

# CAWA E-Newsletter

## 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010



### Child Care Awards for 2010:

On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, The **Hesta Early Childhood Education & Care Awards** will be held; CAWA encourages its members to nominate:

Hesta Early Childhood Education & Care Award categories:

- Innovation
- Individual Excellence



Nominations close July 31 2010.

For further information and to nominate visit: [www.earlychildhoodawards.com](http://www.earlychildhoodawards.com)

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010, the **2010 WA Child Care Awards** will be held. CAWA is the major sponsor, sponsoring the 2010 Innovative Service Award: this award recognises the dedication, professionalism and innovation of those working in the early childhood sector. CAWA looks forward to seeing its members represented strongly in the nominations for these awards.

WA Child Care Award categories:

- Childcare Association of WA Innovative Service Award
- Communicare Individual Leadership Award
- Family Day Care Peer Nominated Award
- Nutrition Excellence Award
- Yorganup Professional Development Award



Nominations close September 3 2010. For further information and to nominate visit:

[http://childcarewa.com/content/2010\\_wa\\_child\\_care\\_awards](http://childcarewa.com/content/2010_wa_child_care_awards)

It is great to see Early Childhood Educators being recognised for the wonderful and important role they play for WA children and families.

### Product Safety website

Australia now has a new national portal for product safety information, the Product Safety Australia website ([www.productsafety.gov.au](http://www.productsafety.gov.au)). This website provides a single point of entry to product safety information and includes details of products subject to mandatory safety standards and bans, as well as product safety tips, myths and FAQs. Consumers and suppliers can sign up to be automatically notified via email when information in a product category

they are interested in, such as children's products, is updated. The site also makes it easier for consumers and suppliers to contact the relevant consumer product safety regulator and make inquiries or complaints about potentially unsafe products.

The launch of this new website is a positive step towards the streamlining of national product safety laws. A single set of national laws will be in place from 1 January 2011.

Visit

<http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itmId/970225>

today to find out about product safety and to sign up for automatic product safety updates.

### Ezidebit

**The control to collect payments on time  
Stop the chase for childcare fees...**



Getting parents to pay on time is one of the biggest problems experienced by the childcare industry. However, the chase for childcare fees is changing, as many centres move towards electronic payment solutions to optimize the collection of payments and free up time for the important things, allowing the best quality service.

Today, billing providers can help childcare centres work towards a streamlined payment process, improving cash flow, and saving administration costs and time. Cash flow inconsistencies are being turned around and effective management and business growth have now become realities.

The use of a billing provider allows the control to be placed back in the hands of the centre. Busy parents will often forget or avoid paying their fees due to the nature of the industry. This can cause major cash flow interruptions for a centre. The flexibility of a payment solution allows centre administration to set either regular amounts or charge varying amounts for each payment, providing mutual benefits for the centre and importantly, peace of mind for the parents.

The idea that cash is king, has never been more true - by delivering cash flow, a centre will have more capital to reinvest in their business, for additional staff, equipment, marketing and sales. One example of a payment solution for a centre could be to implement a direct debit system. This concept works for both the business and the customer, locking down payment dates with the ability to vary the

amounts without extra administration. Direct debit can also be set up to work hand in hand with your childcare management software. Through integration with the centre's software program, previously time-heavy administration functions are taken away from the business, allowing a vast reduction in administration and the costs of billing.

There is a variety of different options available to the industry including automatic direct debit from bank accounts or credit cards, BPAY and phone and online payments.

To discuss a cost effective payment solution for your childcare centre or for more information, please visit [www.ezidebit.com.au](http://www.ezidebit.com.au) or call 1300 763 256.

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## CAA Media Release



### Media release Friday July 2 2010 Childcare Affordability and Access Needs To Be on Top of the Election Policy Pile

Australia's long day child care providers today urged the Government and Opposition to announce policies that put Australia's young children first and ensures all families have access to affordable quality early learning programs regardless of where they live or what they earn.

The Childcare Alliance Australia (CAA), representing 70% of the long day child care sector and the staff who care for more than 400,000 young children, called on the new Federal Minister for Education, the Hon Simon Crean MP to slow down the COAG reforms that will see child care costs rise by \$13-\$22 a day per child.

The CAA's Ms Gwynn Bridge said the new Gillard Government should match the Opposition's good planning policy announced today that would only allow parents to receive government childcare benefits for services in centres that were built where there was proven demand. "The Coalition is on the right track with its support for good planning so there is a sensible balance between demand and supply for long day child care and now we look forward to the Government's child care policy announcements that achieve the same, if not a better deal, for families," Ms Bridge said today.

With the 2010 Budget cuts to the Childcare Rebate cap now off the table and all parties - including the Government - effectively agreeing to the intent of amendments (moved in the Senate by the Greens on June 24 2010) to have the Child Care Rebate (the Rebate) paid to families weekly in arrears rather than quarterly, Ms Bridge said all parties were finally starting to listen to families doing it tough.

"What our families want and need are firm pre-election guarantees that their children can access high quality, affordable early learning programs. Parents need urgent assistance with their cash flow difficulties and they need certainty that their children won't be priced out of the long day child care centre they attend because of well intentioned but costly and ill conceived reform ideas."

### The CAA also called on all parties to formally commit to:

- having the Rebate payable, through the Child Care Management System, weekly in arrears so the cost of childcare is immediately halved (at the hip pocket) for parents; and
- Increasing the major parent subsidy, the Child Care Benefit, and in particular, doubling it for the 0-3 year olds to compensate for the continual erosion in Government support for these struggling families.

"A child well cared for in a supervised, regulated, learning and caring environment today will be a responsible and self sufficient taxpayer of tomorrow," Ms Bridge said. "Our children are indeed our future and they need all the support we can give them."

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## CCMS Feedback

The Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR), have requested feedback on CCMS complaints, the feedback received will be taken to the next National Children's Service Forum (NCSF) in August.

If you could please take the time to assist CAWA in replying via email with your issues and comments by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010 it would be greatly appreciated, feedback is an important tool we can use to help change or improve current child care industry systems/issues. Your feedback is valued.

- **Please list the most common and regular issues you have with CCMS via email to [info@childcarewa.com](mailto:info@childcarewa.com)**



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## CAWA Website

[www.childcarewa.com](http://www.childcarewa.com)



The CAWA website has been recently upgraded, it will hold and display much more information as soon as it is finalised. The website is more user friendly, and owners with more than one centre will soon be sent a new username and password so you can access all your centres under the one user.

Members let your suppliers know about the website, and don't forget to inform suppliers listed on the website that you are a **CAWA member**.

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## CAWA Website suppliers

### Accounting

- Letizia Palmer Chartered Accountants

### Banking

- Commonwealth Bank Australia

### Cleaning products

- Busiclean
- Delshine Products WA

### Debt recovery

- Fetch My Debt

### Electronic billing

- Ezidebit

### Insurance

- Guild Insurance

### Other

- Inkpot Printing And Design
- Kasa Consulting
- Ezyshop
- Medibands
- Turnstone Products

### Outdoor services

- Safer Sands Pty Ltd

### Software

- Qikkids
- Future Blocks

### Staff recruitment

- Class Professionals
- Expect a Star

### Superannuation

- Australian Child Care Super Fund
- Hesta Super Fund
- Westscheme Superannuation

### Toys/Sporting

- A World Of Play
- Powerplay Sports
- The Inspiration Factory

