

# **OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION NSW/NATIONAL INC**

## **2008 - 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Since our last AGM meeting back in April 2008, the Committee has been faced with some challenges with regard to the management of our Association. The committee is a very committed and continues to play a major role for the occasional child care sector. At all times decision making by the committee as a team, is supportive and encouraging. All Management Committee's at certain times are faced with making decisions for the best outcomes and these decisions are always addressed in a professional manner, which has been the case with our committee. I have always advocated that by being a member of the OCCA NSW it is very good character building and a great learning mechanism. The Management Committee have worked through many situations and will continue to keep working and further understanding the role of the Association as well as relating to all the changes within the early childhood sector. I would encourage services to seriously consider being on the management committee as they will not only benefit from this experience themselves but their service will also

### **MEETINGS, FORUMS & NETWORKING, COMMUNICATION**

OCCA Management Committee has continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis and tend to the business of the Association and our sector. As well as these meetings, Management Committee members continue to engage in other meetings, forums and steering committee/reference group's which is relevant to the Department of Community Services agenda at this time. Some of the meetings include: NCOSS (NSW Children's Services Forum) Children's Services Regulations Review Steering Committee and the 1 to 4 staff/child Ratio.

Communication with our occasional child care services in both NSW and on a National basis is mainly via the email and phone conversation. This is continuous but limited at this time to 2 days a week: Tuesday & Thursday as at the moment there is not much pressing business which needs immediate action. When memberships are due, Jenny will be back to 3 days.

## **FAMILY SAMPLING**

As you all realise the Occasional Child Care Association does not receive any form of recurrent funding from either the State/Federal Governments. This is why it is important that services support us with the Family Sampling Package. This is a form of fund raising for the Association with no actual work other than for services to nominate how many samples bags their service require to give to the families that utilise their service. At this point of time the Association is still waiting to receive payment from Family Sampling for 2008. Our data base has been updated and now includes National Members so we will definitely see an increase with this fund raising exercise. I would like to thank all services for their support with this venture.

## **CONFERENCE 2008**

Our 2008 Conference “Looking Forward to the Future for Occasional Care” was held in August at the Citigate Sebel Hotel, Sydney. Once again all delegates who attended expressed how great the weekend was. All delegates thoroughly enjoyed the opening with our guest speaker Associate Professor June Wangmann. The committee spends many hours organising the program for the weekend and when they read the conference surveys, it is always very rewarding to receive the position feedback form the delegates and all the hard work has been appreciated. The conference weekend is a great way for occasional child care services staff coming together with the aim of furthering their skills and knowledge as well as networking with other professionals. This year it was unfortunate that we were unable to attract any sponsorship funding from either the State/Federal Government. The 2008 conference was completely funded through the delegate’s registration and memberships fees. The conference committee acknowledge services who had 5 or more staff attending the conference and were rewarded with a free registration which was greatly appreciated by the service. Services who attended the conference see it as a great way for their staff to further their professional development and networking with other professionals in our sector. Hopefully the Association will be able to continue with providing services with an annual conference and resources. This will be on our agenda following our AGM.

## **MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2008-2009**

**NSW Members: 105 (2008 101) and National Members: 80 (2008 85)**

Ideally it would be great if all occasional child care services were members Membership is round about the same as last year. The Association made the decision to increase its membership fee for the year 2008-2009 by \$10.00 per service. This did contribute to generating more income for the Association. This is the Association's only form of income other than the Family Sampling. Most of the income from memberships sponsored our conference which was in August last year. The role of the Association is to provide information, support and resources not only to staff/services but also Management Committee's. Please remember to contact the office if you require any form of assistance.

## **WEBSITE**

The last 12 months has been an exciting time for the Occasional Child Care Association with the establishment of our website [www.occansw.com.au](http://www.occansw.com.au) This will continue be a great resource for services, organisations and all families. Services will now be able to access all information relating to our sector via our website. As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 all occasional child care services NSW/National will be on our website. *If services are not financial members by the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010, they will be removed from our web page.*

## **THANK YOU TO THE COMMITTEE**

What can I say about the committee? It has been very pleasing to have such a dedicated and committed group who come together bi-monthly to provide information and support as well as networking as a group. I am sure all the committee have enjoyed their experience on the Committee as it can be and is a very rewarding experience both professional and personal. Each and everyone's contribution has been greatly appreciated within the group regardless of knowledge and experience and has very much been welcomed by all the Committee members. Also, I must say a very **BIG THANK YOU** to Jenny. Without her presence in the office on those days of the week I don't think we would be where we are today. She certainly has made a major impact with all the procedures in the day to day business of the Association. Over the past years the Association has struggled and at times faced difficulties with not having a fully committed working committee and administrative person in our office.

Just to finish on a final note. I must say with all my years of involvement within OCCA, I can assured you all I have enjoyed it immensely. To see the changes that have evolved within our sector and to know that maybe the Management Committee have had some small influence to these changes is very rewarding. The Occasional Child Care Association cannot survive without the support from all the occasional childcare services. This means more services commitment to becoming members and thus acknowledging the work that the Association undertakes for all occasional child care services regardless of their status or funding. The Association will strive to continue the valuable work that has already been undertaken over the years. The Association is a voice and advocates for all occasional child care services. I have and will always continue to be an advocate for occasional child care services.

*Mary A Cottee*  
*President*