



8/4/2020

Dear Families

On 2 April, the Australian Government announced an Early Childhood Education and Care Relief Package to help families and care providers through the Coronavirus pandemic. This is fantastic news for The Range Children's Centre community. This letter outlines what the relief package and other government provisions mean for families and other important matters around the Centre's implementation of these changes.

1. Free child care during the Coronavirus pandemic

Parents/ guardians will not be charged for any of their existing long day care sessions for an initial 3-month period. This will be backdated to 23 March 2020. Three and 4 year old kinder will be free for term 2.

Where parents/ guardians have already paid fees for the period after 23 March (including payments for terms 2 of kinder), those fees will be held in credit and will be applied to future fee statements. Families facing financial hardship may speak to Janice to arrange for any credited fees to be refunded.

Families must pay any previous outstanding accounts for fees up to 23rd March as soon as possible. Fee statements reflecting any debts or credits will be issued in the next few weeks. There will be no regular fee statements issued while free childcare is in place.

2. Re-enrolment

If you have withdrawn your child from the Centre, or dropped days you can seek to re-enrol. Please contact the Centre if you would like to re-enrol your child.

3. Attendance

You are not required to attend the Centre to access the free childcare package. Families will be able to use the 20 extra absence days the government has funded for coronavirus related reasons.



4. Buying and selling days

The established process to enable families to buy and sell days at the Centre will be suspended for the duration that free childcare is in place. The Committee of Management is putting this in place to assist in managing attendance numbers and social distancing. Parents who are essential workers (i.e. cannot work from home) and families facing exceptional circumstances may speak to Janice if they are seeking to temporarily access extra days of childcare.

5. Health and hygiene practices

We have and will continue to reinforce excellent hygiene and cleaning practices as well as adjusting our programming to maximise outside play and social distancing. We thank those families who have chosen to keep their children at home, as the lower number of children attending has made it much easier to maintain effective hygiene practices.

6. Our staff

The Centre Committee of Management would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of our staff during this extremely trying time. Our staff do not have the option of working from home, and without them, the Centre could not operate. Please respect them by observing the health and hygiene practices that have been implemented at the Centre. A further email will be sent out to families next week to reinforce these practices.

The recent government funding announcements provides certainty that should the Centre be required to close temporarily due to Coronavirus, we will be able to continue to pay staff during any closure period.

If you have any questions in relation to the new childcare package, please contact the Centre.

Kind regards

Geoff Kaandorp

On behalf of The Range Children's Centre Committee of Management