



# Cairns TAFE Community Child Care Centre

MARCH 2018

## OFFICE NEWS

### PREPARING FOR CCB CHANGES

The most important step for families to take to prepare for the transition to the new system is to ensure they have a 'My Gov' account linked to Centrelink prior to the implementation of the July changes.

Parents will be required to interact with the new 'Child Care Portal' through their 'My Gov' account to approve care sessions, enrolments and child registration, so please make sure you set this up prior to July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

As indicated previously the biggest change to the child care system will be around eligibility for benefits and the new CCS percentages for families. Families eligibility for a percentage will be based on the fortnightly activity of both parents in a partnered family and individually for single parent families.

There will no longer be a 100% offset the maximum will now be 85%.

We have provided the CCS estimators and activity test information on the last 2 pages of our newsletter please use these to estimate your entitlements as some families may change dramatically and may need to reconsider their care arrangements for the second half of the year.

We will continue to update parents on the new system as information becomes available, we also encourage families to use the online calculators to estimate their child care entitlements post July 2018.

Please use the provided links to find more information on the new system and child care in general:

[www.education.gov.au/ChildCarePackage](http://www.education.gov.au/ChildCarePackage)

[www.mychild.gov.au](http://www.mychild.gov.au)



### REMINDERS FOR MARCH

- Activate your **MY GOV** account now!!
- Call the centre if your child is absent
- Provide labelled spare clothes each day.
- BE SUNSMART!

### AGM

THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH at 6pm

Meeting to be held in the preschool room, all families and carers welcome.

Please let us know if you are interested in taking on an executive role on our committee or in becoming an ordinary member. Come and see us in the office if you have any questions

Childminding provided.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March,  
Easter Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April,  
Anzac Day Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Term 1 school holidays,  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Please let us know if your child will be absent in the school holidays so we can apply the holiday fee to your account

### QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- At the beginning of each year we brainstorm what we want to achieve for the year and areas where we can improve. Below is a list of goals that we are going to work towards this year. Have a read and let us know any other areas you think we can improve in?!? Our Quality Improvement Plan can be updated anytime during the year so please don't hesitate to pass on your ideas any time throughout the year.
- **QUALITY AREA 1 – Educational Program and Practice**
  - For educators to document weekly in depth reflections on their programs, practices and interactions
  - For Educators to broaden their understanding of intentional teaching and actively seek out teachable moments that occur daily
- **QUALITY AREA 2 – Children's Health and Safety**
  - For all educators to understand all aspects of our Food Safety Program
  - To conduct fire and bomb threat evacuations and lock down procedures monthly or bimonthly
- **QUALITY AREA 3 – Physical Environment**
  - To improve the outdoor play area to increase aesthetics and quality experiences and encourage understanding and respect for the natural environment
- **QUALITY AREA 7 – Governance and Leadership**
  - To consistently review individual goals and hold 6 monthly educator appraisals to guide Individual development plans

A word from the committee,

This year (2018) the Queensland Government is providing free influenza (flu) vaccinations for children aged 6 months to less than 5 years of age. This is in response to the high rates of influenza among young Queensland children in 2017.

The free vaccine can be accessed through general practices and other childhood immunisation providers and should be available late March/early April 2018.

Influenza causes substantial illness in children and vaccination is proven to reduce a child's risk of contracting influenza and suffering from its complications. Vaccinating young children will also protect the wider community by reducing the circulating influenza strains.

**Until next month...Barb**

# **KITCHEN CAPER**

## **FEEDAUSTRALIA**

The centre is very proud to announce that we are officially a member of feedAustralia.

### **What is feedAustralia?**

feedAustralia is an online menu planning tool designed to assist early childhood education and care providers move towards healthier menus. It is based on the NSW child care Nutritional Guidelines 'Caring for Children' and is designed by experts in the field. The feedAustralia online menu planning tool, works by providing a platform to enter all your meals and snacks, quantities and recipes, using a searchable database of over 2,000 food items. The online menu planning tool will compare your menu with nutritional guidelines and will assist your service to make changes to meet these guidelines.

### **What are the feedAustralia food group recommendations?**

The feedAustralia food groups and serve sizes are based on the 2013 National Dietary Guidelines developed by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council.

### **How does feedAustralia calculate food groups?**

The calculation of food groups in feedAustralia is underpinned by a comprehensive national food composition database which lists over 2,000 foods typically consumed by Australians. Using information from the Australian Dietary Guidelines, our dietitians have classed each food item to a food group together with quantities that correspond to a serve size.

### **How do feedAustralia recommendations align with other state guidelines?**

All states in Australia recommend that child care services provide foods that are consistent with Australian Dietary Guidelines. The cut-offs for feedAustralia are based on the key recommendation that child care services provide children with at least 50 per cent of the daily recommended intake for each food group within an eight-hour period.

### **Why focus on early childhood education and care?**

Foods provided in early childhood education and care settings contribute to the growth and development of children and future eating habits. Helping early childhood education and care providers provide healthier foods is a great way to improve a child's diet and overall health, especially when full-time child care can account for up to 67 percent of a child's diet

### **How do you use feedAustralia for children with special dietary requirements?**

feedAustralia has a built-in alert system to inform and assist early childhood education and care providers in menu planning for children with allergies so they can make substitutions where required.

### **What does this say about the effectiveness of current government regulations?**

Early childhood education and care providers have made many positive changes in the way they provide food in the last decade. feedAustralia is designed to complement current government regulation and helps providers to reflect, plan and work towards healthier menus in line with the Australian Dietary Guidelines.

Best of all feedAustralia gives families access to our centre portal which in turn provides you with access to all our menus and recipes.

So keep your eye out in the coming month for news of when we go live on the portal!

Until next month stay healthy, Michelle, Candice and Reiji

## Nursery Natter

Hi here we are again.

A big welcome back to Yukari, it is wonderful having her back in the nursery room, it is like she has never left. Yukari has been busy meeting all our wonderful parents and building attachments with all the babies.



We have been following up on one of the babies interest in butterflies. We have set up an area with butterflies. We have also done butterfly painting and made caterpillars. The babies have also been enjoying listening to the story "The Very Hungry Caterpillar".



Happy Birthday  
to Joy who will  
be turning 1 on  
the 4th March.

Some of our activities can sometimes become very messy, just a reminder to always put spare clothes in your baby's bag and make sure all your babies

We have still been doing activities to further develop the babies motor skills which we will continue throughout this month. We are also going to look at self help skills with the older babies. **Ref: Eylf Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing. Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing.**



belongings are labelled with their name.

Please remember we have an open-door policy so please feel free to talk to myself or Yukari if you have any questions.

**Until next time...Kathy and Yukari**



## Toddler Torque

### *New toddlers*

Hello and a big welcome to our new girls Acacia and Sophie, the girls are both settling in wonderfully with our toddler group.

### *What we have been doing.*

The children are still engrossed with the sea creature's project, they have been playing in our imaginary sea, making their own play dough sea creature creations, learning through technology via the internet, reading books and even singing songs

### Group times.

Around 10am each morning the toddlers have an indoor group time where we usually read a story, sing songs and have a chat about what is going on that day. This past week we have playing a sea creature matching game. The toddlers are all given a sea animal each and they have to match it with the same animal on the chart. We use this as a transition activity.



### *Reminders.*

Please name your child's belongings, hats, clothes, underwear, shoes, bottles and sunscreen.

### Toilet training.

We have been encouraging all the children to use the toilet whether they do anything or not. It is a great way to get them use to the toilet. Can I please ask that if your child is toilet training make sure there are lots of undies in their bag just in case.

*Cheers from Rohana and Nar Maya*

## Preschool

Wow where did February go, we have had such a busy month with our dinosaur interest and settling in lots of new children!

A big welcome to Michael, Aye Mi, Preston, Leo, Seongjae, Hayden, Dexter, Fredrick and their families to our pre-school group. We are also transitioning William and Sophia from the toddler room.

Have you seen the dinosaur shoes? You can wear them on your hands too!  
We have had so much fun playing with them.



Next we are going to create a huge collage dinosaur landscape complete with a volcano because the children said we need a volcano, branches, trees, grass, dirt and water for the dinosaurs. Keep a look out for it when we display it on our wall! So much learning has been occurring during our dinosaur interest especially language skills pronouncing some of the dinosaur names is quite a challenge. We might even get to do a volcano experiment.

I have attached a copy of our daily routine for those of you that are unfamiliar with what our day involves!

**Have a great month from Cheryl and Kathleen ☺**

- Routine – our routine is similar to the Toddlers with some minor differences. It is flexible based on weather, interests and needs. It is roughly as follows:

7:30	Centre open
7:30 – 8:45	Toddlers/Preschool combined outdoor play
8:45 – 9:30/10:00	Grazing morning tea
10:00 – 10:15	Pre-schooler's inside for group time
10:20 – 11:00	Indoor play or project work
11:00– 11.15	Pack up time
11.15 – 11.30	Group time and transition to lunch
11.30-12.00	Lunch time
12.00-2.00	Rest/sleep/Quiet time
2:00 – 2:30/2:45	Afternoon tea
2:45 – 3:00	Toddlers/Preschool combined outdoor play
3:00 – 3:30	Either more Preschool inside time to extend on projects, OR Inside/Outside free flow with Toddlers
3:30 – 5:15	Toddlers/Preschool combined outdoor play
5:15 – 5:30	Late afternoon snack
5:30 – 6:00	Either indoor/outdoor play combined
6:00	Centre closes

## **CHILD CARE SUBSIDY ESTIMATOR**

### **Family Income**

Estimate how much CCS you're entitled to using our family income estimate.

If your family earns:

your CCS percentage will be:

\$0 to \$65,710

85%

More than \$65,710 to below \$170,710

Between 85% and 50%

The percentage goes down by 1% for every \$3,000 of income your family earns

\$170,710 to below \$250,000

50%

\$250,000 to below \$340,000

Between 50% and 20%

The percentage goes down by 1% for every \$3,000 of income your family earns

\$340,000 to below \$350,000

20%

\$350,000 or more

0%

### **Hours of activity**

If you have a partner we'll look at both of your activity levels. We'll work out how many hours of subsidised child care you're entitled to each fortnight using the lower of the 2 activity levels.

If you do recognised activities each fortnight for:

we'll subsidise your child care each fortnight for:

Less than 8 hours

0 hours

8 to 16 hours

36 hours

More than 16 to 48 hours

72 hours

More than 48 hours

100 hours

**If your family earns \$65,710 or less a year and you do not meet the activity test, you may be able to access 24 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight.**



# Recognised activities

## Recognised activities can include:

- paid work including being self employed, on paid or unpaid leave, including paid or unpaid parental leave, study and training
- doing an approved course of education or study
- doing training to improve work skills or employment prospects
- unpaid work in a family business
- actively looking for work
- volunteering
- unpaid work experience or unpaid internship
- actively setting up a business
- other activities on a case by case basis

## **We'll only recognise some of these activities for a certain amount of time. We'll only count:**

- periods of unpaid leave for up to 6 months – this does not apply to unpaid parental leave
- 16 hours per fortnight if volunteering or actively looking for work is your only activity
- setting up a business for 6 months out of every 12 months
- 

If you're receiving Carer Allowance you will be able to get 72 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight.

You will be able to access 36 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight if you have mutual obligation requirements, and you receive:

- Newstart Allowance
- Youth Allowance
- Parenting Payment, or
- Special Benefit

## **Casual or irregular hours of work**

If you do paid work where the hours change each fortnight, you need to provide us with an estimate of your hours. Your estimate should be the highest number of hours you expect to work in a fortnight over the next 3 months.

## **Example of providing an estimate when you work irregular hours**

Suzie is a single parent working at a supermarket. Her work hours vary from 15 to 45 hours per fortnight. Suzie should declare the highest number of hours she expects to work within a fortnight over a 3 month period. In Suzie's case this would be 45 hours per fortnight. This would entitle her to 72 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight.