



MEDIA RELEASE

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Family day care offers more choice

Families in the Gosford Council area now have more choice when it comes to child care with 87 experienced family day care carers working in the community.

Two family day care coordination units operate in the Gosford region – Gosford Family Day Care and Peninsula and District Family Day Care with 60 and 27 carers respectively.

However, there is still an urgent need for more carers to cater for children and families.

Kellie McNamara the manager of Coastwide Child and Family Services that operates Gosford Family Day Care said; "Reaching our target of 60 carers was a great milestone for Gosford Family Day Care but we're ready to grow and provide more child care options."

Each month Gosford Family Day Care holds information sessions for prospective carers.

"The 60 carers in our coordination unit provide an invaluable service to the community and they ensure 489 children currently enrolled in Gosford Family Day Care are provided with early childhood education and care through play-based learning experiences," McNamara added.

Family day care is a quality home-based child care service that's been actively helping Australian families for over 30 years.

The service is designed to provide flexibility for parents. It caters for young babies through to pre-teens and can offer care during standard hours, before/after school, during school holidays and in some circumstances overnight and weekends. It also provides a unique and important benefit of higher carer to child ratios, which enables children to receive individual attention.

Family day care 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.

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

In the Gosford coordination unit 402 families have registered for family day care.

Gosford Family Day Care has been operating for 26 years and during this time they have catered for over 11,000 children.

To ensure a suitable carer is selected for a child, the parent/guardian is always interviewed during the enrolment process by an early childhood trained professional to identify and accommodate their needs.

"Our 60 carers have 240 years of combined experience," McNamara said. "We pride ourselves on quality and meeting the development needs of the children. The aim of family day care is to put the children at the centre of everything we do, and we work with families to ensure their needs are met."

More than 75 percent of carers in the Gosford area have qualifications and 100% participate in ongoing training and courses provided by the Gosford Family Day Care Scheme and other educational bodies.

For further information on Family Day Care please visit www.familydaycare.com.au or call 1800 621 218.

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