

## Service Newsletter December 2021

December is the start of Birak, the start of summer, the season that sees the rains ease up and the warm weather really start to take hold. The [Christmas trees](#) are in bloom to remind us that the festive season is here. The afternoons are cooled by the sea breezes that abound from the southwest. This was the fire season, a time to burn the country in mosaic patterns.

## Thrive by Five Campaign

We have registered as an official Friend of the Thrive by Five campaign. Thrive by Five is a national campaign, pushing to make early learning in Australia high quality, universally accessible and affordable. Every child should start school ready to learn, with the opportunity to fulfil their potential. This is not currently the case, and evidence shows children who enter the school system developmentally vulnerable often do not catch up with their peers. A high quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning system should be Australia's next great social reform. As an official Friend of the campaign, we have pledged our support for this goal. By joining the campaign, we are showing politicians and the community that we're part of a big movement asking for change. We'll be sharing updates and information about Thrive by Five with you every now and then. In the meantime, you can find out more about the campaign, and join as an individual supporter yourself, at [thrivebyfive.org.au](http://thrivebyfive.org.au).

## Kindy Children No Longer Considered School Age

Please note that the Education and Childcare Regulatory Unit has advised all Family Day Care Services that children who attend Kindergarten at a school are no longer considered school age as of 1st January 2022. This means that your Educator will need to count Kindy children as one of their under 4s. This is a devastating blow to families who have children in Kindy due to the limited availability of spots in this age group. Family Day Care Educators have been advocating to include Kindy children in the school age ratio, but it doesn't appear to be enough. If this is something that impacts on your family have a chat to your Educator to get ideas on how you, as a parent, can be an advocate for this cause.

## Head to Health Website

The [Head to Health](#) website can help you find digital mental health services from some of Australia's most trusted mental health organisations. Provided by the Australian Department of Health, *Head to Health* brings together apps, online programs, online forums and phone services as well as a range of digital information resources. Whether you are trying to improve your own sense of wellbeing, looking for help with something that is bothering you, or helping someone you care about – *Head to Health* is a good place to start.

## Policies to be Reviewed

The following [policies](#) are being reviewed, if you would like to have input we would appreciate if you email your comments to [info@naturealliancefdc.com.au](mailto:info@naturealliancefdc.com.au) :

22 Fit and Proper Persons Policy

23 Visitors to a Family Day Care Residence or Venue Policy

## Be Safe

As another tumultuous year draws to an end, we would like to wish you all a safe and happy festive season. We may be restricted with our travel plans, but that gives us all the more reason to explore our beautiful State.

## Contact Us

If you have any queries regarding the Service or any of the content of this newsletter, please feel free to contact us on the details below or find us on our [Facebook](#) page.

**WHERE CHILDREN CAN BE CHILDREN**

