



30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Families

TRCC Management and volunteer Committee of Management (CoM) has been working tirelessly for the last month to ensure both the safety of our community, as well as the financial viability of TRCC during these unprecedented and uncertain times.

We wanted to keep our families updated as to the current situation, as well as the CoM's approach to ensuring the financial viability of TRCC.

### **Current situation – as of 30 March 2020**

TRCC remains open at the direction of Government, as we are considered an essential service. We have a number of parents in our community who are on the front line of this pandemic, and TRCC is doing what it can to support these families.

Our Educators are working tirelessly to care for your children in a compassionate and fun way, despite the challenging and uncertain circumstances they themselves face each day. We would also like to acknowledge all of the families that are selflessly keeping their children home at the moment, to help TRCC navigate through social distancing and hygiene protocols.

### **Financial viability of TRCC**

As you may be aware, TRCC is a not-for-profit community Centre that operates on thin margins.

The CoM has investigated the option of reducing fees and / or notice period for those families who are not sending their children during this time. While the CoM would like to help families by providing some financial relief, it would not be possible to do this without either significantly impacting TRCC ability to continue paying staff wages, or risking TRCC's financial viability and ability to remain open in the long-term.

We understand a number of industry bodies are currently lobbying Government to consider additional funding to the sector. If any changes eventuate, the CoM will immediately assess if this allows us to reconsider the position on fees.

**As difficult as it is for us to ask for your support during these uncertain times, it is vital that we maintain our enrolments.** Not only for the collection of fees so that we can continue to pay our valued staff, but also to maintain the CCS payments that Government will cover in event of a closure. In this regard, please see below a summary of the additional Government assistance available to assist both providers and families in maintaining enrolments.

### **Government assistance for our Families directly impacted by economic conditions**

We acknowledge that a number of our community may be impacted by emerging economic conditions, including job losses. For our families directly impacted by these economic conditions, we wanted to highlight the support available to assist with maintaining their enrolment at TRCC:

**87 Kororoit Creek Road, Williamstown 3016**  
**Phone: 9397 8244 Fax: 9397 8759 Email: [office@therangecc.org.au](mailto:office@therangecc.org.au)**  
**Web: [www.therangecc.org.au](http://www.therangecc.org.au)**



What if...?	Help available...
<p><b>If your family income has been impacted during this crisis</b> (e.g. job loss or reduced hours), then ...</p>	<p>You should log on to myGov and update your Annual Family Income Estimate for FY20. This may see your existing rate of childcare subsidy increase, which will help cover more of your “gap” fee.</p>
<p><b>If you are experiencing financial difficulty and are unable to pay your childcare fees...</b></p>	<p>You should consider applying for the Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) through myGov. The ACCS will cover up to 120% of the daily childcare fees for up to 13 weeks. This would mean you may not have to pay any money from your own pocket to cover your childcare costs, but you would still be able to access care for your children.</p>
<p><b>I am keeping my child at home do I still need to pay fees...</b></p>	<p>We recognise some families are keeping their families at home during this time and are continuing to pay their childcare fees to support us. Thank you for supporting us and our Educators.</p> <p>As detailed above, the CoM has investigated whether discounted fees can be offered to these families. While at this stage it is not financially viable to do this, Government has offered to following to these families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 62 days absences, instead of the current 42 per financial year;</li> <li>• Unlimited days for additional absences for COVID19 related reasons, where medical certificates will not be required - however, families will need to confirm with TRCC that their absence is COVID19 related, in writing, for auditing purposes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>If TRCC is directed to close will families have to pay fees...</b></p>	<p>The CoM has determined it will not charge fees during any COVID-19 closure period. TRCC will be relying on CCS payments during this time to fund a wage supplement to our valued staff. It is for this reason that we are asking our Families to continue their enrolment, if this is possible.</p>

TRCC Management and the Committee continue to explore other grants that may be available to assist with Protecting our ongoing viability.

Thank you again to all of the families who have offered support and assistance during this challenging time.

Best wishes,   
TRCC Committee of Management

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