C045-2009 Bushfire Response – Extension of the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy Eligibility and Fire Readiness in Rural and Regional Licensed Children’s Services

Main Points

Fire readiness in rural and regional Licensed Children’s Services

- The CFA has advised of the possibility of continuing bushfire activity and the potential for further outbreaks.
- Advice has been provided to all licensed children’s services that they should urgently review their emergency management plans in the light of the recent unprecedented bushfire activity.
- The licensee is expected to advise the regional office of any closures or evacuations of a children’s service at the first realistic opportunity.
- Children’s Services Managers need to be kept updated of local bushfire information and school closures and in turn, keep in touch with local early childhood services.

Extension of eligibility criteria to bushfire affected families

- Families who have received a Department of Human Services Emergency Grant or an Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment are eligible for the kindergarten fee subsidy – bushfire response for 2009.
- To claim the kindergarten fee subsidy – bushfire response, families need to inform services that they are eligible. Parent/guardians will be asked to verbally confirm that they have received either a Department of Human Services Emergency Grant or an Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment.
Note: If the child/family holds an eligible concession card or visa, they may already be receiving fee subsidy under the standard eligibility criteria.

Adjustments to anticipated enrolments for per capita grants and number of children eligible under the standard kindergarten fee subsidy eligibility criteria should be recorded through the usual processes (form PF03).


### Actions Required – For Noting

Please Note that

- All licensed children’s services will be contacted by mail and email to request they review their emergency management plan as a priority.
- Please note that all funded kindergarten services will be advised this week of the changes to the kindergarten fee subsidy eligibility.

### Critical Dates

- N/A

### Additional Information

- N/A

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