

Family Day Care 2007

- Family day care is a professional home-based childcare service established in Australia for 30 years. It is the only formal childcare option that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
 - Over 90,000 children aged from birth to twelve years are currently enrolled through 340 schemes servicing over 12,000 carers in almost every region of Australia.
 - 38%* of family day care is provided in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia
 - 26%* of children using family day care are school-aged
 - family day care provides the highest percentage* of care to children with a disability when compared with other service types
- *Source: Commonwealth Childcare Census 2004
- Family day care is highly regulated and complies with Australian government guidelines, state/territory regulations and Family Day Care Quality Assurance [accreditation] through the National Childcare Accreditation Council, national standards and scheme policies.
 - The key point of difference between family day care and centre-based care is the lower carer-to-child ratios, which enable individual attention and strong relationships with one primary carer.
 - Current early years brain research confirms that the single most important element in stimulating a child's learning is strong relationships with significant adults – family day care's small group care enables children to build those bonds that are so critical to their early learning and social development.
 - In family day care children learn naturally through play and everyday activities in a 'real world' environment. Each day is tailored to their individual needs and development.
 - Family day care has in common with centre-based care: qualifications, quality assurance and health and safety/OHS requirements
 - as in centre-based care, the authorised supervisor of a family day care service is required to hold formal qualifications under licensing regulations
 - a key role of tertiary qualified staff is to lead the continuous training of service workers
 - all workers with direct contact with children are required to hold a current first aid certificate
 - carers and their immediate family undergo background checks to ensure working with children suitability
 - All carers are skilled, experienced and highly trained; many hold formal qualifications ranging from Certificate III in Childcare to university degrees. Carers work in partnership with professionally qualified family day care staff, and both staff and carers attend ongoing in-service training in contemporary childcare practice to ensure continued positive outcomes for children.
 - according to the 2004 Childcare Census 73% of family day care staff held formal qualifications compared with 60% of centre-based services staff
 - Carers are required to undergo rigorous pre-service training prior to starting in family day and this training is led and supported by early childhood professionals

- Family day care is an affordable childcare option where care is charged on an hourly basis. Fees are generally set by individual carers. Parents can expect to pay around \$5 per hour during core hours and more for out of hours care. The Australian Government's childcare benefit is available for families, as is the 30 percent tax rebate.
- Family day care is a viable career choice offering the flexibility of working from home and the ability for carers to set their own hours and fees for service. Depending on the number of children in care and the hours worked, carers can earn anywhere from \$20,000 to over \$100,000 a year. Many expenses relating to the operation of a family day care business are tax deductible.

Why choose Family Day Care?

"Family Day Care is a professional and regulated home-based childcare service offering care for children from birth to 12 years. Highly trained carers develop and plan individual experiences to suit your child and form close relationships, necessary for early learning and social development. Family day care is the preferred childcare choice for over 90,000 families across Australia." (Monique Webber, General Manager, Family Day Care Australia, 2007).

- Warm, home-like environment
- Individual attention to children in small groups
- Care for children is provided from a very young age and can continue right through to age 12
- Childcare can be offered during standard hours, overnight, weekends, school holidays, before/after school and occasional care
- Family day care is flexible and can support parents in shift working employment, such as nursing or hospitality, or roles which require travel
- Family Day Care can also assist families in crisis or as a respite care option

"Family Day Care is a fast-growing quality childcare service with places now available in a suburb near you. If you are a parent interested in quality, individual care and learning experiences for your child, contact your local family day care scheme now. Log on to www.familydaycareaustralia.com.au/index.html to find a scheme near you." (Monique Webber, General Manager, Family Day Care Australia, 2007).

"If you are interested in children and want to earn a healthy income working in your own home-based business, then family day care could be the career choice for you. Opportunities currently exist for suitable people to join their local family day care service where full training and ongoing support is provided." (Linda Latham, CEO, Family Day Care Australia, 2007).

For all media enquiries please contact Julia Teale, Media Relations Co-ordinator, in the first instance on 02 4320 1100 or email her at julia.teale@fdca.com.au.



For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact Linda Latham on 02 4320 1100 or 0448 501 100 or via email linda.latham@fdca.com.au