

TERM 3 2025

# GBOOSH NEWS

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## News from GBOOSH



**There is never a dull day at GBOOSH!** At GBOOSH we like to keep busy, whether it is making marvellous creations in Vacation Care, playdough in BSC, selecting new floor mats for playrooms or reviewing a policy or two.....things are never slow. The beginning of 2025 has been no different. So far we have conquered Assessment & Rating, Spot Checks, two Vacation Care programs, many staffing changes and appointment of a keen Management Committee.

In July 2025 GBOOSH was excited to see the return of the shade sail over the concrete area, after losing the sail in wild weather in January 2025 GBOOSH has missed many opportunities to play in this area without shade. On top of this, we are excited to announce that through the Stronger Communities Grant, GBOOSH was able to receive financial support to assist with the cost of replacing this structure. A HUGE thank you goes out to Renee K who applied for and is assisting with the final steps of this project.

We have now finalised the September-October Vacation Care program with some fantastic activities to keep children engaged and busy over the holiday break.

With the end of year FAST approaching, we will be asking families to re-enrol in the second week of Vacation Care and Week 1 Term 4. This will be followed by the enrolment of our new 2026 enrolments (including the incoming Kindergarten group) in Week 4 Term 4. Please keep a close eye on your emails in the coming weeks for instructions on how to re-enrol.

If you will not be needing care in 2026 we would appreciate this in an email so we can set dates for final care and assist GBOOSH to estimate attendance numbers for 2026.

## Did you know GBOOSH is 35 years old?

In May 1990 GBOOSH was first registered as an Incorporated Association. This was right as Outside School Hours Care, aka OOSH, became a recognised, form of child care.

Initially when many after school care options were first started, it was simply a group of parents who volunteered to stay back on school sites to wait for those parents who could not make the final school bell. Often generously providing their time and serving afternoon tea to local children.

Today GBOOSH is a thriving community service, providing care 50 weeks a year for over 245 families and employment opportunities for 28 staff.

Over the last 35 years, families of the Gymea Bay community have continued to generously give their time to be a huge part of the service as the volunteer Management Committee. We thank everyone over the years who has supported GBOOSH to remain a community-based not for profit service.

***This is a great achievement our community should be proud of!***

As we move into the next phase, operating under the Gymea Bay Public School P&C Association we hope to deliver another 35 years (or more) of service to our GBOOSH community.

# 35

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## Staffing Updates

As you may have noticed there have been a few staffing changes over recent months:

- **Educators stepping up as RPD:** GBOOSH is continuing to experience staffing shortages in the leadership team and despite attempts to get the right staff we have not yet been able to achieve this. To help support Corinne and Kristin in their ongoing roles a few of the GBOOSH educators are currently stepping up to act in the role of Responsible Person on Duty. Alyson Honey has been covering Tuesday BSC, Brendan Garsheen and Tessa Herbert also covering this role as required. We thank all of the team for their support over the last few months as we juggle roles, responsibilities and tasks across the service.
- **Cheryl Carroll:** As you may be aware, Cheryl has continued to support GBOOSH remotely with some aspects of her role as Coordinator. We are excited to share that in October 2025, Cheryl will be returning to GBOOSH on floor for 2 weeks. As Kristin will be going on a well deserved holiday, Cheryl will return to assist GBOOSH during this period. We look forward to having Cheryl back on the floor.
- **Assistant Coordinator:** Marija Skoric will commence with GBOOSH on Monday 15 September in a new role as Assistant Coordinator. We look forward to welcoming Marija to the GBOOSH leadership team.
- **New Educators:** Over the last few months GBOOSH has welcomed some new educators to our team - Lara Byrne, Madi Withers and Summer Oakman. This month Liv Hall and Bella Baricevic have joined the GBOOSH team of educators, we look forward to supporting them as they learn their roles at GBOOSH.

## Vacation Care Reminders



We are looking forward to some amazing experiences this Vacation Care!

GBOOSH requests all families to assist by doing the following:

- **Check your child's back pack:** children should have a back pack every day which includes a drink bottle, hat, snacks and a change of clothes. If your child has a sunscreen sensitivity, you may also wish to pack their own sunscreen. When going on excursions please ensure the backpack is suitable for your child to carry themselves as they will need to take this on and off the bus independently as well as carrying it around the excursion venue.
- **DO NOT BRING ALLERGENS to GBOOSH:** a number of children and staff are SEVERELY allergic to nuts and eggs. Please check what you pack in your child's lunch box as many snacks contain hidden ingredients such as nuts. If you are unsure about a particular food please check with the Responsible Person on Duty. GBOOSH aims to supply only foods that are free of known allergens to keep everyone safe.
- **Leave electronic devices at home:** under new regulations services must implement strategies to protect the privacy of all children when it comes to photographs. To ensure safety around this GBOOSH has amended its policy so that no children or educators have access to personal devices during session hours. We ask parents to also respect this policy, keeping phones in their pockets or bags - **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should parents take photos onsite at GBOOSH!**
- **Keep special toys at home:** while we understand children may like to bring their special toys to GBOOSH, there is also a high chance these toys may get lost or broken.
- **Read the program carefully:** This helps prepare the children for the routine, activities available and ensure they have any necessary equipment such as a towel, change of clothes or dress ups. When booking days please consider your child's needs and interests as it is important they are able to engage in the experiences to get the most out of their day.
- **Label everything:** at the end of each Vacation Care program there is often a large collection of toys, clothing and lunch boxes. All of these are placed on top of the lockers for collection. If these are labelled your child's name will appear on the list of lost property to help families identify there are items to be collected.



## GBOOSH Management Committee

The GBOOSH Management Committee consists of a group of volunteer parents who meet on a monthly basis (mainly online) to oversee many of the financial and operational aspects of the service. If you would like to get involved please email [director@gymeabayoosh.com.au](mailto:director@gymeabayoosh.com.au) so we can add you to the mailing list.

In May each year we hold the GBOOSH AGM and will be looking for new members to support GBOOSH in the year ahead.

The next Management Committee Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 17 September 2025, 6.30pm** via Microsoft Teams. All families are welcome to get involved.

## Changes to GBOOSH Fee Schedule

The GBOOSH Management Committee has a responsibility to ensure that GBOOSH continues to maintain fees at a level that is both affordable to the community and also covers all operational costs, including planning for future maintenance and expenses.

With increasing operational costs the Management Committee has determined GBOOSH will implement the final stage of the fee increase under the current licence arrangements.

In addition to this the service is finding an increased number of families are neglecting to provide GBOOSH with notification of absences, particularly in ASC. This not only causes a lot of stress and work with follow up phone calls and messages, but it presents a significant safety concern as it can take up to 40 mins to account for all children. A lost child could travel a long way in 40 mins! Casual users also rely on absences to confirm casual booking requests.

From Term 4 the fee structure will include a Non-Attendance/Non-Notification Fee. This fee will be applied on the day, when the centre has not been advised of an absence by parents prior to 2.00pm on the day of attendance.

The following fees will be implemented from Week 1 Term 4 2025:

(per child/per session)	Permanent session	Casual session
BSC	\$23.73	\$25.05
ASC	\$34.23	\$35.55
Vacation Care	\$81.74 daily session fee (plus excursion/incursion cost)	
Other Fees	Non-attendance/Notification Fee \$17.12 Annual Enrolment Fee \$50 per account Late Pick Up Fee \$5 per minute/per child	



### General Reminders for Families:



We understand that families are busy and things get missed, but we would appreciate if you could take the time to review the following reminders.

GBOOSH encourages feedback and open communication with families, if you have a question, concern or general enquiry please speak to the Responsible Person on Duty.

#### Please assist GBOOSH with:

- **Food Allergies and Food Sharing:** as there are many children with allergies at GBOOSH (some life threatening) we ask that children do not bring foods to the centre to share. While we appreciate that children enjoy sharing with friends on special occasions, unfortunately we are unable to do this as GBOOSH can not ensure the food is safe for everyone.
- **Absences from Care:** If your child will be **absent** from care you **MUST** send an email or SMS to the centre so we can account for all children. If we do not hear from you, GBOOSH will phone or SMS each parent/contact to confirm the whereabouts of the child. **From 1 September 2025, a Non-Attendance/Non-Notification Fee will apply when families fail to advise their child is absent prior to 2pm.** When GBOOSH staff have to call a large number of families just to locate children each afternoon, this takes away from their ability to engage and supervise with those children who are at GBOOSH and delays us from being able to identify children who may be genuinely missing. It also prevents other families from being able to access places for casual care.
- **Signing In/Out:** Please make sure you walk your child into GBOOSH to sign them in and get them settled. The same applies when children are collected, a parent or authorised person over the age of 16 years **MUST sign them out and escort them off site.** GBOOSH can not release children without an adult to escort them. It is also important that if an alternate contact is dropping off/picking up that you do NOT share your pin number. Accurate CCS records are legal documents and this includes the correct contact person/parent being recorded at pick up. Staff can sign children out if there is a one off pick up arrangement in place.
- **Check your GBOOSH statement:** weekly statements are emailed each Monday. Please check your statement for upcoming bookings, CCS payments, transactions and to monitor absences. Please remember to keep your details including your income and work hours updated with Centrelink. If they do not have information updated by parents regularly they will withhold/cancel CCS. Centrelink has direct access to the GBOOSH CCS database and can retract money from your account without informing the service.
- **Keep your CCS information updated:** if you have not updated your annual income, work hours or lodged a tax return the Government may suspend your CCS. Please keep your MyGov account updated and contact Services Australia if you need to discuss changes to your circumstances.
- **Electronic Devices/Phones/Smart Watches:** Under new Child Safety orders GBOOSH has had to review policies in the area of access to technology and personal devices. In light of this GBOOSH does not allow the use of any personal electronic devices onsite, this includes staff personal devices. Any device used to record information for programs, photographs etc must be owned by the centre. This ensures that all data is correctly stored and managed safely. In light of these changes please do not allow children to bring devices of any kind to GBOOSH, including smart watches. Parents must also observe the same restrictions and NO PHOTOGRAPHS should be taken by parents when onsite at GBOOSH. Signs have been installed to remind families of this child safe practice. If you need to speak with your child during the session please contact the GBOOSH office 0408 210 705.

