



Victorian Family Update 6 August 2020

Dear Oac Families,

We are writing to share more information as we continue to work through Government guidelines regarding the Melbourne Stage 4 Restrictions as they relate to our families.

Attendance at Childcare

Attendance during the Melbourne Stage 4 Restriction period is strictly limited to those children of **Permitted Workers** and those families who are **medically or socially vulnerable**.

As of Thursday 6 August 2020, children of Permitted Workers also require a Childcare Permit to access childcare.

This permit is available for Permitted Workers who need to work onsite or from home who are unable to supervise their children during their duties and who don't have anyone else in the household who can supervise them.

Worker 'Permit Scheme' and 'Permitted Worker Permit (including childcare) form'

From Thursday 6 August only the children of permitted workers and vulnerable children will be able to access childcare and kinder.

Employers that require their staff to attend a work site must issue a **Permitted worker permit** to their employees – this is the employer's responsibility. Employers can issue a worker permit to their employee if:

- the organisation is on the list of permitted activities
- the employee is working in an approved category for on-site work, and
- the employee cannot work from home

For the purposes of childcare and kinder, a permitted worker can also include someone working from home.

The employer and employee are required to fill this form out and for it to be presented when attending care.

Important note: It is very important that families obtain a '**Permitted Work Permit (including childcare form)**'. These are located on the Government's [website](#).

Our Campus Directors will be requesting families to present their Permit prior to accepting care at a Campus.

Full detail by the Government on the Worker permit scheme can be found [here](#).

Attendance and Childcare fees

During the Stage 4 Restriction period the following will apply:

1. Families **attending** care – childcare fees will continue to be charged
2. Families **not** attending care - the childcare 'Gap fee' will be waived and therefore families will not be charged any fee for care.

You are not required to contact Only About Children as childcare fees will automatically be waived for families not attending care.

What about my childcare statement?

Due to the many changes we are navigating through at present, the normal billing cycle will be delayed for all Victorian families.

You can expect to receive your statement late next week. We understand that some families may have queries regarding their childcare fees. Please know, we are working through the detail as fast as we can so that we can provide a clear statement to you and ensure your accounts are being reflected correctly. If an account does require any reconciliation during this time, we will be ensuring this occurs.

How do I find out more information?

We have created a **Fact Sheet** for you. This outlines answers to the key questions we have received and provides links through to the Victorian Government sites where you can access important information.

Over the last few weeks, it has been quite overwhelming with the amount of change, guidelines and restrictions being put in place as a result of COVID-19. We have acted upon this weeks' State and Federal announcements in real time and appreciate the uncertainty this has created. We thank you for your patience and ongoing support as we work through this period.

Kind Regards,

Anna Learmonth

CEO – Only About Children

