



Planning Information Sheet **PS09 – Family Day Care**

October 2010

The *Child Care Services Act 2007* defines a Family Day Care Centre as a Child Care Service provided at a place where —

- (a) *the person providing the service lives; and*
- (b) *none of the children to whom the service is provided live.*

Although a Family Day Care Centre provides a similar service as a Child Care Centre it is fundamentally different in two ways —

1. A Family Day Care facility operates in conjunction with the residential landuse of the subject site. That is, it operates from a dwelling that is concurrently used as a permanent residence; and
2. At any one time the licensee must care for a maximum of seven children (including the licensee's own children), none of whom has commenced a secondary school programme. A maximum of five of these children may be below the second year of a pre-compulsory education programme. At least one of these children is to be a child who attends the first year of a pre-compulsory education programme.

This Information Sheet will assist you in preparing a planning application and guide you through the development application process.

Is planning approval required?

Yes. A Family Day Care Centre is a use that may be permitted in residential and commercial areas, however it is not permitted in the Rural Residential, Industrial, Tourism or Chalet and Camping Zones.

How do I apply for planning approval?

You will need to complete a planning application form and the attached checklist, which will assist you in ensuring that all the required documentation is submitted with your application. These requirements are briefly outlined below. Please note that the checklist requires the submission of a detailed statement, which should provide justification for any variations from the relevant Scheme, Policies and Strategy.

1. **General Application Checklist:** The floor plans and site plans shall indicate the areas of the dwelling and the yard that will be used for Family Day Care. Please also indicate on the site plan the location of the off-street car parking provided for the exclusive use of the Family Day Care Centre. Parking for the proposed Family Day Care centre is required in addition to two (2) on site parking spaces required for the residential use of the dwelling.
2. **Family Day Care Questionnaire:** It is important to complete the questionnaire accurately and to provide as much detail as possible. If you have any queries about any of the questions please contact Council's Planning Department on 9780 5270.
3. **Application for Council Planning Consent to Commence Development:** This must also be accompanied by the appropriate fee.

What do I need to know?

Each application for a Family Day Care Centre is assessed in accordance with Local Planning Scheme No. 1 and any relevant Local Planning Policy or Strategy. Consideration is given to, among other things, the health and safety of the children and the possible impacts that the landuse may have upon the amenity of the surrounding area. Issues such as vehicular movements, car parking and play area noise are important amenity considerations.

The Local Planning Scheme No. 1 text and maps can be viewed at the Council offices, or you can retrieve this information online at www.wapc.gov.au. Alternatively you can contact one of our Planning Officers on (08) 9780 5265 for further assistance. All Local Planning Policies are available on our website- www.amrsc.wa.gov.au.

Is there anything else?

Yes. Family Day Care Centres are licensed by the Department for Communities. Under the *Child Care Services (Family Day Care) Regulations 2006* a licence is required when care is being provided to children who are predominantly below school age and who have not commenced a secondary school programme and this service is offered —

- for payment or reward, whether directly or indirectly through payment or reward for some other service;
- as a benefit of employment; or
- as an ancillary service to a commercial or recreational activity.

The Department for Communities can be contacted on telephone: (08) 6210 3333 Fax: (08) 6210 3300 or Free call: 1800 199 383.

The onus is on the Applicant to ensure that the proposed use complies with the *Child care Services (Family Day Care) Regulations 2006*.

Note: Prior to lodging your application for planning approval you may wish to consider making an appointment with one of Council's Planning Officers to discuss the proposal. Please phone 9780 5228 for an appointment. Applications that do not comply with the relevant standards or contain insufficient information may be refused or take longer to process.

**** DISCLAIMER ****

This information sheet is a guide only. Verification with original Local Laws, Acts, Local Planning Scheme No. 1 and other relevant documents is recommended for detailed references. The Shire of Augusta Margaret River accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions.

FAMILY DAY CARE QUESTIONNAIRE

Registered Name of the Business (if applicable) _____

How many children do you intend to have attend the Family Day Care? _____

What is the age range of the children that will be cared for at the proposed Family Day Care?

In what ways does the application take into consideration the impact of the Family Day Care on the amenity of the locality? _____

Do you intend to employ people to assist you in the conduct of your Family Day Care and if yes, how many?

Will all employees normally reside at this address? _____

What area (in m²) internal and external to the dwelling will be used for the Family Day Care:

How many cars are expected to visit the property each day? _____

How many additional on site car parking spaces will be provided for this business? _____

What are the proposed operating hours and days of the Family Day Care?

Does your application include any proposed signage for the front of your property advertising your Family Day Care Centre?

If yes, does your application include details including proposed wording, location and dimensions?
