



NEW SOUTH WALES  
**BAR ASSOCIATION**

## Childcare

### Long day care

The Bar Council is pleased to announce that it has approved a proposal from the Equal Opportunity Committee to reserve places at a child care centre in the Sydney CBD for NSW Bar Association members.

An agreement will be entered into with Jigsaw Corporate Childcare, reserving a set number of places in a centre that is due to be opened in March 2014 at 49 Martin Place. The number of places reserved will be based on the responses to a survey circulated to members in 'In Brief' between 6 and 19 November 2013. The results from this survey are summarised below. Once all reserved places have been filled, a waiting list will be created and places will be allocated as they become available.

### *Information about Jigsaw Corporate Childcare*

Jigsaw Corporate Childcare operates the following centres in the Sydney CBD:

- a. Stepping Stones, with priority of access for staff of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.
- b. The Playroom, with priority of access for staff of Deutsche Bank and UBS.
- c. Cheeky Monkeys, with priority of access for staff of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.
- d. Trumpets, with priority of access for staff of Citigroup.
- e. Cherry Blossoms, with priority of access for staff of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and Ernst and Young.
- f. Snapdragons, with exclusive access for the staff of the Macquarie Group.
- g. Little Steps, with priority of access for staff of the Reserve Bank of Australia and Goldman Sachs.

Jigsaw Corporate Childcare is part of the Guardian Early Learning Group. Jigsaw currently operates 10 centres in Sydney and Canberra for a number of Australia's largest corporations.

The new National Quality Framework requires all childcare centres in Australia to be assessed and rated by the Australian Children's Education and Care Authority. This process has yet to be completed by the Authority however one Jigsaw centre has been reviewed and rated as 'exceeding the national quality standard'.

### *About the Centre*

It is proposed that the centre at 49 Martin Place will be fitted out between December 2013 and February 2014, and will be ready to open in March 2014. The centre will be on level 1, 49 Martin Place (above Tiffanys). The centre is accessible by public transport and free 15 minute drop off and pick up parking will be made available in the car park.

The Centre's hours of operation are 7.30 am – 6 pm. It is anticipated that after hours care will also be made available, although this is still to be confirmed.

The daily rate is currently between \$125 and \$140 per day, which is average for the Sydney CBD. Members of the Association are eligible to apply for the Childcare Benefit and the Childcare Rebate.

It is anticipated that members of the Association will also be able to request one or more casual days of care at any Jigsaw Centre in the Sydney CBD on short notice.

### *Eligibility*

The Association will initially reserve 10 full time spaces under the Management Agreement, for a period of 3 years. This number can be increased, subject to availability. Members who apply for a place, but who cannot immediately be granted a place will be put on a waiting list.

Staff of Bar Association members may also apply for a place reserved under the Agreement, although priority will initially be given to members of the Association.

After that, eligibility for a place will be determined in accordance with the Government's Priority of Access Guidelines. These Guidelines stipulate as follows:

- First Priority: a child at risk of serious abuse or neglect
- Second Priority: a child of a single parent who satisfies, or of parents who both satisfy, the work/training/study test under Section 14 of the '*A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999*'
- Third Priority: any other child.

Within these main categories priority will 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 which include an individual whose adjusted taxable income does not exceed the lower income threshold of \$41,902 for 2013-2014, or who or whose partner are on income support
- children in families from a non-English speaking background
- children in socially isolated families
- children of single parents

## **McArthur Management Emergency In Home Care Scheme**

Members may access emergency in home care, which is run by McArthur Management.

McArthur Management has provided emergency childcare to members of the Bar since 2003. McArthur can make carers available in emergencies or when regular childcare arrangements break down. If, for example, the child's usual carer is unwell, or if the member is detained in court, the carer from McArthur could be called upon to provide childcare at short notice.

All McArthur carers are fully screened, have an early childhood certification/qualification and are personally interviewed and assessed by McArthur. The hourly rate for in home childcare is \$43.50.

Families wishing to retain McArthur for in home child care are requested to register in advance, although this is not essential. Following registration McArthur will conduct a Home Safety Check. This is not an intrusive process, but it is required for McArthur to meet its workplace health and safety obligations. It is recommended that families who would like to have the same carer available to them when needed retain the services of that carer for a minimum of 4 hours per fortnight

McArthur can also arrange for the placement of permanent full time or part time in home carers. The fee for the recruitment of a carer is 11% of the annual salary plus superannuation. McArthur is also looking into the possibility of facilitating nanny share arrangements for a small fee.

Members with an enquiry, or who wish to make a booking, can call Louise Soglimbene, Melissa Sciglitano or Bernadette Dunn from McArthur on 02 9277 7000.

Calls made outside of business hours go to a pager service and a McArthur consultant will be advised of your enquiry/request for a carer.

## **Results from the Childcare Survey**

182 members responded to the Childcare Survey, which is an excellent result. We note the following from the survey results:

- 86% of respondents considered the availability of places in childcare centres to be a problem for members.
- Of those respondents who currently had childcare arrangements in place, 47% relied on family members, 41% relied on long day care and 33% relied on a part time nanny.
- 50 respondents anticipated wanting access to a childcare centre in the Sydney CBD during the next 5 years.
- 65% of respondents felt that priority of access to a childcare centre in the Sydney CBD would affect their capacity to continue or improve their career at the Bar.
- 88% of respondents considered the availability of extended hours of operation to be important.

**Contact**

Information in relation to childcare will be regularly updated on the Association's website. Members with enquiries in relation to childcare are welcome to get in touch with Megan Black on 9229 1739 or at [mblack@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:mblack@nswbar.asn.au).