



Family Day Care News

Northern Rivers Family Day Care: May 2022

Dear Parents, Carers, and their families,

It is hard to believe it is already May, the year is going by so fast. I hope that with time since the devastating floods in our area that your lives are starting to improve, and that life is a little more positive for you all. A little bit of positive news from our Lismore office re-build is that it is well underway, our amazing builder has kindly worked around his present work to fit in our rebuild and our office is starting to resemble an office again. We are so grateful to the many people who have helped us get to this stage, from the local Resilient Lismore who have been coordinating some of our volunteers to our staff, families and friends. We have also had beautiful donations of backpacks full of goodies for our flood affected children and we are also waiting for a donation from a school in Sydney that I have been coordinating with for craft boxes for our Educators.



Ballina Byron FDC turned up to help with the office clean out which was very kind of them, and it was lovely to have their support. I have met with the men from Dulux paints who have kindly donated all the paint we need to repaint our office, this is a huge financial help for us, we are so grateful for this donation. These acts of kindness certainly have humbled us all and made us realise what resilient caring community we live in.

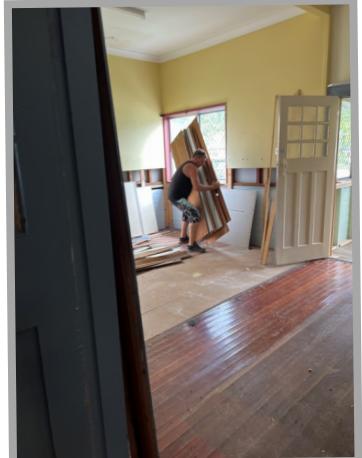
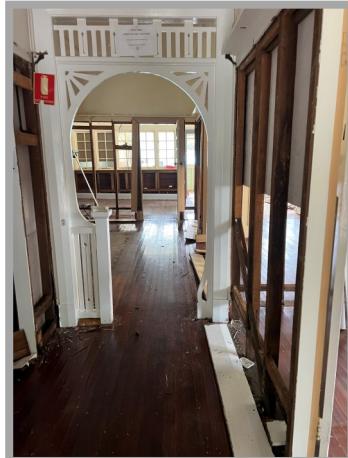
We still have some Educators struggling to rebuild from the flood and we look forward to having them back on board when the time comes, in the meantime we will continue to support them as much as we can and look forward to their return. It has been wonderful to see that we have had a few of our flood affected Educators return in Tweed and in Lismore, which has been an amazing effort on their behalf, and we are so grateful to have them back.

We have secured a room at the YWCA in Goonellabah to rent as our office space, until our building is completed. We will be working from there from Monday the 9th, which we are all extremely excited about as it has been very difficult trying to run the service remotely. Sadly, our phone situation will remain the same with one line going to a mobile and this will have to continue until we move back into Laurel Avenue. again we thank you for your patience.

Thank you to all our amazing Educators who have continued to work and provide childcare and at times accidental counselling for families throughout this devastating weather event, without their support some of these families would have been absolutely lost. Our Educators always amaze me with how they just continue providing nurturing loving environments for children to stay safe no matter what is going on in the world outside their service. We thank them for their ongoing commitment to children, families and NRCS it is very much appreciated.

I have also been grateful for the support from our Tweed office and Gingerbread house for sharing their office space and printers, thank you. I hope this little blurb has been on a more positive note than we have had over the last few months and the rest of the year will be more positive for everyone in our region. It has been heartbreakingly devastating but the one thing that has shone through is the love for our community and for each other, I feel very grateful to call our region my home.

The Office is slowly coming together.



Kind Regards
Jane Isenhood
CEO Northern Rivers Children's Services





Family Day Care News

Positions Vacant within our Organisation
Click [here](#) to view ad and apply.

Casual Childcare OSHC Coordinators & Assistants

Northern Rivers Children's Services Ltd

Lismore & Far North Coast

Education & Training > Childcare & Outside School Hours Care



We are seeking Childcare educators at a number of our services and locations.

BE BRAVE. MAKE CHANGE.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2022
27 MAY – 3 JUNE #NRW2022



Winter is Coming!

Your FDC Educators need assistance to keep your child warm and dry at this time of the year. You can assist by providing:

- **Water proof boots** for outdoor walks and play
- **Slippers or warm shoes** for indoor play—many FDC areas have vinyl, timber and cement areas for ease of cleaning and hygiene so warm socks and shoes are important for your child.
- **Spare jumpers and a Water/wind proof jacket** for when the weather suddenly turns cold.
- **Extra food** for children who are often hungrier in cold weather.



Providing the above will assist your FDC Educator to keep your child warm and dry and therefore give them a more comfortable day.

NSW Health—Protect your family this winter

- The best way to protect your family this winter is get a flu shot.
- If you have a child aged 6 months or over, NSW Health strongly encourages families to vaccinate them against flu this season.
- Flu in children, especially those aged 5 and under, can cause serious illness.
- Given the low exposure to flu over the last two years, children (particularly those under 2 years) may be more vulnerable to catching flu this year, so be aware of symptoms.
- Children under 5 years are most likely to spread flu and suffer complications.

Free flu shots are available for [pregnant women](#), [children under 5 years old](#), [Aboriginal people](#) and [medically at risk](#) at any time.

Talk to your doctor early if you are worried about someone's illness.

More information at www.health.nsw.gov.au

NSW Health

Flu in kids can be serious

Protect your child from the flu
Get your child their FREE flu shot today

Flu shots are safe and FREE for children aged 6 months to under 5 years
Speak to your GP

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www.nsw.gov.au/flu





Family Day Care News

Confirming Income for the 2020-21 Financial Year

If you received CCS for 2020-21, you have until 30 June 2022 to confirm your family's income. If you don't confirm your income, your CCS will stop. It will reduce to 0% from 11 July 2022. This will also apply if you get ACCS.

Child Care Subsidy balancing

What is balancing?

After the end of each financial year, Services Australia balances your Child Care Subsidy (CCS). They do this to make sure you got the right amount of subsidy for the previous financial year.

How does balancing work?

Services Australia look at your actual adjusted taxable income for the financial year and compare it to the estimate(s) you gave them through the year.

They then work out if you were paid correctly and make any necessary adjustments. This includes assessing any [CCS withholdings](#) which were withheld throughout the year.

There are 3 possible balancing outcomes:

- A top-up payment – you don't need to do anything else. Services Australia will pay this money to your bank account you've given them.
- No change in assessment –you received the correct amount of CCS during the year.
- An overpayment – you may need to take action to pay back any money you owe. If you don't pay the money back in full by the due date, Services Australia may reduce your ongoing CCS to pay off the debt. If this is not affordable, Services Australia will work with you to set up a repayment plan you can afford.

They'll send you a letter to let you know your outcome.

What do you need to do? To balance your payments, Services Australia needs to confirm your family income for the relevant financial year.

They'll do this after you and your partner lodge your tax returns. If one or both of you don't need to do this, you'll need to tell Services Australia you're not required to lodge a tax return and confirm your income.

Your subsidy can't be balanced until you do this.

Telling Services Australia you're not required to lodge

You need to tell Services Australia if you don't need to lodge a tax return. You can do this in either your:

- Centrelink online account through myGov
- Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

Services Australia has an '[Advise non-lodgement of tax return](#)' guide you can follow.

When will Services Australia balance your subsidy?

Services Australia will start balancing Child Care Subsidy payments from August each year.

When you need to confirm income

If you get Child Care Subsidy, you must confirm your family income by **30 June of the following financial year**. If you don't, your subsidy will reduce to zero and you will need to pay full fees.

Please go to [Time limits](#) for confirming income on the Services Australia website for more information.

Where to go for more information

To see when your subsidy has been balanced you don't need to call Services Australia.

Instead you can:

- keep an eye in your myGov Inbox, this is where Services Australia will send your outcome letter
- view the status of Child Care Subsidy balancing in your Centrelink online account through myGov or Express Plus Centrelink mobile app.

To find out more about balancing your Child Care Subsidy (or your other family payments) go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/balancing



Australian Government
Services Australia

Did you know Centrelink is on social media?

Search for 'Family Update'.

- Connect with Centrelink on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
- Follow them for regular information about family payments, including [Child Care Subsidy](#).
- Ask them general questions.

Illustration by: Human Services Department of Human Services





Family Day Care News



Let's Count supports early years' educators and parents to develop the mathematics skills of children in their care by noticing, exploring, and talking about mathematics in their daily lives. Let's Count includes professional learning for early years educators and a handy [Facebook Messenger bot](#) for parents and families.

- Evidence based, aligns with EYLF and meets NQS standards.
- Free professional development, in your own time and at your own pace.
- Practical, Tangible, Fun.

[The Smith Family - Let's Count Program | Let's Count](#)

Labor's pre-election early childhood education and care policies

Prior to the election, Labor had pledged to:

- lift the maximum child care subsidy rate to 90 per cent for families for the first child in care;
- increase child care subsidy rates for every family with one child in care earning less than \$530,000 in household income;
- keep higher child care subsidy rates for the second and additional children in care;
- extend the increased subsidy to outside school hours care;
- task the ACCC to design a price regulation mechanism to drive out of pocket costs down for good;
- engage the Productivity Commission to conduct a review of the sector with the aim of implementing a universal 90 per cent subsidy for all families; and
- implement a whole of government Early Years Strategy to create a new integrated approach to the early years and develop of program of action.

It is an opportune time for the new Australian Government to reassess previous approaches to supporting family day care, focusing on incentivising entry into the sector, supporting approved services to engage new educators, and more flexible and sustainable service delivery.

For more information on Labor's pre-election early childhood education and care policies, [please click here.](#)

Recruiting Educators Now for 2022

We are now recruiting Educators **in most areas** to keep up with the childcare placement enquiries. As it takes time to train new Educators, and time for these Educators to adapt their home to meet the regulations and standards, we need to hear from prospective persons ASAP. If you know of anyone who has been thinking of starting a FDC Service please pass along our contact details or they can go onto our **Website Educator page for more information on this link <https://nrcs.org.au/educator-page.html>**

NRFDC is currently offering up to \$2,000 incentives to individuals willing to set up a home-based family day care (FDC) business. The incentive payment is designed to help with set-up costs such as buying furniture and resources. Conditions apply. To receive the eligibility criteria, please contact us via phone 02 6621 6437 or email lismore.admin@nrcs.org.au

ENROL NOW!



FEE-FREE*

Diploma ECEC

Training Educators may be eligible to study a fully funded course.

PEAK Training JobTrainer short courses, certificates and diplomas are currently open for enrolment, so you can enrol now and upskill faster. Exciting new training courses are being added all the time, including Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care (CHC30121) Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care (CHC50121). T&Cs apply. To learn more about JobTrainer fee free courses through Peak training, click [HERE](#).

