



NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2012

FEES 2013

Holiday Program fees will remain the same for the January, February holidays - \$47.00 per day and \$23.50 per ½ day. These fees will be reviewed by the Board early in the New Year and you will be advised of any change prior to May-June 2013 school holidays.

The Board is currently reviewing the before school care and after school care fees and a decision will be announced 2 months prior to the start of the 2013 school term.

The Board have decided that Long Day Care fees at Ocean View and Mountain View will increase to \$70.00 full fees per day, (\$35.00 per session). Blackmans Bay Childrens Services is committed to providing quality care at affordable prices.

BBCS is well on the way to implementing changes required by the National Quality Framework (ratios, staff qualifications, the National Quality Standards), but these changes come at a cost.

In comparison with costs of other services and taking into account the 50% child care rebate, fees at BBCS are at the lower end of the scale (the majority of services have fees above \$70.00). Also BBCS does not charge for public holidays unlike the majority of services do.

ACCOUNTS

On this month's statement you may see "transfer in sweep" and "transfer out sweep" and an amount in the credit and debit columns. This is a new software change where families who attend more than one of our services will have their payments divided between these services. You will note that the debits and credits balance each other out. i.e. transfer out sweep from St Aloysius \$33.00 dr and then transfer in sweep Ocean View \$33.00 cr.

Please also note that this month any accounts that are **30 days overdue** will incur a flat charge of \$15.00 (which was advised in our August newsletter).

Accounts can be paid by cash, cheque or eftpos at the Ocean View office, direct payment (bank account details on the last page of your account) or we can debit your credit card with the balance or chosen amount, monthly (authority form on our website or please contact the office on 6229 4914).

CHILD CARE PAYMENTS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Are you missing out on child care assistance?

Not sure? Then why not lodge a claim. The Australian Government has two payments to assist families with the cost of child care – Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR). Even if your CCB entitlement is zero due to your income, you may still be eligible for CCR. There is no income test for CCR.

What is CCB? CCB is a payment to assist with the cost of child care for families who use CCB approved and/or registered care. You can get CCB if you meet all of the following conditions:

- You have a child in your care
- Your child attends CCB approved or registered care and you are liable to pay the child care fees
- Your child meets the immunisation requirements (or has an exemption)
- You or your partner meet the residency requirements (or have an exemption)

Eligible Hours for CCB Approved Care. All eligible families using CCB approved care can get up to 24 hours of CCB a week per child. More CCB is available for the hours of child care your family needs depending on whether you and your partner meet the CCB work, training, study test.

How much CCB can I get? This is income based and you will need to contact the family assistance office on 13 6150

What is CCR? CCR is an additional payment to help working families with the out-of-pocket expenses for CCB approved child care. You may also get CCR if you meet all of the following conditions:

- You are eligible for DDB (entitled at a rate of zero or more)
- You and your partner meet the CCR work, training, study test

How much CCR can I get? Eligible families can get 50 percent of their out-of-pocket child care expenses for approved care up to a maximum of \$7,500.00 per child per year.

How to claim

You can choose to claim your child care payments by one of three ways:

- **Online** – complete the online form(s) available at www.centrelink.gov.au Registration for Online Services is easy and only takes a few minutes.
- **By telephone** – if you receive Family Tax Benefit as fortnightly payments, you can lodge a claim by calling the Family Assistance Office.
- **In person** – visit a Family Assistance Office, located in Medicare offices and Centrelink service centres.

For more information:

- Call the Family Assistance Office on 13 61 50
- Visit the Website at www.centrelink.gov.au
- Visit your nearby Family Assistance Office located in Medicare offices and Centrelink Service Centres.

177b Roslyn Avenue, Blackmans Bay, TAS 7052
Ph: (03) 6229 4914 Fax: (03) 6229 2260
Email: oceanview@bbchildcare.org
www.bbchildcare.org