Sarah.