



In Home Care

SUPPORT AGENCY TASMANIA



CONTACT DETAILS

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Newsletter

May 2019

Dear IHC Educators,

The In Home Care Support Agency would like to take this opportunity to welcome educators who have recently commenced within the In Home Care program.

Important information

Please remember to keep *Mission Australia Children's Services* up to date with any changes to your availability. Similarly, if a family is requiring more hours, please remind them to contact *In Home Care Support Agency* before booking in with you, because as you will be aware, families would likely be charged an unsubsidised rate if these hours have not been approved by the IHC Support Agency. This is especially important to keep in mind with the July School Holidays fast approaching.

Mandatory Reporting

As early childhood professionals, it is your duty of care to report if you have concerns about a child's safety or welfare. In Tasmania, the definition provided for when you are required to report is; when you suspect or have proof of: *'Any sexual abuse; physical or emotional injury or other abuse, or neglect, to extent that the child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, physical or psychological harm detrimental to the child's wellbeing; or the child's physical or psychological development is in jeopardy'*.

Please refer to the Tasmanian Government Department of Health and Human Services website for further information.

https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/child_protection_services/what_can_i_expect_when

Should you need to make a mandatory report or wish to seek further advice please contact the Strong Families - Safe Kids advice and referral line on 1800 000 123. It is also important to report any concerns you may have to the IHC team at Mission Australia Children's Services.

Educator Profiles

We are currently updating our 'Educator Profiles', ensuring that we have your most up to date contact information on record. This will ensure you receive any important information about changes to In Home Care together with opportunities for professional development, as well as IHC Support Agency Tasmania being able to contact you regarding individual families if need be. A reminder to please forward details of any changes to your contact details to:

ihc.admin@ihcsupportagencytas.com.au.

Professional Learning

Have you heard of *Emerging Minds*? We discovered this online resource, which provides free online training and includes lots of useful information. Topics include supporting children and families with complex needs, supporting children with disabilities, attachment and security, and the role of Early Childhood Intervention.

<https://emergingminds.com.au/>

Autism Tasmania

Registrations are now open for a professional development course with Autism Tasmania. The cost is \$90 and will be held in Hobart, Launceston and Ulverstone in late August. These sessions will support IHC educators to

increase their skills and knowledge in relation to supporting those with Autism of all ages. If you are interested in this or would like more information, please contact: robyn.thomas@autismtas.org.au or call (03) 6344 1212.

Shortage of Educators

As current educators may very well be aware, we have a shortage of educators at the moment. Some families are desperately requiring an educator to help support their work commitments. If you happen to know any committed educators who hold an Early Childhood Qualification, or who are currently working towards this, please ask them to contact *Mission Australia Children's Services* to register their interest in becoming a registered IHC educator within Tasmania.

Quarterly Family Management Plan (FMP) Review

In line with IHC guidelines, we are endeavouring to review Family Management Plans quarterly to ensure we have the most up to date information regarding families and their IHC needs. This way, we are able to stay on top of place/hour requirements and changes to family circumstances.

All updated FMP's are emailed to Mission Australia Children's Services who will ensure that updated FMP's are forwarded to relevant educators within one week of receipt.

Resources for IHC Educators

Within our monthly newsletters, the IHC Support Agency will be sharing articles and information on topics linked to all areas of child development. This is to help increase knowledge and understanding around the importance of the early years for children's lifelong development and learning. The topic of our May information sheet is around [brain development from birth- 3 years](#).

Operating Hours

A reminder that throughout 2019, the IHC Support agency will continue to operate from 8am-6pm Monday to Friday. We do not operate on Public Holidays or weekends. We ask that any potential foreseeable amendments or additional hours of care that may be required during public holidays be discussed with In Home Care Support Agency prior to being required.

We will be sending out regular Newsletters in 2019. Are there any topics you would like more information about? Let us know via [e-mail](#).

Annette, Roxanne and Amrita
In Home Care Support Agency Tasmania