

Minutes of the Scheme meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2019 at Clarence Family Day Care Scheme offices, Alma Street, Bellerive

Present: Kylee Mitsakis, Angelica Sunnucks, Nita Kitto, Agnes Matthew, Nancy Tung, Linda Spencer, Karen Masters, Janet Davey, Maureen Taylor, Sally Lovell, Tammy Cranfield, Maree Woods-Trezise, Jackie Devereaux-McLean, Leonia Imani, Nicole Schmidt, Jonna Vennola, Katrina Stewart, Tracey Mason, Angela Free, Robyn Horner

Apologies: Jandi Speakman, Debbie Morey, Rachel Cutcliffe, Jackie McClymont, Georgie Garrett, Karen Cross, Dee Francis, Angela Stanley-Gasparin, Gabrielle Haley, Jodie Murray, Jayne Wiggins, Nicole Riley, Tina Sansom-Karppa

General business:

- **Christmas charity donations** – Angela asked whether the scheme should continue supporting Ronald McDonald house or whether people had other ideas. It was decided that we should support an organisation which also supports children, such as the women's shelter. Angela asked for suggestions and any contact details that she can follow up.
- **Family Day Care Australia's National Engagement Program** will be held in Hobart on November 23rd. This is free and Angela encouraged educators to attend. It is an excellent opportunity to network and to hear what is going on at a national level.
- **Family Day Care Australia's award dinner** – will be held on November 23rd. Angela asked that if educators would like to attend to please let her know so that she can book a table. We have several educators who have been nominated for awards so it would be a great opportunity to show our support.
- **'Please close the gate' signs** – Angela has new 'please close the gate' signs organised through the Tasmanian Family Day Care Council. They include the Family Day Care Australia logo. Anyone who would like a new sign please get in touch with Angela.
- **Students** – recently several educators have been asked to have students. Having a student can provide children and educators with renewed enthusiasm and new ideas, but can also be a big undertaking in family day care, especially if the student needs a lot of support. If you do agree to have a student please contact the office for copies of the information booklet and the work placement form. Although educators' insurance should cover students, the placement is to be formally organised through the school the student attends.
- **Hire for Baby** – Jackie from Hire for Baby is happy to organise car restraint checks on one day a month in the scheme's car park. Anyone who is interested please contact Angela.
- **Car park** - some concern has been expressed about the speed some people are coming into the car park. Please be mindful of the people accessing the senior citizens building and please do not park in the disabled spaces.
- **Staff leave** – Ange is now back from leave. Tracey is taking leave during the school holidays and Angela asked that educators who have children only coming into care for the school holidays to please email Tracey the details so that the children can be re-enrolled.
- **ECU A & R and spot visits** – although we have received the dates for A & R (14th Oct – 11th November), we still have not received the report from the spot visit in April. Any major concerns would have been addressed at the time, but having the report would help inform our QIP. Angela will email the ECU to request a copy.

Focus: sustainability – guest speaker Fiona Beer. Fiona is the state chair for Doctors for the Environment and spoke about the impact of climate change on the environment and what this can mean for children and families. The impact of changes to the climate affect our water, food, air pollution levels, stress levels, allergies, asthma, skin irritants, and both physical and mental health. Fiona's key points included:

- Children can become quite anxious about what they see and hear. This means not denying what is happening but arming ourselves with knowledge so that we can talk to children and answer their questions as honestly as we can, whilst also being aware of their levels of understanding.

- Educators can set the ground work for children and empower them by working through what we can do.
- Show that you are practicing what you preach and remember that changing habits and people's perspectives takes time.

Every small step helps and these little things become ingrained in children's thinking – from little things big things grow.

- collect lids for Lids for Kids, a project being supported by Sally Lovell, as is Bread Tags for Wheelchairs. Educators who collect these can drop them into the office.
- encourage children to sort their rubbish into compost, recycling and rubbish - try to head towards zero waste.
- do things such as save power by switching off lights,
- be water wise,
- grow vegies, fruit and herbs,
- walk instead of drive when this is possible,
- use beeswax wraps instead of plastic,
- use both sides of the paper,
- do clothes and toy swaps rather than buy new ones,
- op shop,
- don't buy clothes made with micro fibre (the tiny micro beads don't break down and they get into our waterways)
- use bamboo products such as toilet paper and paper towel and re-usable nappies such as 'pea pods' Fiona suggested that educators may like to band together to order supplies in bulk.
- Rebates and grants are available for solar panels. Lap tops can also be solar powered.
- Look at the bank you use and where your superannuation is invested. Do they invest in the fossil fuel industry? If they do, change where your money goes

Several educators have seen the film 2040 and recommend it as essential viewing. It will be shown at Eastlands Village Cinema at Rosny Park on Wednesday 16th October at 6.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.45.

Next meeting will be to discuss being prepared for assessment and rating and will be on **Monday 7th October**