

Occasional care report

Year 2006 seems to have flown by and it's time to report what has happened in the occasional care. It has certainly been a busy and challenging year for us with the change of the service.

Some of the 2006 year highlight:

- Restructure the staffing
- Relocate to 1 Beaumont Street, Chippendale 2008
- Expand the service to 26 places
- Gain a full 3 years licence

At the beginning of the year, one staff member resigned due to her personal reason. In March, I handed over the OOSH programs to Lina. So we took the opportunity to separate the staff in our different workforces – OC & OOSH – in order to work towards better quality care. We recruited 2 permanent staff members and some casual relief workers, restructured the staff, and trained them. Some of the staff members were able to work independently, but others required some supervision.

City of Sydney Council is going to redevelop the Surry Hills Community Centre on Crown Street. We had clear picture where to relocate our service till April. Then Anthony Stratford and I had several meetings with Sharon Campisi from City of Sydney Council to go through the plan and what we need – furniture and outdoor equipment, and with Noelle from ROCC to go through license application and compiling all the documents. In May we noticed the public. Then we sent the license application to DoCS. In June we informed the parents about the move. At the end of August, Dhurma Varkevisser, Simon Watts and I had a meeting with Joyce Campbell regarding inspection of premise at Chippendale. There were a few minor things which needed to be fixed before we could move in. We closed the service for 3 days for move and reopened on 31st of August. We lost 14 families due to the move. The rest of families who have stayed with us are very happy with the new premise – bigger place with indoor/ outdoor space, separate sleeping area, quiet environment, and lots of trees, sun and fresh air.

Despite a tough and challenging year, we have delivered a steady and smooth service. The result is a reflection of the great contribution made by everyone across the organisation and the Council. We have a great team of staff at occasional care and everyone in the team has contributed to achieving the result in what has been a tough year. In the future we aim to deliver a high quality care for our families. Our immediate focus is to build up the numbers of the attendance.

Financial Position

The centre generates funds from childcare fees. We also apply funding from DoCS. The money from the above is to cover the salaries, the maintenance, the overall cost of running the services, and purchasing the toys, materials, resources and equipment.

Acknowledgments & Farewell

I'd like to express my thanks to DoCS, our funding body, to City of Sydney Council, to Noelle from ROCC, to my colleagues, Joyenti Cowdhury, Lina Amin, Minh-Tam Nguyen, Tong Hong (known as Lee), and all the casual staff members, Fatima Deen Mohd Mohideen, Lindsey Bailie, Naomi Ward and Raellen O'Halloran for their hard work and tireless efforts. My thanks go out also to our families for their continued support and trust, and toys donation.

Charlotte left her part-time position with us to go back to study at University. Some children left our service for Kindergarten .We wish them all the best.

Spring Lai
OC Director