



## Maples Family Update

Thursday 30th April

Dear Families,

We are incredibly grateful we have so far managed the health crisis very well in Australia. It has still been a tough time for our families for many reasons, including juggling working from home whilst caring for children isolating. Now that the health risk in Victoria has significantly reduced, families are starting to contact us about coming out of home isolation and bringing their children back.

You may have read in the papers that many childcare centres are not allowing children to return as the centres cannot afford to provide care. The government forcing the industry to provide free childcare as part of the new Early Childhood and Care Relief (ECEC) package has left many childcare centres struggling to survive financially. Please do not worry, we have decided to absorb the financial impact of providing free childcare and accept back children if families need care.

In order to plan our staffing arrangements, we are asking families to advise return to care intentions using this [link](#).

Please fill this form in by Friday 1st of May. For families wanting to return to care in May, we will advise the centre that you are returning. For families wanting to continue to self-isolate, we will continue to be in contact.

Whilst there has been a significant improvement to the coronavirus health risk in Victoria and Australia, we do not want to be complacent. Managing the health risk is still our priority. Please note:

- Our increased infection controls will continuously be reviewed.
- Guardians and children should not enter the centre if they are ill.
- We are encouraging our staff to download the CovidSafe app.
- We encourage families to download the app to keep the centre CovidSafe.
- We are expecting many absences due to families choosing to isolate and our centres will not be full for some time.
- Families should keep their children home if parents/guardians are not working.

Let's hope Australia eliminates this virus soon. Stay safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely

Jarrold & Samantha MacDonald