



# NORTH WEST QLD

# LOOP

JANUARY 2009

## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Welcome to a divine 2009. The North West Queensland regional loop is for all child care professionals, and has specific information and articles on events and issues that affect the North West Queensland region.

The Professional Support Network (PSN) have now been established for 2.5 years, in their role guiding the professional support in the North West region. The networks consist of members across a range of child care service types, management types and geographical sites within each region. A vacancy currently exists for a member from the Gulf region to join the group. Your current net work is made up of the following members:

**Elaine Hardwick (FDC Mt Isa),  
Representatives from RAFS Mt Isa and RAFS Longreach  
Robyn Caslick (OSHC Mt Isa)  
Irene Eldridge (LDC, FDC Longreach)  
Cathy De Satge (LDC Mt Isa),  
Amanda O'Connell (LDC, Cloncurry),  
Kris Cleuren (ISA)**

The PSN for the North West has been busy planning the first six months of professional support that will be offered to the region. Please refer to the **North West Queensland** 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 another major conference presented in the North West Region, and we are thrilled to announce world class presenters including Robyn Moore, Dr John Irvine, Rhonda Davidson Irwin, Alice Brown and Susan Elliott have all confirmed their attendance at this conference.

The region will also be offering professional development opportunities using online training through the One World For Children service that we trust may offer a new dimension and more accessibility to our services based in regional and remote locations.

And finally we are pleased to announce that the Exchange Program will continue to offer some amazing opportunities in 2009 (see article in this loop.)

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.

*It's regional loop time again!*

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Regional Roundup
- Professional Support Network
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Inclusion Support Agency
- CCMS Update
- Exchange Program
- Online Professional Development
- Northern Regions Activity Calendar

**NEED TO  
CONTACT PSCQ?**

**Phone  
1800 112 585**

**Web [www.pscq.org.au](http://www.pscq.org.au)**

**Email  
[pscq@workforce.org.au](mailto:pscq@workforce.org.au)**

**Your North Queensland  
Project Officer is -**

***Peter Demopoulos***

For more information check out the website at **[www.pscq.org.au](http://www.pscq.org.au)** or give us a call on the PSCQ free call number — **1800 112 585.**



## **INCLUSION SUPPORT AGENCY**

**CONTACT:** Kris Cleuren

ICAN (Inclusion of Children with Additional Needs)

**Phone/ Fax:** 47435888

**Email:** [includi@bigpond.net.au](mailto:includi@bigpond.net.au)

**Location:** 71 Camooweal St, Mount Isa

\* We provide support to eligible child care services in Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Richmond, Hughenden, Doomadgee, Normanton, Karumba and Mornington Island.



ICAN is funded under the Commonwealth Inclusion and Professional Support Program.

**The objectives of this program are:**

- To build the capacity of child care services to promote and maintain high quality care and inclusion for all children;
- To support the attendance and participation at child care services of children with additional needs from the following priority groups: children with a disability, children from culturally and linguistically diverse and/or humanitarian refugee backgrounds, and Indigenous children; and
- To promote good practice and continuous improvement in the delivery of professional development and inclusive practice.

ICAN's main role is to assist child care services to build the knowledge and capacity they need to create an inclusive environment for all children. In this way, all children, including children with additional needs, can participate in the activities available in child care services, and have the same opportunities to learn, develop and succeed.

There is a range of practical supports available to assist child care services. These include:

- Service Support Plan
- Bicultural Support
- Flexible Support Funding
- Inclusion Support Subsidy
- Assisted Inclusion Readiness Plan

Further, ICAN supports child care services in North West Queensland through a:

- Bi-monthly newsletter
- Remote Info Pack (sent to services located outside of Mount Isa 3 x per year)
- Provision of inclusive programming ideas and resources

As many of the child care workers in the North West will know, my long-time colleague and friend, Illangi Karunatillake, left ICAN last year to move to Adelaide. Her departure meant that regular visits to child care centres were suspended for the last six months. We are hoping to resume visits this year as soon as the ISAF vacancy has been filled.

*ICAN currently has a vacancy for an Inclusion Support Facilitator, based in Mount Isa, for 20 hours per week. The successful applicant will support child care services in the North West Queensland region to include children with additional needs. Regional travel will be required. SACS level 4-5 will apply, depending on qualifications and experience. For further information please contact the ICAN office, Ph. 4743 5888.*



## 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](mailto:ccmshelpdesk@deewr.gov.au) | [www.deewr.gov.au](http://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. 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](mailto:fayedwardsconsultant@hotmail.com)

### Exchange Stories...

Bobbie, Tania and Jade from Longreach Child Care Centre made the most of the opportunity to learn from and share with others when they took it in turns to leave their service and went to visit services across North Queensland. They decided that they would gain a wealth of ideas and knowledge by visiting services in different regions. Bobbie headed to Townsville and spent her 5 days exploring the playrooms and the administration area of Mike Reynolds Child Care Centre to gain some fresh ideas. Starr, the Director of Mike Reynolds and her wonderful staff welcomed Bobbie into their service and made sure she went home loaded up with information. A special thank you to Starr who made time during her busy week to take Bobbie to visit another service, Kennedy Place, so she could gain even more benefit from the visit.

*"I hope the exchange program is able to continue, as it is a very good opportunity to view observe how other centres and staff up and operate. Especially for young staff and staff who have only been at one centre." Bobbie*

Tania set off to Cairns to visit Smithfield Child Care Centre. He was very interested to see firsthand how this service programs using the emergent curriculum philosophy. Tania was so inspired by her experience that she wrote a wonderful poem. Thank you to Kathy and her fantastic team at Smithfield for welcoming Tania and ensuring she discovered lots of useful information.

*"Great experience, I would definitely go somewhere else if I'm able" Tania*

Jade decided that Mackay was the place to be. Lyndal, the Director, and her wonderful staff at St Francis Child Care Centre welcomed Jade for her 5 day visit. She was very excited to spend time checking out each of the play rooms and talking to the staff to gather valuable ideas to take back to Longreach.

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

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



# ***From the Bush to the Beach***

Monday left Longreach, Yep I was off to the beach  
To observe how another Centre operates,  
not doing much Work mate  
Two plane rides it took, and didn't even get Crook  
My first impression of Cairns decided with ease.  
LOOK TREES! And lots o them if you please!  
It rained and wasn't even hot  
To put all my thoughts here would take me an age, and they wouldn't fit on this page  
Tuesday a 20 minute taxi, the driver- "do you know where it is dear?"  
No I said, Very Clear  
We found it, Smithfield Childcare Centre it said above the door  
I couldn't wait to get inside so I could see more.  
First impressions WOW gardens! Lots of colour and information  
I was met at administration  
They have a Kitchen and two Cooks who provide the kids meals  
I reckon that is one of the great deals  
Four rooms they operate, each one behind a short gate  
The preschoolers were my first to visit  
The Kids rocked out to Suzi Quattro and Boom Crash Opera?  
I think that is it.  
It rained and it wasn't even hot  
Wednesday, the taxi driver- "I've never been there you see"  
I gave him directions he should have paid me!  
The Kindy room was next on my list  
One of them made me a seat.  
I thought that was kind of neat.  
It rained and it wasn't even hot  
Thursday the taxi-driver "sorry I don't know where it is"  
I showed him so he wouldn't get in a tis  
The toddlers room where I spent most of my time laughing  
Lots of Characters in there  
and some who did not want to share  
It rained and it wasn't even hot  
Friday the taxi driver had no idea where to go  
after four days you'd think they would have it though  
The babies were the last ones to see  
We had fun playing hide and seek  
but some of them just wouldn't peek.  
And it wasn't even hot  
The staff are friendly, like a family and there are lots more in the bunch  
Guess what? They mostly stay in for lunch.  
The program is similar to ours, the emergent way  
with each individuals touch makes it more fun for the kids to Play  
The separate quiet rooms was interesting,  
for group times and kids resting  
I am envious of the outside environment  
and the way each has the inside decorated, brilliant  
It felt like home and I wasn't home at all,  
and the Kids well they just have a ball  
I had a great time sharing ideas,  
leaving the place I nearly was in tears  
When got off the plane guess what  
It was very, very hot!  
I am happy to be at home now although it is a little bright  
I am relieved to know that there's not one taxi in sight!

*By Tania Wakefield Longreach Child Care Centre*

*Thanks to the Smithfield Centre Director, staff and PSCQ  
This exchange program is an absolutely great idea; you should try it, too!*

# REMOTE AREA ADVISORS VISITS

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

## 1st - 8th February 2009 Longreach & Winton

- Longreach District & Rural in home care & OSHC, Longreach FDC, Longreach RAFS, Little Swaggies

## 1st - 8th March 2009 Hughenden & Cloncurry

- Cloncurry MFC, Cloncurry PCYC, Julia Creek Kindy & LDC, Richmond EEC, Richmond OSHC, Hughenden Kindy & LDC, NO Remote FDC

## 15th - 22nd April 2009 Mt Isa & Boulia

- Mt Isa Day Nursery & Kindy, St Pauls, Captain Kid CCC, Mt Isa PCYC, Eumalga CC, Mt Isa FDC, Mt Isa RAFS

## 21st - 28th June 2009 Normanton, Croyden & Karumba

- Normanton CCC, Normanton OSHC, Croyden CCC, Croyden OSHC, Karumba CC

If you are a target service in the North West region and are not on this list please call Peter Demopoulos on 1800 112 585 to discuss your eligibility to this service.

## 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

29-30 May 2009, Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne.

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

Childcare Queensland annual conference

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

[http://www.childcareqld.org.au/media\\_events.htm](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>





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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](http://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.