

## Minutes of the online Scheme meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 via Microsoft Teams

**Present:** Kim Abbott, Jorja Clifford, Janet Davey, Jackie Devereaux-McLean, Dee Francis, Gabrielle Haley, Leonia Imani, Sally Lovell, Nikki McKeown, Kylee Mitsakis, Tina Sansom-Karppa, Linda Spencer, Maureen Taylor, Jonna Vennola, Jess Walker, Jayne Wiggins, Maree Woods-Trezise, Lucy Johnson, Tosca Mulder, Tracey Mason, Robyn Horner, Angela Stanley-Gasparin

**Apologies:** Nita Kitto, Karen Masters, Agnes Matthew, Jackie Mianowski, Debbie Morey, Jodie Murray, Shantell Saunders, Angelica Sunnucks, Mel Swards

### General business:

- **COVID19 restrictions: field visits** – visits to educator's homes are not taking place at the moment but if an educator would like a visit then that can be arranged. All working educators should have now been contacted several times by phone by Tosca, Lucy or Robyn. Initially it was every 2 weeks but we are stretching it out to 3. Some educators really enjoy the more regular contact, others not so much. If any educators want to have a chat, please ring or email.
- Educators who do not have any children in care but who are still getting BCP payments will also be contacted to see how they are managing their family day care obligations.
- **Re-registrations** – educators who are due to be re-registered will still need to complete all the paperwork. Visits to check the physical environment cannot take place at the moment and the paperwork's accompanying re-registration letter lists the photographic evidence required. Re-registrations will be for 3 or 6 months when they will be re-assessed and physical checks can be made.
- **Training** – 1<sup>st</sup> aid still needs to be current. Educators cannot let it lapse, regardless of whether they have children in care or not. Most training organisations are still offering 1<sup>st</sup> aid and have social distancing and hygiene procedures in place. Many educators need to update mandatory reporting. This can be done online through Gowrie Training (which is In Safe Hands), directly with In Safe Hands, through Bravehearts, or CELA (Community Early learning Australia). CELA also has a 3 part webinar but I am not sure of the cost. Some of the free online courses are for primary schoolteachers or sporting coaches and some are not for Australian legal requirements and circumstances and therefore will not be acceptable.
- **Intergenerational playgroup** – the intergenerational playgroup held early this year was very successful and was a wonderful experience for children and visitors alike. Clarence Council would like these to continue later in the year, but in the meantime have asked for ideas on how children and older community members can stay connected. Writing letters and drawing pictures were suggested and if anyone has any other ideas please let Ang know.
- **Home schooling** – Ang forwarded all educators an email from the Commonwealth that clearly states that school age children who are in care are not to be home schooled by educators. Educators can home school their own children. Ang reminded educators that the Education and Care Services National Regulations, Regulation 124, states that the educator's own children must be included in their numbers if those children are under 13 years of age and there is no other adult present and caring for those children. The rules around the age of children eligible for CCS payments are slightly different.
- **BCP payments and Jobkeeper** – Ang submitted a claim for supplementary payments several weeks ago but so far has not heard anything further. Over 1000 services Australia-wide have applied for the payment and so far only 100 have been approved. It may take some time. Ange applied for an extra 2,300 hours of care that educators aren't being paid for and we understand how hard that is for everybody. The payments we are currently receiving do not come with any instructions on how it was to be distributed to educators and we have tried to do it in the fairest way possible that we can for all educators. Schemes throughout Australia are distributing the

money quite differently. Some schemes are only paying educators for the children they physically have in care and not paying for absences. Our aim is to get everyone up to the level they were before.

No other industry has been asked to take a more than 50% financial cut and still maintain the same level of service, and it doesn't sit very well with us to have to pay educators the way we do. Many parents who are still using care have not had any loss of income and are willing to continue to pay for their care. Unfortunately they are not able to do this.

**Other business:** Ang and Katrina recently attended a statewide online meeting with other schemes in Tasmania. We are the only scheme sponsored by local government, which means that the other schemes are eligible for Jobkeeper and we are not. This means that we receive less funding. Clarence Council management and aldermen see family day care as an integral part of the Clarence community and will continue to support the scheme.

Ang expressed her appreciation of the hard work that the educators do and the good reputation we have in the community. We wouldn't be where we are without your support and patience. Ang will continue to forward new information as it comes through.

We continue to be here for all educators, so please get in touch with us if you have any questions, concerns, or would just like to have a chat.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm