

Ipswich Family Day Care was established in 1983 and was the only family day care service in our local area for the first 28 of the past 33 years. We currently have around 50 educators providing education and care for over 200 hundred families. Educators and families are supported by an experienced administration and three and four year trained early childhood specialist team. Our service is licenced under Family Day Care Association Qld.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION 8.5 - Nannies

We believe that FDC is well positioned to support the Commission's proposal of introducing Nannies. Our FDC service is keen to explore this possibility as we have existing staff with NQF knowledge, and experience as well as infrastructure. We are interested in how the NQF and safety can be maintained in a Nanny model of providing education and care and meeting the needs of families.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION 5.1

We have concerns in regards to the recommendation of withdrawing Family Tax Benefits for families not wishing to send their child to an 'approved kindergarten program'. Families have the rights to choose the educational program they believe best suits their child.

Currently there is no model for FDC to deliver an approved Kindy Program. A suggested example solution is to consider an e-Kindy model to support FDC to deliver a Kindy program to four year olds in FDC.

There are 191,260 children currently in Family Day. Many families choose FDC for their child's Kindy Year to meet their child's needs, or their family work situation.

With the proposed FTB changes families choosing FDC for their four year olds will be penalised because of their choice of ECEC that best suits their child's needs and family situation. The following are examples of situations where parents rely on FDC for their child's Kindy year and are not able to access an 'approved Kindergarten program'.

- A. A child, four years old is given notice to leave a child care centre because of behaviour issues due to a yet undiagnosed disability. Both parents working, and they find a suitable placement for their child in FDC. In a smaller, secure environment the child experiences an extra year to develop socially and emotionally and learn better coping skills and happily completes his Kindy year in FDC.
- B. Children with developmental and medical conditions and low immunity, due to increased chances of infection and higher care needs are unable to attend a large ECEC centre or Kindy program. If not for FDC as a childcare option one parent would not be able to continue in the workforce.

C. Parents who start or finish work outside of the hours that childcare centres operate rely on FDC.

Other reasons families have decided on FDC for their Kindy child:

- For some children and at times for the younger Kindy cohort the security and resilience skills gained in a smaller environment better prepares them for their first Prep school year.
- Children with developmental delays with or without a diagnosis benefit from another year of developmental maturity with more individualized attention in a smaller environment.

Family Day Care also provides for play sessions where children have the opportunity to mix with a larger group of children. We support children and families in their transition to school.

DEEMED COST

In 2013 our service achieved a rating of "Exceeding National Quality Standards". We believe this the result of the coordination team and Educators embracing the NQF changes in our industry and being committed to best outcomes for children.

We are however, with the loss of the CSP faced with the choice of considerably reducing coordinator hours or increasing parent fees to maintain viability. If the deemed cost of FDC was equivalent to that of LDC which at the current proposed rate would be an increase of 69 cents per hour on the FDC rate this would allow us to continue to provide quality education and care while maintaining affordability for parents.