

Media Release



19 March 2009

FAMILY DAY CARE AUSTRALIA PARTNERS WITH CHEMICAL FREE KIDS NATIONAL PROGRAM

National peak body for family day care, Family Day Care Australia, today announced its partnership with Chemical Free Kids, a national program designed to raise awareness and educate parents and home-based child care workers on the hidden dangers of environmental chemicals and their impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

FDCA General Manager Monique Webber said, "Educating parents about children's health is vital. Education and preventative action are the keys to better protection of our children's health and safety.

"Our partnership with Chemical Free Kids is an extension of our commitment to children and families."

Dr Sarah Lantz, author of the book *Chemical Free Kids: Raising Healthy Children in a Toxic World* said, "There are over 100,000 synthetic chemicals available on the market for a wide variety of purposes, and over 1,500 new chemicals being produced annually. Over half of these chemicals have never been tested for their toxicity on the human body.

"With the increase of these toxic chemicals in the environment, including every day products, there is also an increase in health problems affecting our population, in particular, our children. In recent years, asthma mortality, Type II Diabetes, developmental and reproductive disorders, and diet-related cancers have more than doubled; leukemia and brain cancer have increased in incidence; and neurodevelopmental dysfunction and behavioural problems as well as obesity are widespread".

"Children and young people are particularly susceptible to these chemicals as their bodies, brains, organs, immune systems, are still developing and unable to combat the effects of toxic chemicals. Understanding chemicals even a little bit is fundamental to our children's health and safety."

Dr Edward Kachab co-author of Chemical Free Kids Program said, "We're delighted to have FDCA as one of our major national partners. With their help we can expand the scope and reach of the program to areas of the community where there will be most impact – on children and young people".

"Dr Lantz's work comprises over two years of research into environmental chemicals and human health and includes interviews with families who have children that have been directly affected by these chemicals. It is intended as a resource for parents and child care workers to support them in raising healthy children and extends into conscious parenting and living."

Family day care is a natural child care choice that supports secure attachments; play based learning experiences and social development in a small group setting with children

aged from six weeks to 12 years.

Over 90,000 children across Australia attend child care in the homes of 12,000 trained, accredited and monitored carers who in turn are supported by 320 local coordination units staffed by early childhood professionals.

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For additional information on Chemical Free Kids please visit

www.chemicalfreeparenting.com or contact Dr Edward Kachab on 0401 555 108 or email to edwardkachab@optusnet.com.au.

Non-media inquiries about family day care should be directed to the family day care hotline on 1800 621 218 or the website www.familydaycare.com.au.

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Family Day Care Australia