Vacation Care Program

The program
UnitingCare Community’s Vacation Care Program is a community based program for school aged children between the ages 5-18 with a diagnosed disability. The program is funded by the Federal Dept of Families Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The Vacation Care Program includes a range of indoor and outdoor activities. Activities may include:

- Cooking
- Sensory play
- Sports
- Outdoor play
- Craft
- Themed days
- Pretend play

Please note full details of the program including site specific pictures are available in the UnitingCare Community Parents Handbook.

Program participation
Your Child must be of school age 5-18 years and have a diagnosed disability. Our policy of inclusion aims to undertake and provide for the individual needs of your child. A needs profile tool is used to identify specialized health care requirements, behavioral support needs and other individualized care needs. This process is undertaken in partnership with schools, specialists and families.

The program will endeavor to incorporate all children, however if the required level of safety cannot be met vacation care will not be provided.

Locations
UnitingCare Community Vacation Care operates from the following sites:

- **Beenleigh Special School**
  Mt Warren Boulevard, Mt Warren Park

- **Mitchelton Special School**
  Osbourne Rd, Mitchelton

- **Nursery Road Special School**
  Nursery Rd, Mt Gravatt West

- **Mt Ommaney Special School**
  Capitol Drive, Mt Ommaney

Hours of operation
UnitingCare Community Vacation Care is open from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Some sites may differ. Please confirm operating days with administration.

Application process
Applications for Vacation Care can be made by contacting the Vacation Care Administration on 3270 6451 or email vacationcare@uccommunity.org.au. Bookings must be made before cut-off dates (see below).

No application will be taken without both parent and child Customer Reference Numbers and date of birth information.

A confirmation of vacation care placement letter will be sent out prior to the vacation care period. Any changes after confirmation may incur a fee.

Please note places are limited. A non-refundable administration fee of $20.00 will apply, to be paid on application.

Fee structure
Fees are **$75 per day** less Child Care Benefit (CCB) and/or CCR. CCB is means tested and **families are required to register with the Family Assistance Office on 136 150 before an application can be processed** or full fees will apply.

A cancellation/change of booking fee will be incurred if changes/cancellations occur in the week prior to the care period beginning. Once the care period begins, all fees will be charged regardless of whether your child utilises their placement.

Families/carers will be invoiced after the duration of care with a payment period of 30 days.

Vacation Care Dates - 2013

- **June 24 – 28** and **July 1 – 5**
- **Applications Open** – April 15, 2013
- **Applications Close** – June 7, 2013
Priority of access

We are a service approved by the Federal Government to provide Child Care Benefit to families. Child Care Benefit is a means tested subsidy which reduces cost of care to families.

One of the responsibilities of this registration is to ensure that places are made using the priority of access guidelines as determined by the Federal Government. Our service will take children into care on the following basis:

Priority 1
A child at risk of serious abuse or neglect

Priority 2
A child of a single parent who satisfies, or parents who both satisfy, the work/training/study test under Section 14 of the Family Assistance Act.

Priority 3
Any other child

Within these main categories priority should also be given to the following children:

- Children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- Children in families which include a disabled person
- Children in families on lower incomes
- Children in families with non-English speaking backgrounds
- Children in socially isolated families
- Children of single parents

Child Care Benefit (CCB)

Child Care Benefit is provided by the Federal Government to help reduce the cost of care to parents. For many parents, Child Care Benefit significantly reduces the cost of care to families.

The majority of our families are entitled to a deduction of their daily fees. Alternatively eligible families can choose to claim this deduction at the end of the financial year.

The Federal Government has introduced a new system for Child Care Benefit. This is called the Child Care Management System (CCMS). This system puts more onus on parents to keep the Family Assistance Office (FAO) up to date with any changes to details especially income and work details.

Our service is no longer able to obtain any information from the FAO for any reason i.e. if there is a concern about the CCB rate that is being paid by the Government.

In order to receive Child Care Benefit and Child Care Tax Rebate, parents MUST provide us with the following information:

- Name, date of birth and Customer Reference Number of the parent linked to the child
- Name, date of birth and Customer Reference Number of the child or children.

Without our service having this information, we are unable to link you and your child to our service and therefore offer a deduction on your fees or in the language of CCMS to make your child a formal enrolment.

Families who do not wish to claim either CCB or Child Care Tax Rebate can still apply for placement in our program but are deemed informal enrolments by the Federal Government.

Contact details

UnitingCare Community Vacation Care
P.O. Box 3059
Loganholme Q, 4129
Phone: (07) 3270 6451
Fax: (07) 3250 4768
Email: vacationcare@uccommunity.org.au

Lifeline | Child and Family Care | Counselling | Crisis Support | Disability Support | Social Inclusion

Our Values | Compassion | Respect | Justice | Working Together | Leading through Learning