



Children's Services Funding Update

Communiqué – May 2009

Service Agreements

All children's services are now being sent their 2009/10 Service Agreement. It is important that services sign and return their 2009/10 Service Agreement to ensure that existing renewable funding payments continue in the normal manner.

There are no changes to funding for Vacation Care, Occasional Care or Early Childhood services.

Long day care (CCB approved) places will continue to receive the same level of recurrent funding as they received in the 2007/2008 financial year, but from 2008/2009 will not receive any increased funding (including indexation/CPI increases).

Preschool funding

The new approach to preschool funding was introduced in July 2008 to match funding levels to the actual characteristics of the children and community in which the preschool operates, and the pattern of usage of services by the community. The preschool funding model has now been through one cycle of funding and data collection.

The electronic data collection process introduced for the September representative week last year was very successful, thank you to all the services who submitted their data online and on time.

We are currently in the process of calculating preschool funding for 2009/10 using the September 2008 data collection. Preschools will be notified in July 2009 of their new funding levels based on the data reported in the 2008 data collection.

Any preschools not receiving an increase of funding under the new model will also be notified of this in July.

Accountability

Accountability documents for all funded children's services are due within four months of the end of the operating year - April for those services operating on a calendar year and October for those services operating on a financial year. Documents must include the services annual report and audited financial statements. All financial accountability documents are to be sent to the Regional Partnerships and Planning Team in your area and *not* DoCS Central Licensing Office. Details for regional P+P Teams can be found on the DoCS website:

www.community.nsw.gov.au/about_us/contact_us/regional_offices.html

PIRP Growth Phase

The Growth Phase of the Preschool Investment and Reform Plan is well under way. CareWest Inc and Community Child Care Cooperative have been working closely with services to determine the best strategies to increase preschool opportunities in the areas of most need. It is anticipated that places will be rolled out in stages from mid 2009.

If you would like to know more about the Growth Phase in your area you can contact:

- Jenny Nalder from CareWest Inc on ph: 02 6362 678, email: jennyn@cw.org.au or
- Melinda Wren from Community Child Care Coop on ph: 02 8922 6418, email: melindawren@cccncsw.org.au

General children's services funding enquiries can be emailed to childrens_services_funding@community.nsw.gov.au

