

capability grants for carers

Through a new one-off grants program the Federal Government has recognised the value of family day care carers, and the work they do on behalf of over 100,000 children across Australia...

The Minister for Early Childhood Education, Childcare and Youth, The Hon Kate Ellis MP, announced on Thursday 3 June 2010 that the Federal Government will provide a total of \$4.5 million in one-off capability grant funding to family day care carers across Australia.

At a launch held at the home of Robyn Hunter, a carer with Queanbeyan Family Day Care in NSW, Minister Ellis announced that family day care carers who are registered with a family day care scheme as at 30 June 2010 will each receive a one off grant payment of \$350.

These one-off grants will be available to around 12,500 family day care carers across Australia to build their capability to provide high quality care.

The Family Day Care One-off Capability Grants will be delivered through Family Day Care Australia using the contact details contained on its comprehensive national membership database.

'The Government is pleased to partner with Family Day Care Australia to deliver this grant, as the national peak body is uniquely placed to deliver the payments to carers on the Government's behalf,' said Minister Ellis.

Family Day Care Australia CEO Rhonda Bignell said, 'We are delighted with the grant funding which will support carers in this time of change. Family Day Care Australia supports high quality care and learning environments for children, and the grants will be very much appreciated by the 12,500 carers across Australia.'

The Family Day Care One-off Capability Grants will be available progressively over three months from July 2010.

The \$350 payment is a contribution to the purchase of new equipment such as educational toys, books and puzzles; developmental activity-based program resources and materials; and/or age-appropriate equipment such as car seats. It can also be used for professional development and training.

There are a number of items for which the funds **cannot** be used to purchase, including televisions and/or non-educational based gaming equipment; audio/visual equipment (eg cameras and video cameras); insurances and membership fees; motor vehicles and/or home modifications.

Carers will be asked to make a commitment that the funds will be used for the purpose for which they are intended by signing and returning the personalised form which will be sent to them through the post in early July.

The Family Day Care Capability Grant builds on the broader objectives of the early childhood education and care agenda of strengthening the profile of the family day care workforce. It also ties into the family day care sector's *Five Year Plan – Working for a Stronger Future* by supporting the family day care operating framework, workforce and image and profile.

'Family Day Care Australia looks forward to continuing to work with the Government on behalf of the family day care sector to ensure that family day care has a strong and viable future,' says Rhonda Bignell. 



The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Lynne Moran, Rhonda Bignell and the Federal Member for Eden-Monaro, The Hon Dr Mike Kelly MP.



L-R Robyn Hunter, Ben Pantos, Tahlia Pantos, Chloe de Jongh, The Hon Kate Ellis MP and The Hon Dr Mike Kelly MP.

More information will be available on the website at www.fdc.com.au and emailed to members as it comes to hand.

Capability Grants Contacts:

T: 1300 392 311
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F: 02 4320 1198

You do not need to contact us to check if you are on the database – all carers who are members of Family Day Care Australia, and/or purchase public liability insurance through Family Day Care Australia will be on the database and will therefore receive their payment.

We will be working with schemes to identify those few carers who are not Family Day Care Australia members have their details registered with Family Day Care Australia by the deadline of 30 June 2010.



Missing out on information?

Register your email address with Family Day Care Australia now to get the latest information on the Family Day Care Capability Grants and much more.

Send an email to enquiries@fdca.com.au with 'I want to join the e-list' in the subject line. Include your full name and address in the body of the email – it's that simple.