

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

COMMUNITY HEALTH – CORONAVIRUS (COVID -19) UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

The National Cabinet met on Sunday, and the Prime Minister confirmed that schools will remain open at this time. We appreciate your understanding as we navigate these unprecedented events.

Please be aware of the following updates with regards to our Centre protocols and procedures.

International Travel - Families and Staff:

Based on guidelines from the Australian Government, if you are travelling to any country outside of Australia, we would ask you to self-isolate upon your return to Australia for 14 days.

If you do intend to travel overseas or if you have visitors staying with you from overseas, we continue to request that you notify us via email. Email littlegenesis@genesis.qld.edu.au

If you have been in close contact with someone who already has novel coronavirus:

- You need to self-isolate for 14 days from the last date of contact with the confirmed case.
- For further health advice please visit the Department of Health [website](#).

Internal Protocols the Centre will be undertaking:

- Several hand sanitiser stations are located around the Centre with parents and staff asked to use hand sanitiser upon entering and exiting the Centre. Children will be assisted with washing their hands regularly throughout the day, particularly before and after toileting and eating.
- All children with cold or flu like symptoms will have their temperature taken. If their temperature is higher than the normal range (38° or higher), parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child. In this case, we would ask parents to keep their child at home until they are well.
- If your child is unwell and you are at all concerned, please keep them home and seek medical advice.

The information on the following page regarding assistance available for families, has been issued by the Australian Government specifically for Childcare providers and services.

Yours sincerely,

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Assistance available for families (Department of Education)

Access to Australian Government subsidies

Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) are a family's entitlement, based on their individual circumstances, used for subsidising the cost of child care to help them undertake work-related activities. Importantly, the general application of CCS and ACCS is that it can only be paid where services are open and providing care, with the exception of public holidays or when a period of local emergency has been declared.

Additional Child Care Subsidy (temporary financial hardship)

ACCS (temporary financial hardship) is available to provide short-term support to families experiencing a significantly reduced ability to pay child care fees, such as if the parent lost income due to being unable to attend work. Eligible families will receive a subsidy equal to the actual fee charged by the child care service, up to 120 per cent of the CCS hourly rate cap. In most cases, the full cost of child care will be covered. It can be accessed for up to 13 weeks and eligible families are entitled to up to 100 hours of subsidised child care per fortnight. Families will be required to provide supporting evidence of a substantial reduction in their ability to pay child care fees, such as an email from their employer.

Absences from child care

Where services are open, reporting of absences for families whose child/ren cannot attend child care due to COVID-19 is supported by the existing arrangements as outlined below:

- Whether a child is actually ill or not, including where a child does not attend care as part of the family's own precautionary measure against potential contact with COVID-19, CCS can be paid for up to 42 absence days per child, per financial year, without the need for families to provide documentation.
- Once a child's 42 absences have been used, CCS can be paid for additional absences for a reason defined in the Family Assistance Law, including illness. Evidence is required to be kept by the provider for any additional absences claimed, e.g. a doctors certificate.
- **If a child is not ill** and does not attend care (as part of the family's own precautionary measure against potential contact with COVID-19), some medical practitioners may support families by providing a medical certificate allowing them access to additional absences, if required.
- **If a child is not ill** and does not attend care **for a longer period of time** (for example, a month or longer), the family may wish to follow the established advice around longer absences, noting that an enrolment automatically ceases when a child does not attend care for 14 weeks.