

FIVE AND UP

TERM 4 2020

We're Back!

And adjusting to a "new normal"

It's been a turbulent year for OSCAR services and we know many of our colleagues have carried a heavy burden of worries: about the future of our programmes, personal financial and health stresses and at the same time seeing the families they work with struggling under the same uncertain clouds. What a relief then, that so many of our children have come back and are *just getting on with it*.

"The new norm for us is continually checking budgets ... cutting back all areas, trying to get to the end of the year in the black"

One of the standout trends from our national survey of parents last year was the importance for many that OSCAR was a familiar environment for their children: people, activities and routines that say to kids "this is your place".

"A lot of the hygiene practices are a good addition regardless of COVID-19...sanitising of hands is becoming second nature"

At OSCN, we've heard a lot about how

energised and upbeat the kids are to be back at OSCAR and reconnecting with their OSCAR whanau. Without a doubt, the social and mental benefits of "just being a kid" and getting some relief in these worrying times is something we should not undervalue.

"Being flexible and fitting in with changed family needs is far more important these days"

The current situation in Auckland reminds us that we may have some challenging times still ahead of us. Unfortunately there remains a portion of our sector that is vulnerable: small scale services and those based in areas where employment participation is low.

"My main concern is hanging on to my staff... it's not easy to get great people"

Coming out of the first lockdown we have also seen more confidence that the right procedures are in place to get through the different levels and that given time, attendance numbers are likely to build back up.

COMING UP SOON

The OSCAR Meet Up 2020

We were very disappointed to have to postpone this, especially for those of you coming from outside of Auckland.

We will set a new date for a face-to-face meetup event as soon as we can. In the meantime we will continue our on-line networking

Next On-Line Meetups

Discussion and networking for OSCN members

Going the Extra Mile

Children with higher care needs & more challenging behaviour.

10-11am

Wednesday September 9th

A-OK 4 OSCAR Reviews

Current talking points for people undertaking MSD Accreditation reviews.

Wednesday October 21st

Other term 4 dates will be out soon

Current courses & registration at oscn.nz/page/training.html

UPDATE!

OSCAR Programme Data

Earlier this year OSCN completed a stock take of OSCAR services, including non-accredited sites. Every year we see programmes close, new ones open and there are changes of ownership or location. So while these figures are in constant change, they do confirm trends we have seen emerging:

63% of all programmes are school-based

56% of after school programmes offer before school care

94% of the services we located are OSCAR-accredited

[CONTINUES OVER.]

OSCAR Service type	Location		
	School	Other	Total
Before School Care	386	137	524
After School Care	686	268	954
Holiday programmes	452	345	797
Camps*	-	28	28
Total OSCAR sites**	731	426	1157

*Camps that offer OSCAR-accredited holiday programmes.

** "Site" refers to a location where a programme is based. Some OSCAR providers operate multiple sites. Note that one site may offer more than one kind of service





Look out for the next issue of **SOMETHING TO DO** Coming soon!

More Sector Data Programme ownership

When we look at who is running OSCAR programmes in more depth, the sector is still largely characterised by “small scale provision.” Just over half of programmes are run by entities that operate only 1 or 2 OSCAR sites.

66% of after school care programmes are privately owned
11% are operated by school BOTs

899 OSCAR sites are in the North Island, 258 are in the South Island

The overall distribution of programmes is in line with population data and most schools in larger urban/provincial centres have access to an OSCAR service.

Small scale provision, such as before school care or programmes in more rural and remote locations, remains a challenge to be viable. A significant number of parents report that they require longer hours: before school care or evenings for shift workers.

Service type	Ownership			
	School	Private	Community/ Local Govt.	Total
Before School Care	51	372	100	523
After School Care	109	632	213	954
Holiday programmes	43	506	248	797
Total OSCAR sites	110	709	338	1157



OSCN Executive Update New members from out of Ak

Now that our Executive meetings can be joined remotely, we are pleased to welcome our first representatives on the OSCN Executive from outside of Auckland: Liz Eaton (Nippers Ltd, Palmerston North); Sarah Gray (ElimKids, Hastings) and Craig Fortune (MASH, Christchurch) join our Auckland-based committee members to help keep OSCN’s governance in touch with the sector.

Current sector talking points

POLICE VETTING TIMEFRAMES At our AGM, the ongoing difficulty with confirming staff positions and waiting for the vetting results was raised again. The Police cannot process vets quicker; only very

exceptionally. Some members have commented that Vetting is not nearly as important as proper background and referee checking.

CERTIFICATION FOR OSCAR STAFF There was also some discussion at the AGM about the need for a basic certificated course for new staff, so as to reduce the burden of induction training on programme owners/managers. Some Executive members are keen to look further into what is needed and how it might be delivered.

OSCAR DURING LOCKDOWN Going into lockdown, our members had a multitude of information requirements, impacted by the speed with which the situation developed. While some felt it was mostly “common sense” others struggled to respond with

certainty.

As lockdown came to an end, providers with connections to schools, ECE’s etc were able to access guidance but only some of it was relevant for OSCAR. OSCN was very active through this entire period, disseminating information and bringing providers together on-line.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 Most programmes reopened after the first lockdown with reduced numbers, some as low as a 70 per cent reduction. Recovery has been mixed: in some areas programmes are back to pre-Covid numbers, while others have seen a much slower increase. Retaining staff, some of whom are very experienced, is also a concern.

