

# news

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:** With a Public Holiday fast approaching, this is a reminder that child care fees apply when a child is away for any of the following reasons:

- ★ Public Holidays
- ★ Pupil Free Days
- ★ Parent's Annual Leave
- ★ Any absence from care including illness
- ★ Periods of local emergency

The fees are charged to reserve a child's place with the Educator. Child Care Benefits (CCB) is available for these absences for up to 42 absences for each child each financial year. CCB may be paid on additional absences for special circumstances. Please contact the Co-ordination Unit if you require further clarification. Please remember, parents are required to initial all absences.

**APPOINTMENTS:** The Co-ordination team are not always available at the office. If you would like to meet with a team member, it is always best to make an appointment so we can make sure we are available. Thank you.

**EXCURSIONS AND OUTINGS:** Educators are reminded that the Excursions Forms and applicable Risk Minimisation Plans are to be forwarded to the Family Day Care office prior to any excursion. If leaving the Education and Care Service and the activity is recorded on your Regular Transportation documentation, you are required to contact the Family Day Care office advising of the exact destination/s along with the estimated time away from the Education and Care premises. This is a requirement under legislation. For further information, please refer to the Education and Care Services National Regulations 99, 100, 101 and 102 and our Service policy #6.

**CHANGES TO LEGISLATION:** As from and including 12th October, 2015, Educators will no longer be entitled to receive child care payments for a session of Family Day Care provided to their child on the same day that they themselves provide Family Day Care.

Family Day Care Educators can continue to use Family Day Care as their choice of care for their own children. However, on a day an Educator is providing Family Day Care to other children, they and their partner are not eligible to receive child care payments for their own children unless specified circumstances apply. If you would like further information, please contact the Co-ordination Unit.

## What's On?

**Fortnight ending:**  
4th and 18th October  
**Public Holiday—Labour Day:**  
5th October  
**Grandparents Day**  
25th October

## Birthdays

**October:**

3rd Michelle Brunott  
9th Sam Kerridge  
19th Sharon Christenson



**FDC Gympie Region Team**

Phone: 5482 6099

Email: [admin@fdgympie.org.au](mailto:admin@fdgympie.org.au)

[www.fdcgympie.com.au](http://www.fdcgympie.com.au)

**Service Manager/Nominated Supervisor**

Sue Williams

**Educational Leader/Certified Supervisor**

Kay Braddock

**Certified Supervisor**

Merril Patrick

**Administration Officer**

Susan Duncan

**Registrar**

Nicky Giesen

**Office Hours**

Mon-Fri: 8.30am—4.00pm

**Approved Provider**

The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q)

**Management Committee**

Uniting Church Child Care Association  
(Gympie Congregation)





**HUMAN SERVICES WEBSITE:** There is now a “Find Us” feature on the HS website. Customers can now search for a service centre by selecting office type, as well as location on the Fund Us tool on the website. Co-located service centres and MyGov locations are now easily identified with new icons. The Find Us tool can be accessed via [humanservices.gov.au/findus](http://humanservices.gov.au/findus).

**CHILD SUPPORT APP:** The Express Plus Child Support mobile App is now available for Android devices. This latest release means customers who have Android devices with version 4.0+ can now download the App, as well as customers with iOS7+ Apple devices. The Express Plus Child Support mobile App allows customers to:

- ◆ Check when payments are due and how much they should pay (Child Support Collect paying parents)
- ◆ Make child support payments (Child Support collect only)
- ◆ Check the total support amount outstanding
- ◆ Check their latest account information
- ◆ View their payment history
- ◆ View and update their personal details
- ◆ View their on-line letters
- ◆ Advise about changes in care arrangements for their children
- ◆ Advise about changes to their income estimate
- ◆ Access the diary to create and view events
- ◆ Use the vault to store important documents
- ◆ View and update bank details

*Toy Catalogues are due back by Tuesday 6th October. Any orders after this date can be sent directly to the Toy companies. Don't forget to put Family Day Care Gympie Region as the nominated school/centre.*



**REV'S RAMBLINGS—**

Most of you will remember at some time or other being involved in that crazy song/game called the Hokey Pokey. Remember how it starts: You put your right hand in, you put your right hand out, you put your right hand in, and you shake it all about, you do the hokey pokey and you turn around, that's what it's all about. Then it goes through a number of verses! Left hand, right foot, left foot, head, backside, and eventually you get to the final verse which says, you put your whole self in. It's this last verse that I want to comment on. Because that's what life - real life asks us all to do. If we want to get the most out of the life we have - whoever we are and whatever we do it's about putting our whole self into it. It's about shaking all we are and all we have so that nothing is left unturned or unanswered, nothing leaves anyone assuming or guessing our level of involvement or commitment. And yet so often we only half commit. And while there may be different generational reasons given, (the older ones say, “we're too tired, we've been there and done that” - or the younger ones say, “yeah I'll get involved unless or until something better comes my way”), it boils down to the same fact - we are not fully engaged - not fully committed - not deep enough. We quit before we get to the end of the game - the last verse. It's like the athlete who stops running his race 10 steps before the finish line. So close perhaps but he will never enjoy the victory. **Life is to be enjoyed not endured.** If you find yourself on the enduring end, stop and reflect on who you are, the race you're in and your commitment. The only way to claim enjoyment is to put your whole self in, shake it up and share it round. That's what Jesus meant when he said, “Follow me”. Are you fully in - for that's what it's all about!

*Reverend Dave Thomas is the chairman of the Uniting Church Child Care Association Management Committee.*

Margaret Rapley has joined our service as an Educator at Cooloola Cove. Welcome Margaret, we hope you enjoy your time with us.



We are also saying goodbye to Shelley Skene. Thank you for your time with our service and we wish you all the best.

★ Let the children PLAY  
 stomp in PUDDLES climb trees  
 Dig in the Dirt go on a  
 bug hunt make mud pies  
 ROLL DOWN a hill BUILD  
 a cubby make a Daisy chain  
 create a garden for fairies  
 Playing outside makes children  
 ★ smarter  
 healthier  
 happier

★ Let the children PLAY <http://progressiveearlychildhoodeducation.blogspot.com>