



MACKAY

LOOP

JANUARY 2009

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Welcome to a divine 2009.

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

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

The role of the PSN is to:

- Identify and prioritise professional support needs for the 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 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.

This year will see the region offer professional development in some new and exciting formats. The Mackay region will start the year with a back to basics approach to Emergent Curriculum called '**Emergent Curriculum through Action Learning**'. The sessions will be presented as both an ongoing series where the participant must commit to attending all 4 parts of the series, as well as offering a number of individual workshops held in Moranbah, Clermont and Dysart on the topics. This type of professional development will become more common in 2009 with the PSN members looking at extending this type of reflective & ongoing learning series to other topics and issues. Information from the feedback sheets have overwhelmingly suggested that workshops need to be offered in this way.

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 Mackay region. 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 Townville office.

It's regional loop time again!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Regional Roundup
- Australia Wide Conferences
- Frequently asked questions
- Inclusion Support Agency
- CCMS Update
- Exchange Program
- 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.



EMERGENT CURRICULUM

With CARRIE ROSE



HURRY!

Registrations for each of the four-part action learning series that are available

MUST BE RECEIVED BY
MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2009

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/>

Early Intervention through Playgroup Conference

Our Families - Our future

6 March, 2009, Brisbane

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



INCLUSION SUPPORT AGENCY

Inclusion in Children's Services – Mackay Region

CONTACTS: Ruth O'Shaughnessy, Karen McMillan

Phone: 49554248

Fax: 49554188

Email: ruth.icsmky@bigpond.com



Inclusion: Inclusive child care services enable children with disabilities, children from CALD backgrounds and Indigenous children to access and participate successfully in children's services. The sense of belonging maximises learning opportunities, particularly learning English as a second language.

Inclusive child care environments have the following characteristics:

- They work in partnership with families and their extended networks;
- They build on the strengths of the child care community;
- They use flexible programming approaches that are responsive to individual strengths, interests and needs;
- They respect and respond to families' cultural values, needs and circumstances;
- They provide welcoming and engaging environments that are responsive to all children and their families;
- They create links through networking with other relevant services and supports.

ISPS handbook Draft guidelines

Inclusive Strategies & Behavioural Interventions for use in a Child Care Environment

Gather some background information from parents on child's interests and strengths, and ask them to send in a favourite toy, video/dvd, cuddle rug or similar to use if child becomes upset.

Plan the daily events to a strict routine and talk to the child about what is coming up next. Have pictorial cues to accompany the routine so the child can follow without having to process too much auditory information e.g.. Morning greeting, Outdoor play, Morning tea, Group-time, Music/Indoor play, Lunch-Rest, Afternoon Activities

Establish familiar end times for transitions such as a particular song for the end of group time e.g.. "Bye Bye (name of child) it's time to wash your hands".

Give plenty of warning when finishing outdoor play and talk about what happens next.

Give short, one-step instructions for child to follow and wait until understood before giving further instructions.

Plan activities to give the child plenty of opportunity to be successful thus building their self-esteem.

Redirect aversive behaviour with a calm voice and use group time to talk about social behaviours in a positive way. e.g.. Sharing, hands to yourselves, listening. Use stories and picture cues to re-enforce.

Ensure experiences provided are within the child's capabilities of maintaining attention.

Positively reinforce all appropriate behaviour and re-direct inappropriate actions.

Use consistent language and consequences.

Having a calm environment that promotes emotional security through consistency is an ideal way to introduce a child to this type of setting so always plan some quiet activities to enjoy with the children and role-model how to enjoy these experiences.

Sitting down with the children at meal times also encourages them to follow this model. Try to have a smooth transition to rest time as this can often prompt oppositional behaviour. Use peers to demonstrate appropriate behaviours.

Remember that some days, some or all of the above are just not going to work! Don't be discouraged or hard on yourselves. Keep it simple and recognise that everyone has a bad day (including us). Use these days as an opportunity to be flexible within your planning routines and structures and to observe children's interests and play behaviours.

Taken from Carata 2001 "Ideas for Inclusion and Programming Tips Book 2"



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
State Wide 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.

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 Joanne, 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!



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





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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.