

## **OOSH REPORT**

It has been another busy year for our OOSH service. Staff have undergone an appraisal in an attempt to further our efforts to make OOSH an excellent program for the local community. Those appraisals are currently up for review and staff have been attending courses which it is hoped will enhance their skills in the areas of concern. A particular focus has been placed on behavioral issues when dealing with children and parents. Staff have, and will be sharing their knowledge with each other at meetings.

We have received our accreditation and are currently running After School Care (for Crown St children) and Vacation Care (for various children) with a capacity of up to 30 places.

The aim of the centre is to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all children. We are able to accommodate families from a range of economic backgrounds due to the inclusion of Child Care Benefits in our centre.

The current system of CCB is currently going through changes that will ultimately affect our dialogue with Centrelink. The coordinator and manager have attended a course that has explained the new process, which we expect to begin in the next few months.

### **Before School Care**

We attempted this year to get Before School Care going but did not receive enough interest. We need at least 10 or more children to attend to make it viable. We will look at trying it out again in 2009.

### **After School Care**

After school care has frequently been operating at a capacity of 30 children per day. We received permission at the start of the year for 5 more places. This was needed to accommodate many new kindergarten students who now attend our service.

I already have a waiting list for next year and hope to include those students in our program if older children leave.

ASC children have been engaging in a variety of activities including craft (weaving, painting, sewing, and construction), multicultural cooking, outdoor games and sport and drama.

We have had the good fortune to have several student volunteers at ASC who have built up an excellent relationship with the children and have made a big difference to staff as the ratio changes to a more manageable 1 carer to 10 children.

Parents who have refused to pay fees have had their places removed but as yet no payment of outstanding fees is forthcoming.

### **Vacation Care**

Vacation Care has been more successful this year in terms of attendance and we have tried to keep down costs, particularly in the July holidays, by taking the children on public transport or walking when we could. Although this was more cost effective, it posed an

OH&S risk as 2 carers to 30 children was not manageable when walking through busy areas and catching trains and buses.

The October holidays will see with more centre based days, more confined excursion destinations and no bus hire at all. I hope this will solve some of our problems.

I have been putting out feelers in the school community to see if anyone has connections to companies that might help us get more sports, art/craft equipment. I have spoken to P&C members who are also on the case.

In the past year we have coordinated with Boys & Girls Brigade for various excursions and due to the success of those encounters will continue to do so.

### **Staff Members**

Thank you to the ASC staff who continue to provide the children with a safe environment. Lee, Latifa and Annabel continue to supervise ASC with a variety of other great casuals at vacation time. I am currently putting together a casual list that I hope will be useful to both OOSH and Occasional Care.

This year has been another year of learning as we continue to develop the program and maintain a high standard of care for the communities' children.

Leoni Atterton  
OOSH Coordinator