

End of 2014 - Xmas



E - NEWS

A message from your State Association



**Educators Association
of SA Inc**

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IT'S A TIME TO GIVE THANKS



WHAT WOULD WE BE WITHOUT PEOPLE:-

- Who believe in the rights of Educators
- Who believe in working to secure our future in FDC
- Who believe in being leaders

It's a time to give thanks and show our appreciation to not only people on our committee but all those who make the connection as colleagues to feedback, network, consult and write documents and e-news. For the hundreds of hours spent in consultation, for being constantly focused on what is happening in our industry and how it affects us. For updating our website and e-news to keep members informed.

How do you thank people who give up their time, energy and family commitments to ensure we get a fair deal?

Ro Redwood, Jenny Mitchell and Julianne Sonntag our country delegates who travel 1 ½ hours to each and every monthly committee meeting. A huge thank you. Policy Team who are constantly vigilant on changes affecting us.

Deniece Prosser – Treasurer who financially balances all we do and spend. Also assists sending our business planners and Finance Assistant

Juline Dimasi who has offered guidance to treasurer.

Priscilla Schwanz- Vice President and **Merrilyn Hannaford** –Policy Officer and both are also FDCA Board Members – Working extra hard for us.

Debbie Johnson-Keane- Secretary - for the many hours spent sending and receiving letters. Always busy and works 24 hours at her job.

Kerrie Waters and **Sonia Menzell** for much of our design and media in many roles, also the Australian Business Planner and new Logo Assoc Shirts.

Michelle Price who has assisted in the role of Website management.

Laura Kaczurowski, is part of our policy team also.

Gayle Noolan, President who has guided and been our association leader.

Shannon Green is our newest delegate and is a passionate educator who has fresh ideas and inspiration to the group.

It makes us truly proud to have such a great team of delegates, strong and vocal. Who are not afraid to face the hard questions and find the answers.

We are a Committee who pull together, communicate and put themselves as Leaders of our State in FDC and as SA Educators.

Thank you to past Association Delegates who have built the foundations of this Committee and thank you to the present Association Delegates who are building our future in partnership with Educators.

Let us

BELIEVE TOGETHER

We Can Together Build A Strong Future
For FDC in 2015 and Beyond



IT'S A TIME TO REMEMBER WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED



WHAT A YEAR TO REMEMBER WITH UPS & DOWNS - WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2014

NEW SERVICES AND NEW EDUCATORS WHO WORK IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

No longer is their one major DECD FDC in SA. We now have many other schemes and we now have many other Educators who are working in SA. The Association felt that it is important as a State Association that we represent all Educators in SA. Along with this idea is a network of things to consider like additional workload for the committee, broader communication needs, who sits on the committee as delegates and how that is determined. Conversation around this topic raised a number of interesting points and the main one being that the Association would no longer be predominately DECD educator delegates. It was also highlighted at the AGM that we as an Association need better membership & if we cannot get DECD Educators full support. We need to consider how we can remain sustainable/continue doing the work we do. Thank you to those who voted to expand our service and support all Educators in SA. It is a big step for your Association and careful planning is needed to implement.

RESTRICTION OF OPENING FDC SCHEMES Pleased that the Government will now monitor and has responded to Association submission regarding oversupply of FDC Schemes/Services. Not good for our industries future.

BABY EXPO 2014 Your Association supported FDCA with Baby Expo 2014 .

Talked with over 1,000 families about FDC and How Unique we are. An amazing 3 days spent supporting Educators with promoting SA FDC and how to access care. A huge thank you to committee for helping.

TRAINING NORTHERN LEARN 4 GOOD FDC Partnership with Educators from New F.D.C. Schemes in S.A Assist new service with Quality Assurance Issues to ensure we support our credibility and assist new Educators in quality practices. Thank you to them for inviting us to meet with them and assist them.

OPEN HOUSE FOR FDCA HILLS AND SUBURBAN TOUR Symposium for FDCA- Display SA FDC Premises. Thank you to all the Association Educators who welcomed visitors to our State. We truly displayed SA Hospitality from SA FDC.

SHARE RESOURCES WITH INTERSTATE EDUCATORS from interstate, including the FDC Adelaide Symposium Tour Groups. There was great enthusiasm with the Business Planner and we were happy to share our resource with other Educators to demonstrate what SA has designed and modelled.

FDCA JIGSAW -media sent regularly to FDCA for consideration of publication for SA news and although much did not get published we were happy to demonstrate that SA does amazing things.

PROVIDE ANSWERS TO EDUCATOR WHO RAISED CONCERNS Throughout the year we have answered many questions personally, assisted Educators with guidance, business needs and administration advice.

RESPOND TO THE ANIMAL CONTACT GUIDE- Ensure that regulations suit the needs of childcare workers & make sure it is work friendly to implement. Our submission ideas were included in the final draft-good outcome for FDC.

"STAND ALONE EDUCATOR" MODEL. Make recommendations to the Govt. Review of policy to extend the NQF to include these types of services- people who do childcare in other people's homes etc.

Ensure some quality practices as all childcare needs guidelines and some form of regulations.

RELIEF EDUCATOR/DECD MEETINGS AND SURVEY RESULTS to members – Very Positive Outcome for future planning and it was fantastic to have the support of our members to direct decisions made.

REGULATION IMPACT STATEMENT (RIS) FOR PROPOSED OPTIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK. Your Association has responded regarding changes recommended along with other sectors of the industry. This long and extensive document needs to be reviewed to keep it current and applicable to needs.

EDUCATORS RIGHTS REMOVED TO USE OWN SERVICE – WE WILL NOT STAND IT

While we support the intention of increased compliance, we believe the Government has failed to assess the direct impact on quality Family Day Care Educators and we are concerned that the restriction on Educators to access Family Day Care for their own children inhibits the right of a parent to work. Your Association has made it very clear that removal of any parents rights is a removal of our democratic right as a parent – equal opportunity denied. **OUR CORRESPONDENCE WAS STRONG AND FORCEFUL TO GOVERNMENT.**



• **IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING THE FDCA CAMPAIGN**

Highlight to the Commonwealth Government impacts on families and service delivery to the community. We encouraged keeping updated to the FDCA information and progress made regarding cuts to budget. The real impact of the campaign will not be known for some time. But this is a very serious debate. The importance of supporting FDCA cannot be undervalued. They are our peak body and are very much valued for the support offered to Educators and Association. Close partnership has been formed by this state and FDCA and your Association will be lobbying hard for a fair go. **We BELIEVE we deserve a FAIR GO**

• **FUNDING CUTS TO FDC OPERATION** Financial Impact for US as discussed with DECD Management

Serious conversation about how the cuts to Scheme Funding will affect educators.

We may have to consider supporting the FDC Business Model and that other states have for many years...Educator contribution included in planning. We need to consider that we no longer have a free ride and looking into the future we must all work together to build a sustainable framework where everyone works in partnership.

We don't know all the options yet but assure members that the Assoc. is at the table for discussion.

There is no doubt that Educators will need to listen to updated information and DECD have assured the Association that they will keep us informed in 2015 with what may be planned. Your Association will be vigilant in discussion and want to reassure all Educators and Staff that we will support sustainability and the future of our jobs and future in FDC – **Because we BELIEVE in Us as Unique**

• **BACK UP/RELIEF EDUCATOR** Urgent need for Relief Educators supporting Families

Assoc. highlighted the importance to families, educators and children to have in place a support network that cohesively supports quality service delivery. We have educators who need support in the homes and with the highly skilled community of workers we have we should be utilizing them. We also need to support families and children by not displacing them into strange and foreign environments when an educator is sick, absent, training or meetings and on holidays.

This has been on the agenda for over 20 years and we have waited long enough.

We are very pleased to announce that the meeting with DECD and State Government Representative was very positive with the words "It is not if...but When".

Thank you especially to Danni McIntosh, Deb Barton and Helen Doyle, who have supported this planning and will work towards a positive outcome in 2015 in consultation with your FDC Educators Association of SA.

WHAT A GREAT ACHIEVMENT

• **LAUNCH OF NEW AUSTRALIAN FDC BUSINESS PLANNER** A number of changes have been made to the Planner including phone numbers, contact details page layout and including some extra pages to explain EYLF, MYTOP AND NQS. We have a bold new FDC Cover and new sponsor advertising on the back cover.

A special insert has been made on the "Blank" recording page which enables educators to detail where they extend from and forward plan to from one week to another. This enables cross referencing and if educators are assessed or co-ordinator visit it will be clearly displayed if used as intended. The Association encourages all Educators to record daily/weekly practices, experiences offered and learning moments.

The planner is provided as part of membership and is subsidized by the Association because. **"WE BELIEVE that our recording tool will PROVE A REAL ASSET IF PICKED FOR ASSESSMENT"**.

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THIS BOOK AND PROUDLY DISPLAY OUR SA ASSOCIATION LOGO ON THE COVER.



• **HAI HA VU OPENED HER HOME TO THE ASSOCIATION AND MADE US SO WELCOME.** Thank you to

all the Vietnamese Educators who came to our information evening. Not only was the evening good but the food was fantastic. Your networking is inspirational and well done for showing your passion for being childcare workers and educators in FDC. We look forward to another invitation.



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GOWRIE TRAINING – HAVE A BUCKET OF MONEY TO INVEST IN FDC.

We have been working with Gowrie with meetings and correspondence to highlight the needs of Educators and some of the training that we would recommend. They have completed the draft of training for 2014. We have contacted them regarding the needs of rural and country FDC Educators again. They have assured us that they will be negotiating for their special needs separately and will plan training that is specific. They have committed to inclusion and we are pleased with their response to our highlighting your comments and requests for training in the future 2015. Thank you to Rural Educators for contacting us. **WE HAVE FORWARDED YOUR CONCERNS**
We have asked that they design correspondence regarding rural needs directly to you via the DECD network.



Family day care threatened by budget changes

Family day care providers are scrambling to come up with new funding after Government budget cuts. The Prime Minister says he wants to put more money into child care, but the details aren't clear. The Government's changes to the Community Support Program - worth \$157 million - means that the child care places of more than 100,000 children could be at risk.

We are all aware that funding to FDC is lost by mid 2015. This means that the FDC Service needs to find money to operate. That is to impact greatly on Educators, Staff and Families.

Your Association has been active in making Prime Minister Abbott aware that this is a negative action the government is taking at a time when families are already finding it hard with childcare costs. We are worried about the impact on Educators. For us in SA it will mean reaching into our pockets to pay for our service support. That is the only way we will survive.

We have been meeting with DECD to see what the new plan will look like and the financial impact on us. It may also mean that the 25c parents pay per hour will increase. It may even mean a cut in staff support which we regret may be another option to save costs. We are at a cross road where we need to pull together to ensure the sustainability and viability of the industry that provides for our livelihood. Whilst the future is unclear we assure you we are fighting for your future in FDC.

We want to assure all Educators that your Association is at the table, we are involved in discussions and we are asking DECD to keep you informed of what will impact on us as soon as possible.

This is not the sort of message we want to put into our xmas newsletter but we need to face the facts that FDC as we know it will change and along with that we have the ability to adapt where needed.

**WE BELIEVE WE ARE ABLE TO LOOK INTO THE FUTURE WITH A PLAN
THAT WILL KEEP US STRONG IF WE WORK TOGETHER.
WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR YOU
BECAUSE WE BELIEVE
F.D.C. IS UNIQUE AND SO ARE YOU.**





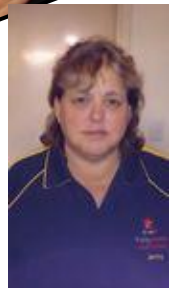
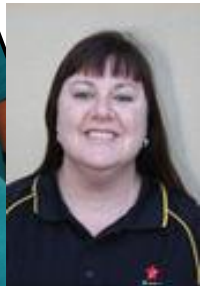
FROM ALL OUR COMMITTEE
FDC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION OF SA
WE WISH YOU A SAFE AND BLESSED XMAS.



WE WILL HAVE A 2015 YEAR THAT KEEPS US WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP FOR OUR
FUTURE AND WE WILL HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

IT MAY SEE CHANGES BUT **WE BELIEVE** WE WILL STILL BE THE
UNIQUE CHILDCARE SERVICE OF CHOICE.

Best Wishes - see you in 2015



SA SYMPOSIUM

