

Outsourcing Management of Outside School Hours

Transferring sponsorship of your OSHC service to an alternative provider is a serious business transaction. Consider it carefully.

Retaining sponsorship of your OSHC service:

- enables your community to keep their autonomy and create a quality service which is valued by families,
- allows involvement and direction over your service,
- allows for high quality care which is responsive to the families and children.

Families, children and the broader community are equal partners in a school-governed OSHC service - they are not just customers.

A strong OSHC service is a reflection of a strong and empowered school community.

OSHCsa is keen to help you in considering your options for outsourcing.

OSHCsa

OSHCsa is a not-for-profit, training, resource, advisory and advocacy organisation and the peak body for Outside School Hours Care in South Australia.

OSHCsa provides support to members through papers, newsletters, training and the online forum (Groupsite). OSHCsa is also part of NOSHSA—the National Outside School Hours Care Services Australia.

Community-Based Outside School Hours Care

A Vital Element of Your School Community

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Outside School Hours Care

A Vital Element of Your School Community





Things to Consider when outsourcing an OSHC service

Outside School Hours Care is about strong relationships and communities

Outside School Hours Care is about learning through play

OSHCsa, the state's peak body for OSHC, understands the important role of Quality OSHC services and we're proud to be able to support and work with so many unique and valuable services. We know that running a high quality community managed OSHC service can be a rewarding and empowering experience, but some schools have concerns about administrative demands and may consider private external providers.

There are a number of things to reflect on when considering outsourcing. While some issues may be resolved, other issues may appear.

What is important to your community?

Things to consider when outsourcing:

- Quality of service delivery—how is the programming and activities organised and delivered? Is it based around the children in your community?
- Food is important to children and families—what menu is offered?
- Staffing—is it important to your community to maintain your current educators?
- If you choose a private provider, is your community comfortable with profits going out of the state or out of the country?



- Private providers operate from a business model—they are attracted to profitable sources. If the service is no longer viable they may withdraw, leaving you to rebuild again. Are you prepared for this?
- Facilities—what facilities will be used? How will you oversee the appropriate use of these?
- What is your chosen provider's policy and attitude towards inclusion—ie will children with additional needs be included?
- How would you know if the service at your school was to breach regulations? How would your school community respond to this if it happened?
- Contract options need to be very clear.
- Ask many questions at the beginning so that you are not caught out by things you hadn't considered—such as an unhappy community.

