

Joint Media Release

Town of PORT HEDLAND
Family DAYCARE Australia



DRIVE FOR NEW CARERS TO JOIN THE PFDC

Encouraging more residents to take up family day care is the target of a campaign instigated by the Town of Port Hedland's Pilbara Family Day Care Scheme (PFDC).

Council's PFDC Coordinator Maureen Allert said that with all carers in Port or South Hedland retiring or relocating, and similar dwindling numbers in Karratha, both Towns are in urgent need of more carers.

"Family day care has been a vital service for more than 16 years and as demand for daycare continues to rise, the recruitment of new carers is crucial for this vital service to continue to grow and provide important childcare options for local families," Ms Allert said.

Ms Allert added that difficulty recruiting carers also meant that numbers on the PFDC waiting lists had considerably increased over the past months and carers wanting to become licensed and come on board with the Scheme are likely to fill their vacancies immediately.

"The Scheme has a well established support network that makes the licensing process very accessible. The Town assists the new carers with setting up licensing compliant documentation and procedures.

We also help carers transferring from the eastern States and many find similarities in the WA licensing process, it is really just a matter of getting the housing up to licensing standards.

Gina Burns joined the PFDC in December 2009 after relocating to Karratha from Perth.

"My husband wanted to get some work experience on the mines so it was a really good opportunity, and I was on maternity leave from the school I teach at in Perth, so it seemed like a great experience," Mrs Burns said.

"When I arrived in the Pilbara, Maureen came out and helped me get started. Her assistance has definitely been invaluable."

Town of Port Hedland Mayor Kelly Howlett encouraged community members who enjoy working with children and wanting a rewarding role to consider family day care as an attractive employment option.

“People wanting to join the Scheme will enjoy training and there is financial assistance from the Federal Government. Being a Family Day Carer gives the flexibility to parents to work at home while being there for their own children,” Mayor Howlett said.

Further information can be obtained by calling Council’s Pilbara Family Day Care Scheme’s Coordinator Maureen Allert on 0419043687 or email fdc@porthedland.wa.gov.au

Chris Adams

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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