

TIME OUT

SPRING 2016, ISSUE 4



Reminder that OCCA is run by a Volunteer Management Committee, in 2014 we have been lucky to have a number of new members join the committee to lighten the load. But to ensure Occasional care services are not forgotten by government we need more help. If you would like to get involved no matter what state you are from please email us at occaust@gmail.com for more details.

Kidsnest –Crows Nest Occasional child care

*Message from President,
With the changing face of the Early Education sector, occasional care services need to be more aware of the world around them and for this OCCA has been involved in a number of reviews and government conversations.*

2014 was a busy one for OCCA in writing submissions to the Productivity Commission inquiry into Childcare and early learning and our reply to the Draft report. OCCA has also tried to attend as many workshops / inquiry hearings as we possible could during this review process. All out submissions can be found on the PC website www.pc.gov.au

Along with the PC inquiry there is a review into the NQF, the 2014 NQF review submissions were due 4th July 2014 OCCA made a submission into this review also, asking for OCC services to come in line with other program types and received the same funding as other program times for training and a reasonable leading time frame.

To ensure OCCA is up to date in with all Early learning and education matters across Australia we are involved in a number of committees and works with other peak bodies on these matters. If you would like more information on groups OCCA works with please email us at occaust@gmail.com

Along with all our submission writing we have been working with ECTRA to design online training for Occasional care services, these are now up and running on our website for you to sign up for.

In 2015 we have lots of exciting things we are working on including a conference, local educator and management groups networking catch ups. We hope these will enable services to met and work with other OCC services within your local area, If you would like to host one please email us at occaust@gmail.com.

Along with all those exciting things we are working on building stronger relationships with state and national peak bodies to ensure our sustainability, without building these relationships OCCA cannot survive. If you would like to be involved email us at occaust@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you and continuing to work with you and bring exciting information for OCC services.

*Carla Yeates
President*





OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE AND THE NQS

Although occasional care services are not quality rated against the National Quality Standard (NQS) by the regulatory authority, they must meet the requirements of relevant legislation such as the NSW Children (Education and Care Services) Supplementary Provisions Regulation 2012 which is already closely aligned with the requirements of the National Quality Framework (NQF) legislation.

Support for all forms of education and care to be included in the NQF will ensure positive outcomes for all children. We encourage occasional care services to develop systems to review their everyday practices, policies and procedures against the NQS. Assessment and Rating Resources from the ACECQA website are useful tools - such as the National Quality Standard Assessment and Rating Instrument and the Guide to the National Quality Standard. The instrument can be used to keep track of ongoing self-assessment and the guide can be regularly reviewed to learn more about each Standard. Services can be evaluating their current practices and identifying which practices they can or should improve. A great cycle of continuous improvement!

As strengths and key areas for improvement are identified, Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs) will guide how each service is engaged in continuous improvement. Through regular team meetings, educators will become more aware of how their individual or unique occasional care practices actually reflect the NQS. The flexibility of occasional care, such as the provision of care at short notice or on a casual basis has been identified as an additional strength particular to occasional care!

**Dose your service need some support within this area?
Contact OCCA to see how we can support you and your service
Occaust@gmail.com**



<https://education.gov.au/information-approved-occasional-care-providers#how-an-approved-occasional-care>

Settling in to new environments

Occasional child care is always settling new children within our environments, even more so at this time of year are welcoming new enrolments into your service environments, this can be stressful for both children and parents.

[Click here](#) to access an information sheet by Kids Matter featuring helpful tips and advice on how to manage distress for young children who are settling in to a new early childhood education and care setting.

Paid parental leave scheme abandoned

On Monday 2 February, Prime Minister Tony Abbott abandoned plans for an increased paid parental leave (PPL) scheme and instead committed to a families package focussed on child care. Mr Abbott promised wide consultation "on a way to improve the system of multiple payments, keep costs down, and put more money into parents' pockets".

OCCA believes that diverting funds from PPL into an area such as early childhood education and care will likely lead to more significant benefits.

[Click here to read the Draft Report.](#)

OCCA welcomes the increased focus on child care and looks forward to more detailed proposals and specific commitments to ensure the provision of quality early childhood education and care that supports high quality learning and developmental outcomes for Australian children.

[Click here to read Tony Abbott's speech.](#)

The state of Aboriginal children's wellbeing

Acting Commissioner for Children and Young People, Jenni Perkins, has released a policy brief which outlines the key data concerning the wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people in Western Australia. [Click here](#) to access the brief.

Let's create a better internet together

Tuesday 10 February is international [Safer Internet Day](#). The 2015 theme is 'Let's create a better internet together'. Downloadable posters and a virtual class room are among activities planned by [Australia's Cybersmart](#) to emphasise positive uses of the internet and respectful relationships. Information, blogs and resources for parents, educators, young children, teens and [Indigenous communities](#) are available [online](#).

Share a story

Children's Laureate, Jackie French has launched her [2015 Share a Story Calendar](#). With a different theme each month, the lively and colourful calendar encourages children to share, enjoy and create stories.

Givit Kids learning tools

The Givit Kids [website](#) offers video resources and fact sheets to help explore civics and citizenship with children. Approved by the Queensland Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE) and specifically targeted for Years 3, 5 and 6, the resources are a fun way to share lessons and values with all children.



Resources linking to NQF

Munch and Move linking to Quality Area 2 Children's Health and Safety

Munch & Move is NSW Health initiative that supports the healthy development of children birth to 5 years by promoting physical activity, healthy eating and reduced small screen time (e.g. watching TV or DVDs, playing on computers and small hand-held games devices). Even know it is a NSW initiative this doesn't mean other states and territories can't use the resources within your service.

Munch & Move offers training and resources to educators working in NSW early childhood education and care services. The training aims to assist educators to implement a fun, play-based approach to supporting healthy eating and physical activity habits in young children. The Munch & Move program fits within the new National Quality Framework and the Early Years Learning Framework.

Visit the website for more information [Click here](#)



Are you SunSmart centre yet?

Early childhood services across Australia can also be awarded SunSmart status and acknowledged for their past and ongoing efforts around skin cancer prevention.

To learn more about the program in your state or territory click on the map below or call Cancer Council 13 11 20. Join the program [click here](#)



Rattler Article: *NQS In the Spotlight – Educational health and safety* by Eliza Metcalfe and Professor Frank Oberklaid | [PDF download](#)

Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services (5th Edition) | <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/ch55>

Australian Dietary Guidelines | [Visit website](#)

Healthy Eating for Children | [PDF download](#)

Get Up & Grow: Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Early Childhood - Staff/Carers Book

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/phd-gug-staffcarers>

Current Immunisation Schedule |

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/nips-ctn>

National Quality Standard Professional Learning Program | <http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nasplp>

PSC Alliance Library | <http://www.ipsplibrary.net.au/cgi-bin/koha/opac-search.pl?limit=mc-ccode%3ACHS&q>

Food Standards | <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

Allergies www.allergyfacts.org.au

www.allergy.org.au

Asthma | [Visit website](#)



**WOMBAT OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE
EMERGENCY EVACUATION EXPERIENCE 26.6.14**

OUR EXPERIENCE

We all do our quarterly emergency evacuation and lock down procedures and evaluate the process in preparation for the real thing and hope the real thing never happens.

Well it does happen and the next thing you know you are wheeling 7 under 2 year olds in a cot and herding 11 over 2 year olds up the road 400 metres from the centre to be greeted by emergency services and police in the local park reserve.



How it all started... a Westfield tradesman worker entered the centre to advise us that there was a gas pipe issue down the road and our carpark would be closed for a few hours and not to be concerned apart from the inconvenience of parents getting to the service.

We as a team made the decision to do a lock down procedure and bring all the children inside, closing all windows and doors.

Just as all the parents' had been contacted regarding redirections to get to the service a police officer turned up at our back door advising us we needed to evacuate immediately.

I'm so proud of my team of staff who acted calm and fast to move our children to safety. The children thought we were on an amazing adventure!

At the park parents and guardians were contacted and reassured of their child's safety. We kept the children entertained as it took over an hour for some parents to get to us due to the road closures and traffic.

Afterwards we discovered we had made the news and reflected on how stressful the event was. Parents showed great appreciation with how we dealt with the situation.

In evaluating this unique event and sharing this experience with you please -

-Make sure the Certified Supervisor has their mobile phone on them at all times and with enough battery power.

-Have a game or special experience organized, like a parachute, in the emergency evacuation bag. We were in the park for a while, keeping the children calm and occupied was very important.

Written by Sarah

Director Wombat Occasional Child Care

If you would like to tell your story please email us at occaust@gamil.com

Quality Area 2 - Children's health and safety – Policies and procedures

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals in the environment • Bottle safety and preparation • Child protection • Cleaning and maintaining the environment • Clothing and footwear • Dental health • Emergency and Evacuation • Excursions • First aid • Hygiene and infection control • Arrival and departure • Incidents, injury, trauma illness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication administration Medication and health statement • Nappy change • Nutrition/ food/ beverages/ dietary requirements • Providing safe environment • Safe sleep and rest times • Safe storage of dangerous goods • Smoke free environment • Sun protection • Toileting • Water safety |
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Professional development training sessions

OCCA is pleased to announce that members will have the opportunity to access and participate in online professional development training sessions through ECTARC (Early Childhood Training and Development Centre). Each session is 1.5 hours.

Upon completion of a session a Statement of Participation will be issued to the participant. Topics for this year are:

- Embracing the Early Years Learning Framework
- A place to be me – Creating welcoming and intriguing spaces for children
- Communication and team building
- Guiding children's behaviour

To register visit <http://www.ectarc.com.au/OCCA/occa-registration-form>

For more information please email us at occaust@gmail.com

WA working with children check training

The Working with Children Screening Unit delivers regular workshops to provide organisations and individuals with information about meeting their responsibilities under the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004*.

This workshop aims to 'bust' many of the myths and misconceptions about the WWC Check and child protection.

Attend a free session to find out more about the WWC Check, your obligations and child safeguarding strategies!

[Click here to view the 2015 Perth metropolitan schedule.](#)

Who should attend?

- HR managers and administrators;
- managers of people in child-related work;
- tertiary managers/administrators responsible for student placement in child-related work;
- volunteer coordinators or member protection officers from volunteer or sporting organisations who are responsible for overseeing WWC Checks;
- anyone responsible for recruiting or managing WWC Checks in their organisation; or
- self employed people in child-related work.

If you have a story you would like to share or there is something you would like to see in TimeOut email us at occaust@gmail.com

