



In Home Care

SUPPORT AGENCY TASMANIA



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Newsletter

February 2022

Dear In Home Care Educators,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2022! We hope that you are well and staying safe.

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

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 with the children you are working with. Here are just a few suggestions:

Wrap orange ribbons or streamers around furniture, trees and outdoor equipment.

Encourage children to wear orange or a traditional outfit from their culture.

- Turn your mealtime orange with oranges, mandarins, rockmelon, carrots, curried chicken and anything else you can think of!
- Speak with the family about planting a Harmony tree or plant to celebrate diversity.
- Read poems and stories, play games and listen to music which reflects the cultural diversity within Australia.
- Offer children the opportunity to draw pictures and create art which reflect their understanding of diversity.
- Listen to music from a range of countries and ask children to paint what they hear with different colours and brushstrokes.
- Give children the opportunity to dance to music from different cultures.
- Offer the children the chance to mix paint to match the colour of their skin, hair and eyes, and then paint a self-portrait.

Research food from other cultures and choose a recipe to cook and share.

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. It will be a valuable addition to your IHC Educator Resource portfolio!



Supporting cultural
diversity.pdf

Covid 19

It is a worrying time for many educators, families and children in relation to the current Covid 19 situation within Tasmania. 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/>

Please ensure you inform Wanslea In Home Care of any positive COVID cases within the families you work with, or if you yourself test positive for Covid 19.

Many IHC families have shared with us how much they value their educators during this difficult time, and the peace of mind it brings them knowing that their children are being cared for at home by caring and responsive educators during such difficult times. Please make sure that you are looking after yourselves as well!

Changes to IHC Support Agency Tasmania Procedures

The Australian Government has developed a detailed 'IHC Eligibility Assessment' process, which IHC Support Agency Tasmania has started to embed within our processes and practices for assessing family's eligibility for IHC. Families may have shared some of these changes with you and expressed surprise or reservations about the updated process, so we feel it's important to provide IHC educators with the following information about the changes in 'IHC Eligibility Assessment' process.

Under the updated IHC Eligibility Assessment process, IHC Support

Agency Tasmania is required to formally assess each family's eligibility to receive IHC quarterly.

Three (3) weeks before each individual family's FMP quarterly review is due, IHCSA Tasmania will email the family to let them know their FMP is due for review and will also request documentation to support the family's eligibility for IHC (if required).

Supporting documentation may include

- A copy of work roster which clearly shows non standard hours of work shifts. Rosters must also include employer name and contact details (Letterhead etc).
- A letter from employer confirming non standard hours of work on company letterhead.
- Copy of Child Care Subsidy (CCS) approval letter available from MyGov inbox. Screenshots are no longer acceptable unless they show parent CRN and activity hours.
- Letters from medical professionals.
- Evidence that no other forms of childcare are available or suitable.

Whilst eligibility will be reviewed quarterly, supporting documentation only needs updating every 6mths. If required documentation is not provided when requested, IHC Support Agency Tasmania will not be able to complete a formal assessment of family's eligibility and IHC will be ceased until such time as the documentation is provided and 'Assessment of IHC Eligibility' is complete. Family's will be advised of the decision regarding their eligibility for IHC in writing.

This is a change from the way this process has occurred in the past but rest assured, all families have been given plenty of notice of this change in processes and will be given ample notice when they are required to provide updated documentation to support their eligibility for IHC.

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 a staff member who answers your call, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

IHC Educator Community of Practice

We will continue to hold our bi-monthly Community of Practice online calls throughout 2022, with the first session scheduled for late March 2022. We will email all IHC educators early March with the proposed date, meeting time and a link to join the session. Please let us know if you have any topics that you would like to discuss during these calls.

We need more IHC Educators

To be able to grow IHC across Tasmania and support more families, we require more registered IHC

educators in each region. We have an ever-growing waitlist of families who require IHC to be able to meet their work commitments (non-standard hours). If you think you may be able to assist any of these families or know of anyone in the community who might be interested in registering as an IHC educator (either with Cert III or willing to undertake study for Cert III), please let us or Wanslea know.



We look forward to another productive year in 2022, and greatly appreciate the connections we have formed with all educators. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at any time if we can support you in any way.

Roxanne and Natalie

**In Home Care Support Agency
Tasmania.**

