

#ParentsUP!

FACTSHEET

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE



The Parenthood is calling for universal access to quality, inclusive Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) delivered by a well supported and properly paid workforce.

Trying to fit a working day into a 9am-3pm school day is as tough as it is to spread 4 weeks of annual leave across 10 weeks of school holidays. It can be haaa-rrrd for families to juggle school and work which is why families need OSHC.

But places are not always available or local or affordable. Universally accessible, quality OSHC will make life more affordable for families, improve outcomes for children, reduce inequality, create jobs, strengthen the economy and help get more women back into the workforce. It's a no brainer!

What is Outside School Hours Care?

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) refers to before and after school care, and vacation care or school holiday programs.



What does “universal access” mean?

Universal access means that every family and child gets a fair go, no matter their circumstances. Some important aspects include:

- **Availability:** Supply matches demand regardless of postcode.
- **Location:** Parents can access OSHC in their local area.
- **Equitable & Affordable:** Every single family can access and afford OSHC.
- **Appropriate & Inclusive:** Culturally appropriate care and education for First Nations children and remote communities, for culturally and linguistically diverse children, for children of migrant and refugee families, and for children with disability.
- **Diversity:** The care and education welcomes and celebrates all family units.
- **Simple:** The process to apply for and attend OSHC is easy to navigate.

What does “high quality” mean?

There is no one-size-fits-all but we'd describe high quality OSHC as a setting in which children feel happy, safe and secure, while being nurtured and stimulated.

Quality is determined by the level of care, the service delivery and, most importantly, the educators, teachers and carers. A quality OSHC system needs a well supported, paid and valued workforce.

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Why is OSHC important?

Many parents in Australia have to work to be able to feed and support their families. Financial stress is terrible for children and parents alike, and love doesn't pay the bills. That's why every school aged child deserves access to high quality OSHC so their parents are able to go to work and earn a living. Because the school day and school year is short, many families rely on before and after school care, as well as vacation care, in order to get through working days and calendar years. Accessible and affordable quality OSHC means parents can provide for their families, and know their kids are being well cared for, fed, nurtured and stimulated.



Who is The Parenthood?

The Parenthood is an independent, not for profit organisation which supports parents, carers and allies working to make Australia the best place in the world to be a parent. Because we believe that when parents are supported, children can thrive and our communities will be stronger.

How can I get involved in the #ParentsUp campaign?



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