

**Minutes of the Scheme meeting held on Tuesday 10th April 2018 at Clarence Family Day Care Scheme offices,
Alma Street Bellerive**

Present: Angelica Sunnucks, Kim Abbott, Karen Masters, Maree Woods-Trezise, Maureen Taylor, Janet Davey, Sharon Dorsett, Gabrielle Haley, Linda Spencer, Jackie Devereaux-McLean, Tracey Mason, Angela Free, Angela Stanley-Gasparin, Katrina Stewart, Robyn Horner

Apologies: Nita Kitto, Jodie Murray, Tina Sansom-Karppa, Katie Dermody, Sally Lovell, Jeanette Batchelor

Focus: Kylie Murphy from Mission Australia talking about the NDIS. The NDIS Early Intervention (ECEI) program is for children from birth to 7 years. It is to help children with a developmental delay or a disability and looks at the whole child, their families and their environment to develop a program to support the child and the family to build the support they need to achieve better long term outcomes for all involved. The process will remain the same as they are at the moment, ie. parents must sign a consent form and the request comes through our scheme to be referred to the Lady Gowrie Inclusion Support Program (ISP). Kylie was unable to answer some of the questions raised and will follow these up.

Andrea Tall from the HIPPY (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters) program also spoke. She apologised for being unable to attend the last scheme meeting due to illness. The catchment area for the program has been extended to include all of the Clarence municipality and is available for 30 families each year. It is a 2 year program for 3 and a half year olds and has been seen to be especially beneficial for vulnerable children and those who either turn 4 just before the end of the year, or who just miss out on school. A home tutor visits the family at home or at a 'neutral' place such as a café, and tutors the parents to work with their children on an early learning program. Its primary goal is to partner with parents to prepare their children for success at school. Contact details are available from the scheme.

New Child Care Package: Angela reminded all educators to ensure they have registered for PRODA by the end of April. Please forward your registration number to the office as soon as possible. If you are having any problems please contact Tracey.

From the 2nd July there will be one child care payment – the Child Care Subsidy – based on an income activity test. Families can access and update their details through the MyGov website. The biggest change will be in the enrolment process where parents have to approve the care details before the care can start. Ang reminded educators to check their payment advices promptly as there is a limited time period where changes can be lodged. Centrelink will send letters to parents in April and May about the changes.

New Harmony: Ang stressed that scheme staff CANNOT view educators' cashbooks on Harmony. Harmony's new sign-in process is very specific and educators who have questions are asked to contact Ang.

FDCA Forum in Campbell Town: Angela, Katrina and Robyn attended on the Friday 16th March and Angelica attended the educator's forum on Saturday. FDCA's CEO Andrew Paterson spoke about the organisation's strategic direction and the challenges facing family day care in Australia. Challenges include sector reputation, professional recognition, administrative burden and regulations, and sector funding and viability. He stressed the need for family day care to remain flexible and responsive to the changing needs of children and families.

Michelle Hilton-Moon from ACECQA spoke about quality in family day care. The two most challenging areas for educators in the A&R process are understanding the planning cycle and critical reflection. She talked about the strong emphasis on the learning frameworks, basing planning on these and re-looking at the Educators' Guide to the Early Years Learning Framework. She stressed that one size doesn't fit all and to ask the questions: 'what would I like to document'? and 'what works best for me'? She also reminded educators to read the ACECQA newsletters and refer to Starting Blocks for families and to the early childhood resource hub. **Brad Parsons** spoke about insurance and risk and Janelle Brennan from the ECU spoke.

Agenda items community partnerships and the kidsafe forum have been deferred to the next meeting. Meeting closed at 8.45. Next meeting: 16th May – guest is Scott Gibson speaking about risk benefits.