



In Home Care

SUPPORT AGENCY TASMANIA



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Newsletter

February 2022

Dear In Home Care Families,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2022! We hope that everyone had a safe and restful break. 2022 looks like it is shaping up to be an interesting year!

IHC Support Agency Staffing

During 2022, IHC Support Agency Tasmania will continue to be staffed by Roxanne and Nat. Roxanne works a 9 day fortnight (every second Friday off) and Nat works 4 days a week (Thursday off). There will generally always be one of us in the office at all times to answer the phone and respond to enquiries. On the rare occasion, that we are both out of the office, please leave a message with the staff member who answers your call, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

We greatly value the relationships we have with families and appreciate you keeping us up to date with your In Home Care needs.

Harmony Week

This edition of the newsletter will focus on Cultural Diversity as we prepare to celebrate Harmony Week from the 21-27th of March.



Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity and is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day as traditionally, Orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and the encouragement of mutual respect.

There are many different ways that you can celebrate Harmony Day. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Wrap orange ribbons or streamers around furniture, trees, and outdoor spaces.
- Encourage family members to wear orange or a traditional outfit from your culture.
- Turn your mealtime orange with oranges, mandarins, rockmelon, carrots, curried chicken and anything else you can think of, or prepare a celebratory meal from your culture.
- Plant a Harmony tree or plant to celebrate diversity.
- Read poems and stories, play games and listen to music which reflects the diversity of cultures within Australia.
- Offer children the opportunity to draw pictures and create art which reflect their understanding of diversity.
- Listen to music that is reflective of a range of cultures.
- Join in with a Community Harmony Day event within your local area.

Supporting Cultural Diversity

Children are naturally curious, and it is during early childhood that they begin notice similarities and differences among people. The following resource developed by Beyond Blue highlights ways in which young children can be supported to value and respect diversity.



Supporting cultural
diversity.pdf

Covid 19

It is a worrying time for many parents and children in regard to the current Covid 19 situation within Tasmania, especially now that the children have returned to school. Accessing the website below ensures that you are up to date with current information regarding cases and guidelines for testing and isolating.

<https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>

We understand that the pandemic is impacting on many families work commitments. Please keep us informed if your work or care requirements change.

Changes to Support Agency Procedures

The Australian Government has introduced new processes and procedures that IHC Support Agency Tasmania needs to put in place when assessing family's eligibility to receive In Home Care.

The Support Agency is required to formally assess each family's eligibility to receive IHC every 3 months and families will now be required to provide current documentation that supports their eligibility every 6 months. If this documentation is not provided when requested, In Home Care will be ceased until such time as the documentation is provided and a formal assessment of your family's eligibility for IHC assessed. Examples of documentation required include:

- current work rosters or letters from employers on official workplace letter heads
- Current medical letters for families who fall under the 'Complex and Challenging' eligibility criteria. These letters need to clearly state why other forms of childcare are not recommended.
- Evidence that no other forms of childcare are available within a 56km radius of the family home if families wish to apply for IHC under geographically isolated from child care criteria.

Once IHC Support Agency Tasmania receive supporting documentation and as part of the quarterly Family Management Plan Review process, your family's ongoing eligibility will be formally assessed. You will then be notified of the decision in writing.

We acknowledge that this is a change from the way this process has occurred in the past but rest assured that all families we be given ample notice when they are required to provide relevant

supporting documentation. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns regarding these changes.

Changes to Child Care Subsidy

Services Australia recently announced some changes to Child Care Subsidy in relation to a higher rate of CCS if you have more than one child aged 5 years or under. Please note the higher subsidy **will not** be paid for In Home Care sessions as IHC is subsidised for each family, rather than for each child. In Home Care will continue to be paid the family CCS rate.

The link below will provide you with more information and clarification around this.

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/your-number-children-care-can-affect-your-child-care-subsidy?context=41186>

Educators needed!

An orange speech bubble graphic with the text "Join our team!" written inside in white, bold, sans-serif font.

We have families on our waiting list across all areas of Tasmania who are awaiting an available educator. If you know of any one within your community who may be interested in becoming an In Home Care educator and either have a Cert III in education and care or willing to study towards Cert III in education and care, please put them in touch with us and we can refer them to the active Service Providers in Tasmania.

Service Provider Information

We now have a second active IHC Service Provider with educators working within the South and North West Regions of Tasmania.

If your family are currently on a waitlist (awaiting an available educator), you may wish to contact Placement Solutions to gather information regarding the availability of educators in your area, the Service Providers current fee structure, service policies etc to identify if Placement Solutions are able to meet your IHC needs (become your preferred IHC Service Provider).

Should you decide Placement Solutions are a 'good fit' for your IHC needs, please ensure you **contact IHC Support Agency to advise us you would like to enrol with Placement Solutions**. We will then email a copy of your current approved IHC Family Management Plan to Placement Solutions so your family can begin the enrolment process.

Placement Solutions

Phone: (03) 1300 854624

Email:

info@placementsolutions.com.au