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Abstract: City of Casey Family Day Care

A service sponsored, supported and promoted by Local Government has its benefits including the relationships and interactions with other Children's Services, Kindergartens etc.

Consider a childcare service providing care for over 2000 children, a career opportunity for a steadily increasing workforce that currently has over 300 careproviders, and a support network for many families who have moved to an area away from their own family support.

Look at where Family Day Care has come from since it began in Victoria in 1971 and acknowledge where it is today. With the imminent State Government Children's Services Regulations and Accreditation, Family Day Care has risen to the challenge of quality child care.

How does Family Day Care operate and remain successful in a growth corridor that currently caters for over 50 families a week moving in? Delivering an extremely large quality childcare service means ensuring many innovations and initiatives in regards to processes and practices are continually assessed.

These include:-

- Program planning incorporating the 'multiple intelligences' theory.
- Careprovider Reference Group to consult and work closely together to ensure the best outcomes for children, relationships with families and business opportunity for careproviders.
- Meeting Quality Assurance guidelines in a home based care environment.
- Two recruitments of careproviders each year of approximately 30 each intake.
- Group interviewing process for careprovider applicants. Recent intake saw over 120 attend an information session and as a result 63 applications were received and they attended a group interview day with 11 staff. This resulted in 35 new careproviders recruited.

Participants will be informed about how can Family Day Care meet the varied needs of parents? How does the 'lone worker' survive isolation? What support and motivation is available to prevent burn out? How important is planning? (To the children and the careprovider)

With 16 staff resourcing and supporting over 300 careproviders – juggling workloads and managing the varied issues between families and careproviders along with the risks associated with home based childcare. How do you ensure you are providing the professional development careproviders require?

Participants will be informed about the selection and registration process of careproviders dealing with hundreds of interested applicants.

How do we ensure that careproviders abide by their legal agreement and the expectations and responsibilities of their position? What are the requirements for careprovider ongoing registration and parents responsibilities?