



FAR NORTH QLD

LOOP

JANUARY 2009

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

It's regional loop time again!

SPECIAL POINTS OF

- Regional Roundup
- Professional Support Network
- Frequently Asked Questions
- CCMS Update
- Exchange Program
- Australia Wide Conferences
- Northern Regions Activity Calendar

NEED TO CONTACT PSCQ?

Phone
1800 112 585

Web www.pscq.org.au

Email
pscq@workforce.org.au

Your North Queensland
Project Officer is -

Peter Demopoulos

For more information check out
the website at
www.pscq.org.au
or give us a call on the PSCQ
free call number —
1800 112 585.

Welcome to a divine 2009.

The Far North Queensland regional loop is for all child care professionals, and has specific information and articles on events and issues that affect the Far North region.

The Professional Support Network PSN for the Far North region has been busy planning the first six months of professional support that will be offered to the region. For more information please refer to the **Far North Queensland** section of the Northern Regions activity calendar.

The role of the PSN is to...

- Identify and prioritise professional support needs for the Far North Queensland region;
- Nominate possible Professional Support Service Providers (PSSPs);
- Assist with the allocation of regional funding for professional development and support to address the prioritised needs for the Far North Queensland region;
- Evaluate the professional support activities;
- Ensure that all the child care services in your region have the opportunity to contribute to their professional support;
- Gather feedback from all stakeholders and to inform the region of upcoming events, proceedings and decisions.

The PSN have again identified the importance of local and regional workshops ensuring a range of professional development opportunities will continue to be offered over the Far North Queensland region, including events in Cairns and in varied locations within the identified hubs of south Cairns (Mission Beach, Innisfail & Tully), north Cairns (Port Douglas & Mossman), west Cairns (Atherton & Mareeba) and far north Cairns (Cooktown & Weipa). Events will also continue to be offered at a range of times and on various days to attempt to meet the needs of both service types and individuals.

Your regional loop will be produced quarterly and if you have any ideas for information to be included please don't hesitate to contact the Townsville office.



CCMS UPDATE

CCMS Update January 2009

The transition to CCMS for services is in full swing with many already using the new system. The information sessions run by PSCQ to support services are winding down; however information from these sessions, including power point presentations, handouts and Frequently Asked Questions, is available on the PSCQ website under 'useful links'. For information on availability of future sessions please contact the PSCQ Office.

Remember, under legislation, all services that are claiming CCB for families **must** be transitioned by July 2009.

If you have any questions about the transition process contact the CCMS Helpdesk

CONTACT THE CCMS HELPDESK

1300 667 276 phone | 1300 663 429 fax

ccmshelpdesk@deewr.gov.au | www.deewr.gov.au

and follow the links

Helpdesk hours 8:00am – 8.30pm AEST



CCMS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If a foster family is claiming CCB are they a formal enrolment?

If they are liable for the child care fees, then they may be eligible for CCB and, if they provide CRNs and DOBs, a formal enrolment can be created.

If a foster family is not claiming CCB are they AMEP/Other enrolment?

If they are not liable for the child care fees, then they are not eligible for CCB. An AMEP/Other enrolment should be used if a third party is liable for the child care fees.

A child who normally attends after school care is suspended from school and does not attend care for the day/s they are suspended and has had more than 42 days absence. Is the family able to claim additional absence day/s so they are eligible for CCB?

No. The valid reasons for an additional absence are:

- illness (with a medical certificate)
- an outbreak of infectious disease, when the child is not immunised
- any other absences due to sickness of the child, a parent or sibling, supported by medical certificates
- a parent being on a rotating shift or rostered day off
- temporary school closure/pupil free day
- shared care arrangements due to a court order, consent order or parenting order
- a period of local emergency
- attendance at pre-school
- exceptional circumstances

Reference: pages 184 – 192 CCMS Child Care Services Handbook
Section I (Absences) – Child Care Providers FAQ – CCMS webpage

What type of enrolment will a child need to allow parents to claim the tax rebate?

Parents will need to provide a CRN and have a formal enrolment for their child to enable them to claim the Child Care Tax Rebate.

If a parent wants to claim the Tax Rebate and brings their CRN in to the service sometime during the financial year (for example May) would the service need to formalise the enrolment and then cancel attendances for the child back to July 1 and resubmit new attendances under the formal enrolment?

The process of formalising the enrolment by adding CRNs (and checking that dates of birth were entered correctly) is all that is needed. Any attendance data stored against the informal enrolment will automatically be passed from DEEWR to Centrelink/FAO upon the successful formalisation of the enrolment.

For more answers to questions raised during the PSCQ CCMS Sessions go to the PSCQ website and look under "Useful Links".



EXCHANGE PROGRAM UPDATE

Newsflash PSCQ Exchange Program Goes Statewide in 2009!

2009 promises to be an exciting year for the PSCQ Exchange Program with the news that participants from North Queensland will be able to visit services anywhere in the state.

The 2008 pilot was a resounding success, with participants and host services agreeing unanimously that it is an extremely valuable and worthwhile professional development opportunity.

"The best professional development I have been on."

Lisa from Kookaburra Child Care Centre Mackay

"The exchange was very exciting and gave me great ideas and knowledge. Thank you."

Jade from Longreach Child Care Centre

During the pilot, 13 participants across North Queensland took the opportunity to visit other services to collect new ideas and form professional networks. These participants came from a variety of service types and visited services either in their own region or in another region; the choice was theirs. PSCQ organised the visits and provided funds to cover the cost of travel, accommodation and replacement staff (How good is that? Almost unbelievable, I know!).

The program now boasts over 30 services — and growing — who have taken up the challenge to become Host Services. These services offer participants the chance to visit a variety of service types across North Queensland including services in major cities, remote areas and indigenous communities. In 2009 the pool of host services will be extended to include services across all of Queensland.

Thank you to all the participants and host services involved the pilot in 2008. Without your willingness to be part of this innovative program it would not have been possible to continue to offer such a unique professional development opportunity again in 2009.

If you are interested in becoming a participant or Host Service in this exciting program or would just like some information on the program please contact the Exchange Program Coordinator Fay Edwards phone **0408 062 042** or email fayedwardsconsultant@hotmail.com

Exchange Stories...

Lisa, Angela and Jennifer from Kookaburra Child Care Centre made the most of the opportunity to learn from and share with others when they went to visit services in Cairns. These three motivated ladies specifically wanted to visit services that run programs based on the emergent curriculum. They were absolutely thrilled to find that, over the 5 day exchange, they had the chance to visit not one, not two, but three services. The opportunity to have three staff members participate in the exchange at the same time had the added advantage of a high level of enthusiasm when sharing the new ideas they had experienced on their return to their service in Mackay. The wonderful Directors and staff from Balaclava Road Child Care Centre, Smithfield Child Care Centre and Cairns TAFE Community Child Care Centre welcomed these participants into their services and ensured they went back to

Mackay loaded up with lots of new ideas. A special thank you to oanne, the Director from Balaclava Road, who made time during her busy week to take these ladies on field trips to visit other services. The commitment and professionalism shown by these host services was truly fantastic. Good luck Lisa, Angela and Jennifer with implementing your new ideas!



Lynda and Luke gathering resources

Luke is the Coordinator of an OSHC Program in Normanton. He spent his 5 days visiting the Marian OSHC Service. Luke is new to the industry and coming from such a remote area was keen to learn as much as he could about policy, programming, activities and useful resources. Thanks to Lynda and her fantastic team at Marian OSHC he went back to Normanton with resource folders and baskets of resources that were bursting at the seams with useful material. Not only did Luke learn a lot while he was visiting Marian, he now has created a support network with a very dedicated team who can also assist him in the future. An extra special thank you to Lynda, who gave up a considerable amount of her time to help Luke.

Be part of the adventure in 2009 and explore new horizons.



REMOTE AREA ADVISORS VISITS

Dates for the Remote Area Advisors visits in the North West region for February - June 09

10th - 17th May 2009

Cooktown & Weipa

- Cape Kids Long Day Care, Weipa Family Day Care, Barrier Reef Child Care, Endeavour Family Day Care

HURRY! REGISTRATIONS MUST CLOSE
WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY



EXPLORING OPTIONS *finding solutions*

EARLY YEARS & CHILD CARE disABILITY INCLUSION CONFERENCE: CAIRNS

SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2009 | 9:00AM-4:30PM

AUSTRALIA WIDE CONFERENCES 2009

* CHECK THE WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

The neurobiology of childhood trauma and attachment - Understanding the brain science of modern attachment theory and its relevance to practice with children, young people and families.

20 March 2009, Mercure Hotel, Brisbane

<http://www.childhood.org.au/training/event.asp?story=13732>

Protecting Children Today Conference 2009 (PACT 09)

25-27 March 2009, Sebel & Citigate King George Square, Brisbane

<http://www.pact09.eventplanners.com.au/>

Family Day Care Australia National Conference 2009

20-23 May 2009, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart

<http://www.cdesign.com.au/fdc2009/>

Fourth national conference for the Australian college for child and family protection practitioners

22 -24 May, 2009, Rydges, Southbank, Brisbane

<http://www.accfpp.org.au/events.htm>

Early Childhood Education Conference

<http://www.togetherwegrow.com.au/>

29-30 May 2009, Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne.



Childcare Queensland annual conference

24-26 July 2009, Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast

http://www.childcareqld.org.au/media_events.htm

2009 ARACY Conference: Transforming Australia for our children's future: Making prevention work

2-4 September 2009, Melbourne

<http://www.aracyconference.org.au/index.php> (Call for abstracts open until 30 April)

Third Australasian Early Childhood Education for Sustainability Conference

Engage Empower Enact: Sustainability and the Early Years

22-24 October, 2009, Melbourne

<http://www.cccvic.org.au/images/EESEY%20Conference%202009.pdf>

Asia Pacific Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

15-18 November, 2009, Perth

<http://www.napcan.org.au/index.htm>

Birth to Three 2009 Conference

28-29 May, 2009, Surfers Paradise

<http://www.communitiesforchildrenwwk.org.au/>



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where can I find a registration form?

Flyers for events will be sent to your service at your designated mailing address and if available email address. Flyers can also be found on the website at www.pscq.org or call PSCQ on 1800 112 585

How do I register for professional development?

Please fill in all fields of the application table, making sure all names are written clearly and spelt correctly, as these names will be used for attendance certificates. If paying by credit card complete details and fax the application to 07 4760 9806. Do not post the original or a duplication of payment may occur. If paying by cheque or money order, fax your completed application to 07 4760 9806 then post the application form with payment to **H & CS WORKFORCE COUNCIL , Ground Floor, 303 Adelaide St BRISBANE 4000**

Please book early to avoid session cancellation due to lack of numbers or missing out on a place for a session. Many presenters have strict limitations on numbers attending and or cancellation policies.

Late registrations (Sent after the close date indicated on the flyer) may be accepted to fill sessions, please confirm registration with PSCQ prior to sending any details.

Note: Please check your service's eligibility for PSC training. If you are unsure, please contact PSCQ to confirm. Training may still be accessed, but a different fee will apply.

Do I need to send payment with registration?

Yes. Send your registration form with cheque, money order or credit card payment. **Certificates will not be issued without payment.** No payments can be accepted at the event.

My service requires an invoice before we can pay. What do I do?

The registration form is also a Tax Invoice.

My service requires a receipt. What do I do?

The registration form is also a Tax Invoice. A receipt will only be sent to you if requested at time of registration. The receipt can only be issued in the name of the person/service making the payment.

Will I receive confirmation?

Please consider that your application has been accepted unless we contact you upon receipt of your application to advise otherwise.

What are the fees?

All professional development is GST inclusive. Fees vary according to the length of the presentation and will be clearly identified on the event flyer.

Will sessions be cancelled?

PSCQ reserves the right to cancel or alter training arrangements, where necessary. Although every effort is made to ensure that sessions proceed as scheduled if required you will be advised of any cancellation or alteration.

I have not received my certificate?

PSCQ will not issue certificates until payment has been made and signed attendance sheets have been sighted from presenters. **Always remember to sign in when attending an event.**

Can I get a refund?

If you are sick or unable to be released from your service, you can nominate another person to attend in your place but you will need to advise PSCQ of their details so certificates of attendance can be altered. If you wish to cancel completely, you must tell us by phone, email, fax or mail no later than seven (7) working days in advance, indicating whether you wish to receive a refund or credit for use at a future session. **If you cancel with less than 7 working days notice or simply do not attend, refunds will not be given.**

Is food provided at training?

In the Mackay region the following will apply.

Full day courses have lunch and morning tea available. Half day courses receive morning or afternoon tea. Evening workshops will have a light supper available. Please notify PSCQ on your registration form if you have any special dietary-related needs.

How do I find the venue?

The name and address of the venue will be indicated on the flyer. Those registered to attend will be notified of any changes that may occur.

Is parking available?

Venue parking capacity is subject to each venue, day and time. If you are concerned you may like to contact the venue prior or always leave plenty of time before start time to ensure you can arrive on time.