



Media Release

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Almost 100% qualified - Bundaberg Baptist Family Day Care

Eighty nine percent of Bundaberg Baptist Family Day Care carers are now qualified.

'In our scheme, 80 of our 90 carers now have a Certificate III or Diploma in Children's Services,' Bundaberg Baptist Family Day Care Program Manager Janelle Wilson said.

During the past year, 33 carers and two staff [administration assistant and play session coordinator] have obtained their Diploma in Children's Services, a further two staff [coordinator and senior coordinator] have obtained their Advanced Diploma in Children's Services and one staff member [Program Manager] has also obtained a Diploma in Business Management.

Family day care takes place in the home of registered, monitored, trained and resourced carers. This service has low staff to child ratios and children are able to receive individual attention in a small group setting. All carers are highly trained and many hold professional early childhood education qualifications.

Bundaberg Baptist Family Day Care partnered with Bundaberg Wide Bay Institute of TAFE to assist their carers and staff with their studies.

'The lecturer actually comes to the Bundaberg Baptist Family Day Care office each week for tutorials and then would also go and visit the carers at their homes and conduct their assessments and mark their written assignments,' said Janelle.

Some carers also gained recognition of prior learning (RPL) for their studies due to their extensive family day care experience.

'Out of the nine coordinators employed by Bundaberg Baptist Family Day Care, five have Advanced Diplomas in Children's Services, three have diplomas and one has a Diploma of Teaching in Early Childhood Education,' Janelle said.

Despite having so many qualified carers, Bundaberg Baptist Family Day Care is still seeking more carers due to the growing child care demands in the region.

'When we started in 1983 we had two carers and 20 places, now we have 90 carers and over 400 places,' Janelle explained.

'The quality and the standard of the care that the carers provide, and with the Early Years Learning Framework coming in, it will only enhance what they already do, it will give them room to grow in the way that they provide their quality care,' she added.

Parent survey results also indicate that they are very happy with the care their children are receiving from Bundaberg Baptist Family Day Care carers.

'We've probably never had any problems convincing people that family day care is a good option in our community,' Janelle said.

Throughout Australia there are 102,900 children enrolled in family day care, with 307 coordination units (schemes) and more than 12,000 carers.

This service is highly regulated and complies with Australian government guidelines, state/territory regulations, Family Day Care Quality Assurance (accreditation) through the National Childcare Accreditation Council, national standards and scheme policies."

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