

 4 May 2018

Dear Carinya Families,

A quick letter to apprise you of the new daily fee for Long Day Care (LDC) from 2 July 2018 and to encourage you to ensure that you are ready for the new Child Care Subsidy replacing Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR).

In April 2017, Committee wrote to families with information about the coming fee increase for July 2017. At the time it was decided that fees would increase to $101 per day and that further increases would occur after that, only at the start of a Calendar year in January.

As the beginning of 2018 approached, it was clear that with savings through our budget, (as outlined briefly in our latest - April – newsletter), we could wait for six months and hold the next increase to July 2018 instead.

Carinya has an enviable record as a continuing financially sustainable service that has met the challenges and changes that have been a constant in the children’s services sector for many years. We are known far and wide (we have even been mentioned in the halls of Canberra!) for the longevity and consistency of quality programs that our families value.

As previously communicated to families last year, fee increases will continue to be limited to the range of 4 – 5 percent once a year. As this July 2018 increase is being introduced 6 months later than previously proposed, Committee will review the timeframe for the next increase in conjunction with any impact of the introduction of the new Child Care Subsidy.

Our fees are on par with other childcare centres in Castlemaine but significantly below the cost of care available in Bendigo and Melbourne from commercial operators whose practices are very different to our own as their aim is for significant financial return for their owners and shareholders. Carinya is 100% not-for-profit. It exists because a parent-governed not-for-profit centre is an excellent model for ensuring that children are provided with highly qualified staff, practices that provide for individual attention and focus for children, great food and maintaining a clean facility with lovely play areas and grounds.

Please note also that from Monday 4 June, EFTPOS will attract a 2% fee when paying fees using this method. This provides a month of lead in time should families decide to change to the way they make payment. Any queries, please speak to Lisa or Bec in the office.

We are always looking for members of our community who can provide skills, services and volunteer time to supplement our costs or add value to the facilities and services we already offer. Please contact a member of the Committee of Management if you are interested in assisting in any way.

***Please note from 2 July 2018, the LDC daily fee will increase to $106 from the current $101.***

Yours Sincerely,

Carinya Committee of Management,

Geoff Turner, Flynn Hart, Daria Healy Aarons, Kiera McDonald and Zoe Edquist.