

## Service Newsletter October 2021

*Kambarang* is the wildflower season with many yellow flowers, orchids, kangaroo paws and banksias in bloom! Keep a look out for the striking flowers displayed on the *Mooja* or Australian Christmas Tree! These bright orange / yellow flowers tell us that the heat is on the way!

### Updated Philosophy

We have been busy updating some of our Service and Operational Policies. These have been uploaded to our [website](#) for ease of reference. We have also worked very hard on updating our [Philosophy](#) and are very proud to share this with you.

### 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) :

1.4 Sleep and Rest

1.6 Child Protection

1.7 Child Safety

5.2 Excursions and Regular Outings

20 Registration of Educators

29 Educator Leave

32 Social Media

34 Non-Payment of Fees Policy

We are also developing a Sustainability Policy and Commitment Statement. If you would like to have input into the development of this, please email the address above.

### Excellence in Family Day Care Awards

The Family Day Care Australia Excellence in Family Day Care Awards winners were announced in September, and we are very proud to share that 6 of our Educators have taken out awards! A huge congratulations to the following Educators in our service who have been announced winners in their regions:

- Caroline Boocock – Albany & Great Southern
- Patricia Boyd – Geraldton, Gascoyne & Midwest
- Cassandra Dennison – Bunbury & Southwest
- Julie Belhamine – Kalgoorlie, Goldfields & Esperance
- Narelle Thredgold – Eastern Suburbs
- Leanne Dowsett – Fremantle & Southern Suburbs

### St Johns First Aid First Responder APP

Our staff recently updated their CPR training, the trainer frequently referred to the St Johns First aid app and suggested that it is worth downloading it to your phones. There is lots of information on the app and in the event of an emergency if you dial directly from the APP emergency services can instantly access your location. <https://stjohnwa.com.au/online-resources/st-john-first-responder-app>

### Higher CCS for Multiple Children

The Department of Education, Skills & Employment are making changes to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) to help families who currently pay the most and experience the biggest barriers to participation in work.

- **From 10 December 2021, we're removing the annual cap for all families who get CCS.**
- **From 7 March 2022, families with more than one child in care will get a higher subsidy.**



These changes were announced in the 2021–22 Budget, however they are implementing the changes earlier than initially announced to provide more support to families sooner.

### **Statement of Entitlements**

It has come to our attention on several occasions that the CCS and parent gap amounts showing on your Statement of Entitlements often don't match up to figures on the Educators payment advices. This is due to the fact that the Statement of Entitlement you receive each week only reflects what you should be entitled to. Any debts owing to Centrelink, or any changes through Centrelink that occur within that processing week, could change the CCS & parent gap amounts owing at any time, and those details will be displayed on the Educators payment advice. There is a note at the bottom of your Statement of Entitlement that states:

*"The data displayed in the 'Fee Reduction to Service' and 'Fee Reduction to Guardian' columns is entitlement data and not necessarily the amount that was actually paid to the service / guardian because the actual payment may have been reduced by Centrelink adjustments or debts".*

### **Booked Hours**

The beauty of Family Day Care is that it is operated from a home environment thereby making the transition from your home to Family Day Care much easier for your children. While this is beneficial for families, it is also a big factor that our Educators must keep in mind when balancing their own family's lives. For this reason, it is really important that booked hours are adhered to when dropping and collecting children from care. Many Educators have other commitments before and after work and any changes to contracted hours can have an impact on this. If there are any reasons that you might need to drop off earlier or later, please ensure that you have the discussion with your Educator in advance so that she can make any changes to her personal schedule.

### **Contact Us**

We encourage you to contact us if you have any queries about the service - we are available by phone on the following numbers: Office: 0431 449 567, Jo: 0477 029 132, Joy: 0429 030 362 or;

You can also email us at [info@naturealliancefdc.com.au](mailto:info@naturealliancefdc.com.au)

Webpage [www.naturealliancefdc.com.au](http://www.naturealliancefdc.com.au) or look us up on Facebook.

