

Dear valued REED staff and families

As Chair of the REED Board, I wanted to assure all of you that REED is closely monitoring emerging developments in relation to COVID 19.

Last week, the World Health Organization announced that COVID 19 was a global pandemic- that means it is a contagious, dangerous disease that is currently spreading quickly and the Australian Federal State and Territory Governments are responding accordingly, announcing unprecedented measures aimed at slowing and stopping the spread of this disease.

The early childhood sector has comprehensive policies in place to deal with infectious disease control. Now more than ever, attention to the basics of infection control and disease transmission is vital. As early childhood professionals, REED understands the important of maintaining high standards of hygiene in all of our service provision.

While there has been a lot written about COVID 19, we are relying on information from the WA Health Department and our regulatory authority (ECRU) and will act in accordance with their ongoing advice.

Based on current advice from Government we request you do not visit REED Centres or allow your children to attend if:

1. You or your family have symptoms associated with COVID-19 including fever, shortness of breath and flu like symptoms that may include a sore throat, runny nose or cough.
2. You or your family have had known contact with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19; or
3. You have travelled in the past 14 days to a county listed as high risk per the Smartraveller advice page.

Please ensure that you take all necessary precautions to avoid the spreading of this virus and seek medical advice if you are concerned about your health and well- being.

Please ensure that you

- Regularly wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds, or use sanitiser wherever possible, noting that the sanitiser needs to dry for 20second after application (following Health Department handwashing guidelines).



Regional Early Education  
and Development Inc

- Avoid physical contact such as shaking hands and incorporate 'social distancing' into your day-to-day life.

We are also conscious of the advocacy that our specific industry bodies (such as Early Childhood Australia and the Australian Child Care Alliance) as well as employer groups and the United Workers Union are undertaking in this regard.

To support our General Manager Kylie, in her role of ensuring the health and safety of our children and staff, the REED Board has also established a specific group comprising myself, Mark (Deputy Chair) and Carol (Treasurer), to expedite any responses that are required at a strategic level.

Working together, I am confident that we can maintain our quality services throughout this uncertain period. It means thinking beyond our own households and remembering that we are all in this together.

This week we are celebrating the second anniversary of the launch of REED – an important milestone. As a united group of dedicated staff and families from more than 15 services spread throughout the Wheatbelt, we are all here to support each other through these unprecedented times.

Please do not hesitate to contact REED via email to [steven.sizer@reedwa.org.au](mailto:steven.sizer@reedwa.org.au) should you have any concerns or questions about our approach.

Warm regards,

Helen Creed  
Chairperson,  
17 March, 2020.