

Activ Children's Community Respite

Children's Community Respite News - June 2011

Update for families

Can you believe almost half the year has flown by already?! Where did 2010 go??? All of you by now should be aware of the new changes to the old Sitter Service program as we commenced the new **Children's Community Respite** service at the beginning of this year.

Many of you have expressed a welcome relief in not having to pay a fee to access this service and like how the service is flexible without restricting bookings to families' homes only.

Many of you are taking advantage of this opportunity to attend outings, social functions and appointments as a family unit.

Just a gentle reminder, most families are only able to access up to 4 hours per week. In certain circumstances this timeframe can be extended or 2 bookings might be performed during the week - but both scenarios are short term arrangements not usually lasting past 6 months.

When families have bookings confirmed, it's using our available resources at the time. Where your preferred booking day and time is not available, we will do our best to offer an alternative solution. No family is granted hours nor is it possible to "Bank" hours, meaning if your 4 hour booking was cancelled this week, unfortunately this does not mean you can then access 8 hours the following week, etc.

To create the most opportunities for all families wishing to access a service, there may be times where we will approach a family to let them know they may need to reduce the number of hours they receive so other families can access the service. We prioritise those families needing the reduction by how many hours or bookings they access weekly,

fortnightly or monthly; and for the period they have accessed it for. It could mean a family who were using 4 hours per week may have to reduce their hours down to 4 hours per f/n so 2 families get the benefit of a service and not just one. Many of you have expressed you are happy for this to occur with at least one month's notice given where possible before this scenario is implemented.

Bookings:

I have a number of new Volunteer carers who are ready to assist in various areas in the Metro region.

Please refer to the availability chart at the back of this flyer to see if there are any bookings you might like to book and confirm.



Joy Ackland with Team Manager Karen White at this year's National Thank a Volunteer Week 2011 at Matilda Bay Restaurant.

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North Metro Areas with Availability:

If your area is not listed then unfortunately we currently do not have any resources available at the moment for any new regular bookings or one off occasions.

Please note – we have no one who is able to perform bookings past Joondalup at present and will let those respective families know when we do.

North Metro Areas:	Start time:	Finish Time:	Day:	Booking type:
Woodvale	Weekend daytimes	TBC at time of booking	Weekend daytimes	One off bookings only
Wembley / Floreat	Weeknights after 5:30pm	TBC at time of booking	Weeknights	One off bookings only
Balcatta	Week nights and after 5pm and Weekends – Day or not	TBC at time of request	Weekday Pm and Weekends day + Night	Regular bookings and One off bookings
Leederville	Week nights and after 5pm and Weekends – Day or not	TBC at time of request	Weeknights	One off bookings
Osborne Park / Innaloo	Week nights and after 5pm and Weekends – Day or not	TBC at time of request	Weeknights	One off bookings

East Metro Areas with Availability:

If your area is not listed – then unfortunately we currently do not have any resources available at the moment for any new regular bookings or one off occasions.

East Metro Areas:	Start Time:	Finish Time:	Day:	Booking type
Ellenbrook, Avely, Ballajura, Mirrabooka, Caversham	6:30pm	10:00pm	Thursdays	Regular weekly booking or One off bookings
Noranda, Dianella, Morely, Beechboro, Bassendean	4:30pm	TBC at time of request	Any week day evening	Regular f/n booking or one off bookings
Forrestfield, Lesmurdie, Kalamunda	5:00pm	TBC at time of request	Saturdays	Regular monthly booking only

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South East and West Metro Areas with Availability:

If your area is not listed – then unfortunately we currently do not have any resources available at the moment for any new regular bookings or one off occasions.

Please note – At present we do not have anyone who is able to perform a booking in the Fremantle area and will let respective families know when we do.

East Metro Areas:	Start Time:	Finish Time:	Day:	Booking type:
Victoria Park, ST James, Bentley, Kensington, Rivervale, Carlisle, Lathlain, Welshpool	Anytime after 5pm weekdays	TBC at time of request	Any weekday evening or Saturday – day or night	One off bookings only
Cannington, Queens Park, Kenwick, Beckenham	Weeknights anytime after 7pm	TBC at time of request	Weeknights after 7pm	One off bookings only
Willetton, Riverton, Bull creek, Shelly, Manning, Waterford	Any	Any	Any	Regular and one off bookings available
Thornlie, Langford, Maddington, Harrisdale, Southern River, Piara Waters, Gosnells, Parkwood,	Weeknights after 5pm or any weekend day or night time	TBC at time of booking	Weeknights – PM and weekends day or night	Regular and one off bookings available
Cockburn, Atwell	Weekends day or night	Weekends day or night	Any	One off bookings only
Melville, South Lake, Applecross, Willagee, Winthrop, Myaree, Wilson, Bibra Lake	Weekday nights after 5pm or anytime during the weekend	TBC at time of request	TBC at time of request	Regular and one off bookings available
Daglish, Subiaco, Claremont	After 6pm for Daglish or Subiaco – Any for Claremont	Any	Any	One off bookings only
Rockingham, Baldivis, Warnbro, Shoalwater, Secret Harbour	Any	Any	Any	Regular or one off bookings available

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Department Changes:

Some of you may already know but recently we had a change in the Recreation / Children's Community Respite Department. The Manager for Recreation and Children's Community Respite Service, Lynette Arnold, is currently in a secondment position as the Operations Manager for Activ Accommodation North Metro.

Activ's Volunteer Coordinator, Karen White, is acting in a Team Manager position while Lynette is in this role.

If you have any issues which you feel need to be addressed by a manager, please send these directly to **Karen White, tel. 9258 4711** or email: karen.white@activ.asn.au. She can be reached during normal business hours.

Active Children for Activ's Community Respite Program

Lately a number of you would have received a letter not only explaining the new Children's Community Respite program but also information about the large number of families who were part of this service and have never explored the opportunity of utilising it.

To create room for other families to access this unique and valuable respite option, we have asked those who do not wish to access the Children's Community Respite program to contact us directly on 9258 4711 or via email joey.piwarigreen@activ.asn.au, so we can archive your details accordingly.

For those who still wish to remain on the database and have not requested a service for 6 – 12 months, you will need to complete a reassessment of your support needs before we are able to perform any service.

For regular users of the service or anyone who has requested a booking within 6 months or less – your details will remain active on our database and you do not need to do anything.



Reason to run in this year's Chevron City to Surf for Activ? Run for Beth!

Running for Beth

This year's 2011 Chevron City to Surf for Activ participants will have a special reason to enter into our "Charity Challenge". Teams participating in the run will be running for a specific cause or person. Beth Ebert pictured above has been nominated as one of the ambassadors for Activ's Charity Challenge. Beth is 2 years old and was born with Downs Syndrome.

As a regular recipient of the Children's Community Respite service, Beth's family are only too familiar with the trials and tribulations faced by families who have children with extra challenges. Beth's parents Jane and Martin welcome the 4 hours respite per week they access through the service with their Volunteer carer – Nicola.

Not only does it provide breathing time for mum and dad but it also gives them an opportunity to refocus.

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"Children's Community Respite gives us time as a family and a couple to have a break from caring for our gorgeous young daughter who happens to have Down Syndrome. With no family in Perth it is comforting to know that thanks to a genuine, kind person like our Volunteer carer Nicola, we can enjoy time with our kids. Thanks Activ for providing this service," said Beth's mother, Jane Ebert.

If you are interested in becoming a participant or Volunteer in this year's Chevron City to Surf for Activ event or would like to run for Beth as part of Team Activ or children like her, please visit our website www.perthcitytosurf.com and register with Team Activ.

All Activ clients receive free registration by entering the Team Activ code ACTFF11. For more information, contact Activ's Development & Fundraising Manager, Pauline Green on 9387 0428 or email pauline.green@activ.asn.au

Where are you, Joey...?

Most of you who are regular service users have noticed I appear to be away from the office a lot when you have called or emailed to request a service.

As part of my role within the Activ Recreation department, I also coordinate and attend Recreation programs with individual participants and a team of Volunteers within WA, Interstate and Overseas.

When on program this tends to mean I am absent between 3 – 10 days depending on the destination and type of program.

I have also been assisting the Volunteer Recruitment area and some of our HACC

funded services. Please rest assured – if I am away on program or busy with another area when you call, please let whoever you speak to know you would like to make booking for Children's

Community Respite and they will put you through to the appropriate person.

If you email, then the out of office email you receive straight after the one you've just sent will have the instructions on who to contact for your booking with their contact details.

As it stands the Children's Community Respite program is filling between 85 – 90% of requests received per month.

You can also call the Children's Community Respite on-call number after hours on 0408 881 293 to **cancel** any previously booked service. We are unable to process any new bookings from this number and ask carers to make all bookings through our Children's Community Respite office only 😊



Volunteer Sarah Brown (second from left) and Joey (last on the right) on Program in Fiji 2010.