

MEDIA STATEMENT

18 May 2009



B4Kids Starts Defence Child Care Contract Today

B4Kids is pleased to begin operating today as the manager of 21 Defence Child Care Centres across the country.

B4Kids Managing Director Leanne Beasant welcomed the end to the receivership process.

“It has been a very difficult time for staff and parents at the Defence centres. Defence personnel and their families have a very demanding role in supporting our community and the Defence Centres are critical in allowing the flexibility and family support to ensure they can perform their roles. We are excited to be chosen to manage these unique Centres and we look forward to restoring stability to the group, ensuring that the care and education provided is of the highest quality tailored to meet the individual needs of the child’s development,” Ms Beasant said.

“We are proud to announce that as of today all 21 Defence Centres will revert to their original names reflecting the unique and honoured traditions of Defence members and their families.”

The Child Care Centre names from today are:

Amberley, Cerberus, Kids Brigade (formerly Durack 1), Durack (formerly Durack 2), East Sale, Enoggera, Little Diggers (formerly Holsworthy), Kangaroo Cottage (formerly Jervis Bay), Coral Sea (Kirwan East), Tingira (formerly Nowra Hill), Kids Crew OSHC, Flying Start (formerly Pearce), Puckapunyal, Little Eagles (formerly Richmond Central) The Blue House OSHC, Russell Hill, The Sunny (formerly Swanbourne), Little Geckos (Tindal) Big Geckos OSHC, Williams and Williamstown Child Care Centres.

Ms Beasant said B4Kids believed staff retention is critical for the quality and continuity of care for the children.

“We are excited that 249 of our 253 offers of employment to existing centre staff were accepted. The four staff that declined our offer remain employees of the receivers and continue employment with the ABC1 Group (working in other Centres run by the receiver),” she said.

“B4Kids has done its utmost to ensure the majority of staff previously employed by ABC in the Defence Child Care Centres have been offered employment. A small number of the Centres were overstaffed and to ensure their ongoing viability ten positions were, unfortunately, not required and therefore these staff were not offered B4Kids contracts.

“These staff remain employed by the receiver who had previously redeployed workers to other Centres it continues to run. We understand that the receivers in a few instances chose not to redeploy staff and instead chose to issue notices of redundancies. B4Kids has requested further information from the receivers on the employment status of these ten staff.”

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