

MEDIA RELEASE

Communities at Work to reduce fees by 95% for educators with children enrolled in one of their services

28 February 2022

From 1 March 2022, Communities at Work will reduce fees by 95% for educators employed in their Early Education and Care and Out of School Hours Care services, who have children enrolled in one of their services.

This has been made possible due to the recent changes to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) rules announced by the Australian Government. Education and Care providers can now choose to offer a discount on the gap fee of up to 95% for employees with children enrolled at one of their services.

Communities at Work has been actively advocating for this change and are pleased to offer the maximum discount of 95% off gap fees for Communities at Work's educators.

"People are at the heart of everything we do at Communities at Work and we are very happy that we are able to provide this discount, which will support educators with children enrolled in our services to continue to deliver essential high-quality education and care to children," said Lee Maiden, Communities at Work CEO.

"Our educators play an incredibly vital role in the development and future success of children. Communities at Work recognises their importance and deeply values their contribution."

Kellie Stewart, Communities at Work's Director of Children's Services, welcomed the announcement, which will assist Communities at Work attract and retain their vital children's services workforce.

"We were experiencing a workforce shortage, made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. This announcement will assist us to retain qualified educators, attract new educators to the sector and give part-time educators with children an opportunity to work additional days now that the cost of care for their children is significantly reduced."

The news has been well received by Communities at Work staff, with one Communities at Work educator saying,

“I’m on Maternity leave at the moment and was quite stressed about coming back because of the childcare fees. This discount will make it possible and hopefully encourage many more families in the same situation to return.”

ABOUT COMMUNITIES AT WORK

Communities at Work is Canberra’s largest not-for-profit community organisation, the largest local provider of Early Education and Care services, and one of Canberra’s largest employers, with over 600 employees. Communities at Work delivers high-quality education and care services that inspire positive educational outcomes. We work with the community to build resilient, sustainable, and socially inclusive communities in the ACT and Capital region. For more information about Communities at Work, please see their 2020-21 Annual Report, which is available on their website. www.commsatwork.org

MEDIA CONTACT

Chris Barry: P. 0402 114 136 E. chris.barry@commsatwork.org

Katherine Appleby: P. 0413 354 635 E. katherine.appleby@commsatwork.org