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PREVENTING
VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN

Changing the story on family violence



The Victorian Government has [released a new strategy to end family violence and violence against women](#). It aims to change the attitudes that contribute to family violence. Part of the strategy is to work with groups, including the early childhood sector, to end family violence.

In Australia, violence in intimate relationships contributes more to the disease burden for women aged 18 to 44 than any other risk factor including smoking, alcohol use or being overweight or obese.

One in three women over the age of 15 has experienced physical violence. More than half of women who experience violence have children in their care. If we don't stop violence in the first place, children will continue to experience and witness family violence. Impacts from family violence cross generations.

What will happen?



Change the story identifies five actions that must be taken to address factors known to drive violence against women:

- Challenge the condoning of violence against women.
- Promote women's independence and decision-making in public life and in relationships.
- Foster positive personal identities and challenge gender stereotypes and roles.
- Strengthen positive, equal and respectful relations between and among women and men, girls and boys. Promote and normalise gender equality in public and private life.

You will see more information on preventing violence soon. One area the work will focus on is early childhood education and promoting proactive strategies, like respectful play, respectful relationships between genders and creating respectful workplaces will help prevent violence.

Family violence services and support



If you have experienced violence or sexual assault and need immediate help, contact 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732). You can speak to a counsellor from the National Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence hotline.

For confidential support and information contact Safe Steps 1800 015 188 (24/7).

If you are concerned for your safety or someone else's safety, please call 000 or contact your local police.

RENEWALS DUE
1 JULY

Annual fees for NQF services



Invoices will be emailed by 1 June 2017 for annual fees for the 2017–18 financial year. Services must pay the annual fee on or before 1 July 2017.

It's a good idea to log into NQA ITS and review the services that you hold approval for. If your service is not currently operating you may choose to surrender your service approval. If this does not happen, you will receive an invoice including that service's annual fee.

More [information on fees can be found on the ACECQA website](#).

Suspended services

If your service is suspended, you are required to pay the annual fee by 1 July 2017 (s53 of the Education and Care Services National Law).

Surrendering your approval

If you want to surrender your service's approval, visit the ACECQA website and submit the form: SA07 Notification of surrender of service approval to begin this process. This form must be submitted before 1 July 2017 and meet the requirements of s86 of the National law.

Late payments

If the annual fee is unpaid after 1 July 2017 you may be subject to late fees and if it remains unpaid, the cancellation of your service approval.

Late fees may apply to payments received after 1 July 2017.

The annual fee indexation is in regulation 235 of the National Regulations. Late fees are covered in regulation 233 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations.

If you have questions about the fees or process, [please contact us](#).

CHILDREN'S
SERVICES ACT
RENEWALS

New Licensing Fees and Penalties 2017–2018 — Children's Services Act



The *Children's Services Act 1996* and the Children's Services Regulations 2009 identify a range of fees and penalties payable in relation to the licensing of children's services.

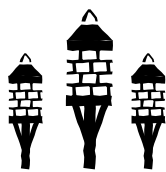
Licensing fees and penalties are updated annually on 1 July based on an increase to the value of a fee unit and penalty unit announced by the Treasurer.

From 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 the value of a fee unit will be \$14.22 and the value of a penalty unit will be \$158.57.

Updated licensing fees and penalties are available from 1 July 2017 [on our website](#).

For more information on the fee and penalty indexation, see [the Department of Treasury and Finance website](#).

Warning on citronella torches



Backyard citronella torches can be a handy tool for keeping bugs away from outdoor areas in summer, however they can pose a big hazard for children.

Recently a citronella torch at an early childhood service blew over, spilling the citronella lamp oil. A child at the service swallowed an unknown amount of the oil and needed hospitalisation. Citronella lamp oil poses a toxic hazard due to the petroleum distillate in the fluid. Ingesting the fluid can result in a trip to the hospital, or even death.

Other products including petroleum distillate include some furniture polish, mineral spirits and kerosene.

Look around for unexpected hazards in your centre:

- Is there something that could blow over and spill?
- Are all potentially toxic products stored properly and out of reach?
- Is your centre's emergency plan up to date?
- Do you know when to contact the Victorian Poisons Information Centre (13 11 26)?



VICTORIAN
EARLY YEARS
AWARDS
2017

**NOMINATIONS
OPEN**

APPLY NOW

www.education.vic.gov.au/veya



Do you know an outstanding early childhood teacher, service or organisation?

If so, nominate now for the 2017 Victorian Early Years Awards.

The awards celebrate leadership, outstanding achievement, exceptional dedication and innovation in improving outcomes for children aged 0-8 and their families.

[Check out the website for more information and to enter.](#)

Entries close **Monday 15 May**.

Get ready for Education Week 21–27 May!



What is Education Week?

Education Week is an opportunity for all primary and secondary schools and early childhood services to showcase the work they are doing for students to help ensure healthy minds and bodies.

The week aims to profile and celebrate everything from sport, dance, mentoring, yoga, meditation, reading, and art, to camps, excursions, breakfast clubs, healthy canteen menus, stress management and resilience; and more.

Share your ideas and stories

You can access a vibrant downloadable poster and other resources on the [Education Week](#)

[webpage](#) to help engage with and promote the week within your service and local community. Don't forget to use social media, using the hashtag **#edweekvic** to showcase what you are doing for Education Week.

The department is asking services to share their stories and ideas about Education Week 2017, and to tell us how they will be celebrating the theme of **Healthy Mind, Healthy Body** with their children and community. All feedback is welcome, and schools can get in touch by emailing: education.week@edumail.vic.gov.au.

CONTACTS

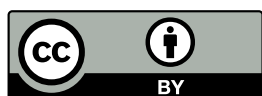
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