

## Further Information regarding the Delay to Start of Term One

Communication to C&K families – 12 January 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome to Kindy for 2022. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to C&K.

As you may be aware, the Queensland Government have announced that the start of the 2022 school year in Queensland will be delayed, from Monday 24 January to Monday 7 February.

I can confirm that the commencement of kindergarten for term one will be on Monday 7 February.

Your child's teacher will be in touch with you about any planned orientation sessions or visits to the Kindy scheduled before the start date.

### **Essential Workers and Vulnerable & Disadvantaged Children**

Between 24 January to 7 February 2022, our kindergartens will be open for children of essential workers and vulnerable children.

An *essential worker* is defined as someone who provides essential services and who is unable to work from home. This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses and other front-line medical staff, retail workers, haulage drivers, and police officers. You can find out more about this definition on the [Department of Education FAQs website](#).

Children whose families may be experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage can also attend. This may include:

- Children who are eligible for QKFS plus; or
- A Health Care Card Holder who is experiencing vulnerability.

We ask parents of children planning to attend during those two weeks to notify their centre Director by Wednesday 19 January. This will allow us to plan appropriately for your child.

### **Fees**

The Queensland Department of Education has provided a fee subsidy for the first two weeks of term 1 (24 Jan – 7 Feb). C&K will not charge fees for these two weeks. Your fee statements will be adjusted to reflect this.

### **Learning from Home Resources**

Children and families who remain at home are encouraged to access the resources and activities available on the [earlylearning@home site](#). The centre team may also provide some centre specific resources.

### **Centre COVID-19 Protocols**

If your child does need to attend the centre during this expected peak in COVID cases, it is critically important that families:

**1. Advise your centre director of any confirmed cases of COVID within your family.**

C&K is committed to keeping all families informed where we know or suspect that there has been a COVID positive person in attendance.

We will not disclose any personal information in relation to this advice, but rather we can alert other families and staff to be mindful of any emerging health concerns.

**2. Keep your child home if they have any respiratory symptoms.**

We cannot accept into Kindy any child who has any respiratory or COVID like symptoms. Similarly, unwell family members cannot come to the centre, and our staff will not be attending the centre if they are unwell.

**3. Please observe the government requirement to wear a mask at all times when entering our centres.**

This will minimise the potential spread of infection from person to person and avoid our staff needing to remind parents and visitors of the requirement.

**4. Maintain social distancing and good hygiene, including sanitising hands upon arrival.**

Your centre may make slightly different arrangements for the arrival and departure of children to reduce the number of people in the centre at one time. Your centre director will advise you of these arrangements.

**Positive cases in our Kindergartens**

Under the [revised definition of a 'close contact'](#), early childhood settings are not defined as 'household like' and children, educators, and family members who attend an early childhood setting at the same time as a positive case are not considered 'close contacts'.

This means that anyone in attendance at kindergarten at the same time as a positive COVID case may not need to isolate or quarantine – unless directed to do so by a Public Health Authority or unless they develop COVID symptoms. We will communicate with you and advise what steps to take if a positive case is notified.

If we are required to close a kindergarten, we will give as much notice as possible but cannot guarantee that last-minute closures may be necessary. We will do everything we can to provide your child with a great start to Kindy, but some disruption should be expected.

C&K's COVID-19 Commitment Statement is being reviewed to ensure it aligns with all current Government advice and Directives. Our current Commitment Statement and the latest coronavirus information for families can be found on the [C&K website](#). Our Commitment Statement outlines the steps that we are taking to keep children, staff, and families as safe and healthy as we can. Please take some time to familiarise yourself with these commitments and ensure that you know how you can assist us in keeping the environment safe.

The Queensland Government mandated vaccination for all early childhood staff in December. As such, all C&K staff working with your children are now vaccinated. This includes all teachers, educators, clerical staff, cleaners, volunteers, and vocational placement students.

If you have any questions, please speak with your centre director or email [advice@candk.asn.au](mailto:advice@candk.asn.au).



Thank you for your understanding and for working with us to keep our children, families, and staff safe.

We look forward to welcoming all our new and returning kindergarten families to our learning programs from Monday 7 February.

Take care,

Dr Sandra Cheeseman

Chief Executive Officer

**The Creche and Kindergarten Association Limited**