

24 April 2024

Hello our school partners,

We communicated in term one our intentions to provide you with further information about annual fee increases at the start of term 2. We wanted to provide a timetable for when we will be sending you this information and a bit of background information.

Every year we review the costs of providing services to determine the necessity and size of fee increases. We do our best to keep these at or below inflation and have had several years where we have been able to have no fee increases.

Our fee increases are informed by cost-of-living changes (inflation) and increases to the award by FairWork for the Child Care award which covers our sector.

Unfortunately, there are various reviews and wage cases that have not yet been resolved. For example, one claim is for an increase of up to 25% for our people and for this to be paid for by Government. Another review is looking at female dominated sectors and may recommend an above inflation increase but this will not be paid for by Government (meaning it has to be covered by providers).

Our goal is to keep increases as low as possible (at or below inflation) but with such uncertainty we don't want to guess. As you know, we delay our increases every year to July so that any increase in our fees is offset by the increase in child care subsidy rate (so parents out of pocket costs remain similar).

Our expectation is that the Federal Budget will provide more visibility as to the Government intention on these important decisions. The Budget is on May 14.



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As a result, our expected timeline is:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Federal budget handed down | May 14 |
| 2. TheirCare to analyse budget and determine impact on our sector and our people | May 15 |
| 3. Communicate to School Partners | May 16 |
| 4. Approval from School Partners (on or before) | June 28 |
| 5. Communicate to families (on or before) | June 28 |
| 6. New fees implemented | Term 3 |

Of course, if anything changes before May 14 that provides more visibility for us, we will communicate straight away. We are conscious that many of you need input/support from School Councils/Boards so we wanted to be as transparent as possible and give as much notice as we can.

If your school has just commenced a partnership with us this year or have fees fixed for this year, this letter is for your information only and does not impact your school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your Area Manager or Steve Baldock and we are always happy to discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Abela'.

Michael Abela
