

Approved Changes to Fees Effective April 2025



### **New 2025 Pricing**

(Effective April 22nd, 2025)

**CURRENT** 

**NEW** 

**BEFORE SCHOOL** 

Permanent Casual \$15.50 \$18.00

**BEFORE SCHOOL** 

**Flat Fee** \$18.00

**CURRENT** 

**NEW** 

**AFTER SCHOOL** 

Permanent Casual \$19.50 \$22.00

**AFTER SCHOOL** 

**Flat Fee** \$22.00

**CURRENT** 

**NEW** 

**VACATION CARE** 

**Flat Fee** 

\$46.00

**VACATION CARE** 

Flat Fee

\$50.00

# 2025 Pricing - CCS

We know many families access and utilise the Child Care Subsidy (CCS), so here is a breakdown of fees according to the four main CCS percentages we see across the service.

ccs	Before School Care	After School Care	Vacation Care (Base Fee)
Flat Fee	\$18.00	\$22.00	\$50
30% CCS	\$12.60	\$15.40	\$35
50% CCS	\$9.00	\$11.00	\$25
75% CCS	\$4.50	\$5.50	\$12.50

#### **Summary of Changes**

Fee changes are never taken lightly, and we always undertake planning, research and consultation before making any changes. We aim to only ever change fees **when absolutely necessary**.

We have identified 4 key areas that require action in the form of a fee structure change. They are;

- 1. Significant Employee Wage Increases
- 2. Need for Resources & Lower Ratios
- 3. Consistency for Families
- 4. Long Term Sustainability in the Sector

Each of these four key areas have more details available on the following page.

These changes were **approved** at the February 18th P&C Meeting.

The new fees will come into effect on **April 22nd**, **2025 - Term 2, Week 1.** 

#### **Employee Wage Increase**

Late last year we were provided with notice that wages under the Child Care Services Award were slated to receive significant pay rises, with up to 15% forecasted pay rises.

Our last fee increase was in July 2022. Since then, the award has already seen over 9% in wage increases. Any additional increases would place significant strain or even compromise our ability to adequately resource and support the growth of the service.

## **Change to Ratios**

Following a significant review of processes, feedback from the 2024 Family Feedback Survey and extensive consultation with staff and Inclusion Support, the decision was made to reduce our educator to child ratio from 1:15 to 1:12.

This change means more eyes supervising and engaging more learners at once. This reduces strain and stress on staff in an already busy and chaotic environment. If safety is to be taken seriously in a service of our size, this change is nothing short of an absolute must.

### **Consistency for Families**

Whilst permanent bookings have always been incentivised by lower fees, we have noticed a significant increase in casual bookings. Through feedback and consultation, we feel that it was not equitable to charge families more simply for not knowing what their roster was a week in advance.

Permanent Bookings will however **still ensure guaranteed attendance**, as we do still sometimes have to turn away casual bookings if we are capped in capacity, especially during staffing shortages.

# **Long Term Sustainability**

As a child care service first and foremost, we recognise that providing care for families is a priority so that families can still be able to work.

To ensure long term sustainability and that the service has the capability to operate under any circumstance (including through periods like COVID-19), we must ensure an adequate income stream. We are far behind the sector/industry average and therefore must start taking steps to ensure our long term sustainability - or risk shutting down and being replaced by a corporate, for-profit operation that is not P&C or School governed.