



Oatley OOSH Care Navigator

Contact Us!

Email: enquiries@oatleyoosh.org.au

OPS OOSH: 0447 565 281
OCH OOSH: 0437 419 095

Issue 4, 2023

April Update

Dear Stakeholders,

Welcome to our belated April Newsletter!

Normally we aim for the end of the month, but there has been quite a bit happening that we wanted to catch in one sitting – so apologies for the delay, and thank you for your patience.

This issue covers a range of topics including the Provider Category Review, an increase to the number of students we can cater to, and a review of vacation care.

We're really proud of the work that we do at Oatley Public School and in the local community and with some big changes coming for OOSH in the year ahead we are excited to share it all with you.

It's been a pretty big year for us (so far) with more to come as the year progresses. I hope that you enjoy it and look forward to reading the feedback that we often receive.

As Ever,

Darren Brisbane
General Manager
Oatley OOSHCare Incorporated

Committee Meeting

Our Executive Committee:

Co-President

Hayley Lawson

Co-President

Kate Panchal

Secretary

Jane Miller

Treasurer

Dominique Suter

The Parent Committee can be contacted by emailing: committee@oatleyoosh.org.au

We hold 6 committee meetings a year, which are open to our parents and interested stakeholders. Our next committee meeting date will be in the first week of June. Details will be provided as soon as they are available.

OOSH Category Provider Change

By Darren Brisbane

This is a must read!



Oatley OOSH-Care is a long-standing community owned and operated Outside School Hours Care service. Unlike most providers who are organisations that operate for profit, or not for profit, we are an incorporated entity made up of parents and community members with an interest in community managed care being provided.

Until December 2021, we were classified in the same category as public school P&C's. In December 2021, a change to NSW Department of Education policy eliminated us from that category – which has given us until the end of our lease arrangement to transition the service to P&C ownership, or the lease will go out to public tender when it ends.

This is a significant change for our community – OOSH has been managed by parent volunteers since 1997, meaning that we have provided this type of care to families in Oatley and the surrounding suburbs for 25 years.

We have been working behind the scenes with Oatley Public School's P&C to investigate the feasibility of P&C takeover of operation – all Oatley Public School parents should be on the look out for an important poll coming from the P&C in the coming days. Your opinion will help determine which direction we go in.

Read more on the blog: [OOSH Category Provider Change](#)

An Increase in Spaces is Coming

By Darren Brisbane



I am pleased to announce that through collaborative discussions with Oatley Public School and the NSW Department of Education, we are in the process of seeking an amendment to the number of children that we can provide care for at Oatley Public School OOSH.

We have support from the NSW Department of Asset Activations and Infrastructure, support from Mrs Debbie Hunter, principal of OPS, and we are just waiting on the Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate (the regulator) to review our application and approve it.

The team are working behind the scenes to review our routines and processes so that when we are able to increase spaces, everything will go smoothly.

More information will be provided about this when it is officially approved, and then we will begin the process of moving bookings from the Community Hall back to 6OPS.

Our thanks to Mrs Debbie Hunter for her significant input and taking the lead to ensure that OOSH is supported as part of the Oatley Community.

OOSH Supports Oatley P&C Movie Night

By Darren Brisbane



In a stellar example of how community owned and managed OOSH can support school community initiatives, Oatley OOSHCare was proud to be the primary sponsor and supporter of the recent Oatley Public School P&C Movie Night on the flats! It looked like a fantastic night.

Farewell and Thanks to Robert Wild

By Darren Brisbane

Long standing Oatley OOSH Committee member Robert Wild has made the decision to step away from Oatley OOSH. We thank him for his time and dedication to the organisation over the years, and wish him well in the future.

Additional Needs and Inclusion Support

By Sam Walter

Oatley Public School OOSH is about to review our Strategic Inclusion Plan with KU Inclusion Specialists as part of the Inclusion Support program. Inclusion Support provides services like ours with training, resources, and funding to help us ensure that all children can access OOSH equitably. Does your child have a special consideration that we should know about? Let us know!

Read more: [NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency Information for Families](#)

Well-Being Program

By Ashleigh Roe



Here at Oatley OOSHCare, we are a BeYou well-being community. BeYou is a program implemented by Beyond Blue, an organization focusing on mental health outcomes and support in educational settings.

This term, we are implementing a few initiatives for both the children and the educators to create a mentally healthy environment, and to increase awareness on the importance of mental health.

Some of the main areas of the BeYou program include building resilience and coping skills for the children, providing professional learning for educators on the importance of mental health, early intervention, and support for themselves and the children, and creating a healthy and collaborative space overall for all children, educators, and parents & guardians at Oatley OOSH.

Occasionally, surveys will be sent out to collect your opinions and perspectives to implement relevant activities and address the unique well-being needs of our community. These are completely optional. If you have any questions or feedback, you can get in touch with Darren or myself (Ashleigh) via email: enquiries@oatleyoosh.org.au, or by phone: (02) 9580 6591

Australian Small Business Champions Awards

Written by Darren Brisbane



Oatley Public School OOSH was recently nominated as a finalist in the Australian Small Business Champion Awards – out of 4500 applicants across Australia, in a number of categories, we were honoured to be a finalist.

Up against 15 other Early Childhood and OOSH services, we did not take home the trophy in our category – but the application process was thorough, and we had to talk about our strengths and achievements.

Trophy or not, this is a team of winners right here.

St George Local Business Awards



We're pleased to announce that we have been nominated as finalists in the upcoming St George Local Business Awards. Thank you to all who voted for us!

From the Junior Crew

By Maria Amvrazis

Vacation care is always a favourite for me, not only is it fun with all the incursions and excursions but it helps me prepare and gain insight for how my life will be after graduation and the beginning of my career.

Unlike before- and after-school care, vacation care offers the kids a chance to show us more of who they are and what they enjoy. This is evident in the lengthy hours they spend at OOSH.

Read more on the blog: [Vacation Care: A Junior's Perspective](#)

Seniors Program

By Josh Bridger and Jessica Dawson



OOSH Seniors Were Here

After a successful first term of Seniors Program for 2023, our Senior students at OOSH were given the opportunity to participate in their very own Vacation Care program called Oatley Youth. This program allowed them to equip useful life skills as they are quickly approaching high school.

Our senior students were given the choice of attending specialised excursions that were catered towards their interests and growing needs as they approach the end of their primary school journey. Many of the excursions that were run were suggested by the seniors during the school term, this ensured we had an excursion that represented all of the different interests of the seniors.

Read more on the blog: [Vacation Care: Oatley Youth](#)

Kindergarten Program

By Laura Rigon



Vacation care presented the Kindergarten children with activities across a variety of fields. This meant that all children's interests and passions were considered, and that every child was able to explore in areas that they don't normally immerse themselves in.

The children particularly loved our craft activities. One of the favourites was the shrink plastic keyring making activity. It was also nice to see the older students accompanying and helping our lovely Kindergarten students in making their keyrings.

Read more on the blog: [Our Kindies](#)

Our Menu

**Eat Smart
Play Smart**

Did you know that our menus are aligned with [Eat Smart, Play Smart: A Manual for Outside School Hours Care](#)? We know that children can be fussy eaters, and food is always available to children who attend our service. The menu is on display at the door to OPS OOSH – and we welcome parent feedback and input to what we serve the children. Drop us a line!

A Visit from the Regulator

By Darren

Oatley Public School OOSH took part in a compliance monitoring visit from the Department of Education, Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate this week. Compliance monitoring visits occur on average, once per year, for Education and Care services like ours. They are intended as a check to ensure that services are actively maintaining their legal compliance as well as keeping up with changes to legislation.

I am pleased to report that on this occasion, we passed the check. Many thanks go to Sam for her hard work and dedication to ensuring that OPS OOSH is meeting its legal obligations and to Jacinta and the team for handling the visit on the day with confidence and competence.

Feedback

We're seeking feedback from families on how we can improve our service – follow the link below to our fully anonymous survey:

[Parent Feedback Survey](#)

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Website – [Click Here!](#)