

5.5 Fees

Policy: Preschool fees are based on guidelines set out by the NSW Department of Education and Communities. Fees help Upper Macleay Preschool to provide quality care to the children that attend. Fees collected enable us to purchase equipment, provide quality educator and provide a physical environment that contributes to the children's experience in our preschool.

Relevant legislation:

Key Resources: NSW Department of Education and Communities, Family Assistance Office Centrepay. Education and Care Services National Regulations.

Practices:

Setting Fees

The fees are set by the management committee to be as fair and affordable as possible. These fees need to be reviewed annually prior to setting the budget.

Fee increases will reflect the changing cost in daily running of the preschool.

The Preschool is funded under the NSW Department of Education and Communities, Start Strong funding model aims to improve affordability of early childhood education and increase the number of children participating for 600 hours in a quality early childhood education program in the year before school.

Based on the recommendations under the Start Strong funding model fees are determined by a number of factors.

- If a parent possess a '**Health Care Card**' (stating the name of the child being enrolled) that child is then eligible for fee reduction.
- 3 year old children with their own HCC will not be eligible for reduced fees.
- To be eligible for fee reduction a child needs to be at least 3 years old on or before 31st July in the year of enrolment and the child's family must be holders of a Health Care Card or 4 years on or before 31st July, after 31st July fee reduction applies on the child's birthday.

Payment of Fees

The fees can be paid in three ways:

Option 1: Centrepay- is a free direct bill-paying service offered to customers receiving payments from Centrelink. Through Centrepay you can choose to pay your fees by having a regular amount deducted from your Centrelink payment. Forms can be collected from the office, you will need to fill them out and send or take them to your nearest Centrelink office.

Option 2: Full Payment- This option allows you to pay for your child's full fees for the term up front. This option requires payments to be made within two weeks of receiving term fee account.

Option 3: Direct debit- This option allows you to have your preschool fees directly debited from your account at least fortnightly. (this needs to be set up by you with your banking institution).

Enrolment Package Fee

On enrolment parents will be asked to pay a \$30.00 enrolment fee, this provides the child with a preschool shirt that can be worn to protect other clothing from paint and play. We also provide an approved Cancer Council sun hat that protects the child's face, neck and ears from the sun. The fee also covers the paper work and time involved in enrolling a child.

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