

GAP FEE WAIVER FOR CHILDCARE SERVICES

Fairfield City Council will waive its long day care and preschool services fees for parents who keep their children home during lockdown, following changes announced by the Federal Government.

The changes announced last week state that even though child care services remain open in NSW, services in local government areas subject to stay-at-home orders can waive gap fees for parents on days they choose to keep their children at home.

Gap fees are the out-of-pocket fees payable by families, in addition to the child care subsidy Council receives.

Under the COVID-19 Free Preschool Funding Program, preschool is free for children enrolled up to 15 hours or 2 days per week. The gap fee waiver will apply to children enrolled in preschool 3 days a week (i.e. more than 15 hours).

Fairfield City Mayor Frank Carbone said supporting long day care and preschool services for children is a sensible investment.

“It is important, now more than ever, that local families and businesses are supported during the NSW stay-at-home lockdown,” Mayor Carbone said.

“Our services remain open for essential and authorised workers, but we know there are many families who are now impacted by the additional restrictions placed on workers who live in our LGA and now cannot leave if their work is outside of the LGA. Many families are also following the advice to stay at home and choosing to keep their children at home. We believe that families should have the option to keep their children home at this time without the out-of-pocket expenses.”

Parents will have to keep their children enrolled but will not be charged the out-of-pocket fees for days that their children do not attend.

The COVID-19 Free Preschool Funding package will be replaced by the Start Strong Free Preschool Program ensuring up to 15 hours of free preschool will continue in to 2022.



Frank Carbone
Mayor of Fairfield City

20 July 2021

