



Committee of Management –
SPECIAL COVID-19 MEETING MINUTES

Held Tuesday 7 April 2020 – 5.00pm

Attendees: Director: Janice Semple
President: Geoff Kaandorp
Treasurer: Rebecca Gill
Carey Dewerson
Anna Cramer
Kelly Chandler
Kirsten McGregor
Alastair Doherty
Jessica White

Aislinn Guthrie-Jones
Jarrod Pohl

Response to government funding announcement for childcare in relation to Covid-19

President

Geoff reminded committee of our priorities in relation to COVID 19 as previously agreed:

1. To minimise the risk that the site becomes a point of transmission (immediate responsibilities and responses).
2. How we support staff and families in the unfolding situation.
3. Financial implications of a shutdown.
4. Plans and policies for potential shutdown.

Free Childcare

- Rebecca outlined government funding announcements in relation to long day care and kinder and financial implications of these announcements. Key announcements are childcare support package (increase CCS), job keeper, and PAYG rebates.
- Key issue – Government CCS funding only kicks in from 2 April, but govt expectation is that we will back date to 23 March – leaving a 2 week gap
- This gap will be covered by PARG rebate and partially by increased CCS during week 2. Exec recommendation is to backdate free daycare to 23 March, with any fees already paid for the period after 23 March to be applied as a credit for later use, rather than a refund (refund to be considered on case by case basis in exceptional circumstances).
- Committee voted to cover the cost to backdate free childcare to 23 March 2020.

Free kinder

- Key issue – Vic govt announced that they will cover cost of term 2 of 4 year old kinder. There has been no announcement regarding 3 year old kinder.

- 3y/o kinder is self funded, so it is unlikely there will be an announcement regarding this.
- Rebecca outlined costs - \$500 per family – approx. \$9000 per term
- Exec recommended that this should be covered by the centre due to low cost, equity for families, and as it can be covered by the PAYG rebates.
- Committee voted to approve free 3 year old kinder for term 2 only, with a decision on term 3 to be made closer to the time.

Buying and selling days

- With the establishment of free childcare during the pandemic, a risk was identified that parents may increasingly seek to access additional days of care through the established process of buying and selling days.
- This would go against the priorities of maintaining health and hygiene and ensuring health and safety of staff and children, and would become difficult for Janice and Nellie to manage.
- The committee voted to suspend the practice of buying and selling days. Any parents seeking to pick up extra days will be at the discretion of Janice and priority will be given to essential workers (people that are unable to work from home), vulnerable families, and people facing exceptional circumstances or hardship, while also considering the other needs to the centre such as staff health and safety/ social distancing, staff/ child ratios etc.

Actions to implement immediately:

- Geoff to draft letter to families outlining changes – to be sent by Thursday 9/4
- Carey to draft letter for staff


21/5/20