

Minutes of the Scheme meeting held on May 19th, 2022, via Microsoft Teams

Present: Nita Kitto, Gabrielle Haley, Jane Wiggins, Agnes Matthew, Nikki Mckeown, Linda Spencer, Jonna Vennola, Ratchel Williams, Jess Walker, Tina Sansom-Karppa, Jackie Mianowski, Kylee Mitsakis, Mel Swards, Emily Bax, Jackie Devereaux-McLean, Belinda Leaman, Jodie Murray, Kirstie Leaman, Chris Tanner, Angela Stanley-Gasparin, Robyn Horner, Tracey Mason, Shelley Parkinson, Lawrice Jack.

Apologies: Angelica Sunnucks, Janet Davey, Jackie McClymont

- **COVID restrictions:** the current Public Health Direction is set to expire on the 25th of May 2022 and the ECU is not sure whether the current restrictions will be extended or whether they will change. The ECU will notify all services of any changes.
Masks are still compulsory for all education and care settings.
Close contacts – children under 2 cannot have a rapid antigen test therefore must have a daily negative PCR test before coming into care. Children who are over 2 can come into care with a negative rapid antigen test even if other household members are COVID positive. If someone in the educator's home has COVID then the educator cannot work
- **Play sessions:** Wednesday 25th May is National Simultaneous Storytime and the story (Family Tree by Josh Pyke) will be broadcast on the TV in the training room. Educators who don't normally attend play sessions are welcome.
- **New building** – there is a meeting with the architects next week to finalise plans before going to tender. It is hoped the building works will start in October and will take approximately 12 months to complete. The plans are available for educators to see in the office. Although the building will be purpose built for use by both outside school hours care and family day care, family day care will not be contributing towards the cost of construction. School holiday programs will also be run from the building. We are currently looking at alternative venues for play sessions and at using parks during the construction period. All ideas are welcome.
- **Fees for 2022/2023** – the Scheme's annual levies have been approved by Council. To make it more equitable and fair parents will be charged a flat \$1.50 an hour. The 3rd child will still not be charged. The educator levy will be 2% of the educator's total fee (this does not include the admin levy). This brings us more in line with other schemes. The Commonwealth withdrew its funding from family day care 3 years ago and the scheme is now operating at a loss, and this is not sustainable. Information showing a comparison between the current educator levy and the new one based on weekly income will be emailed to educators. A letter will be sent to parents, but it was important to let educators know first. Parents will still pay educators the way they do now. Please contact the office if you have any questions.
- **ECU visits** – the ECU has informed us that they will conduct a monitoring visit sometime between the 23rd of May and 3rd June. Petra is our authorised officer and will visit 3 or 4 educators for about half to ¾ hour each. We will not know who she will visit but she will look at the excursion list to see who will be home. It is important that all educators keep us up to date with their routine excursions and let us know when going on a non-routine excursion. The information sheet regarding the prescribed information to be available and/or on display will be emailed to educators.
- **Family Day Care Council state-wide meeting** – Liz McNally from the ECU spoke at the meeting. Discussion included:
 - areas of an educator's home undergoing renovations and whether that space needs to be temporarily de-registered or whether a risk management plan will cover the situation. Once the scheme has all the relevant information then a decision can be made on which is the better alternative for the safety and wellbeing of the educator and the children in her care.
 - safe sleep – a NSW inquest into the death of a baby in family day care concluded that the baby was in an unsafe sleep environment and resulted in a service fine of \$176,000 and a

substantial fine for the educator concerned. Liz asked schemes how they ensure that educators understand safe sleeping practices and stressed that both field visit reports and re-registration procedures are important records for determining educator's understanding of policies and procedures.

- **Training** – the upcoming Family Day Care Australia National Conference will be held in Hobart in September and is a valuable learning opportunity for educators. Some educators have already booked but we may be able in some capacity to assist some educators to go. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact the office.

Other training has been difficult to access, and several unsuccessful attempts have been made to secure guest speakers. However, Scott Gibson from Gowrie Training and Consulting has been approached to deliver a workshop on how environments affect behaviour, and more information will be available once a date has been confirmed.

We welcome new educator Emily to our scheme and Shelley, the new field coordinator.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm