

MEMBER ADVISORY

Tuesday, 3 August 2021 | **COVID-19 Early Childhood Education Member Advisory**

COMMUNITY KINDERGARTENS

SEQ lockdown - impact on community kindergartens

QKFS funding will be maintained. No ongoing employee should be disadvantaged by the lockdown.

Funding will be maintained

QKFS funding, at pre-existing levels, will be continued during the lock down regardless of the attendance of children. This was confirmed by the Department of Education yesterday.

Where alternative learning models are adopted, there will be useful work which can be performed by existing employees. Further, where learning from home (howsoever described) is provided, it would be reasonable for the kindergarten to continue to charge fees.

Stand downs should not be implemented

The IEU-QNT is aware that a small number of kindergarten employees have been threatened with a stand down. It would generally be unreasonable, in light of the funding situation, for full time and part time employees to be threatened with a stand down.

Attendance at Kindergartens

Similar to schools, the only children who should be attending a kindergarten are those of essential employees. This is contained in the Government Direction.

Employees should not be required to attend their place of employment unless it is necessary. Where there are children at the kindergarten there must be sufficient staff to satisfy legislated ratios, and to maintain duty of care.

However, where for example there are no children in attendance, then employees should be able to provide learning from home without the necessity to attend the kindergarten.

A copy of the Queensland Government Direction is available [here](#).

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“If you are in an office today, why? Why aren’t you at home?” (Dr Jeanette Young, Queensland Chief Health Officer, 2 August 2021)

Our collective support will enforce safe workplaces

As always **our COVID-19 Resource Hub** will be updated with further advice and resources.

We will provide more updates as they become available and following our further discussions with government and employers.

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