Regional Qld parents hit hard by highest childcare fee hikes in the nation

THEY HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING

CHILD CARE FEES PERCENTAGE INCREASES OVER 12 MONTHS

Brisbane Inner-East $316.66 1.7%
Brisbane Inner $300.53 2.3%
Brisbane Inner-West $290.31 3.3%
Milton $310.33 6.3%
Brisbane Inner-North $692.67 3.6%
Toowong-Indooroopilly $653.81 1.5%
Kensworth-Brookfield-Moggill $579.73 5.1%
Holland Park-Yeronga $596.07 3.2%
Carindale $561.77 6.8%
Ipsala $649.49 16.4%
Gold Coast $644.14 10.9%
Centenary $641.32 2.7%
Surfers Paradise $535.13 10.5%
Cats $535.16 14.6%
Granite Belt $133.51 22.3%

The most expensive suburbs for childcare are:

Brisbane Inner-East
Brisbane Inner
Brisbane Inner-West
Milton
Brisbane Inner-North
Toowong-Indooroopilly
Kensworth-Brookfield-Moggill
Holland Park-Yeronga
Carindale
Ipsala
Gold Coast
Centenary
Surfers Paradise
Cats
Granite Belt

The least expensive suburbs for childcare are:

Fair North
Charters Towers-Ayr-Ingan
Bowral-Canberra
Tablelands-Exeter-Kerang
Adlong-Itasca
Kyneton-Heathcote
Central Highlands (M)
Swan-Oatlands-Bowral
Darling Downs East
Maryborough
Bundaberg
Mount Morgan
Rockhampton
Burnett
Spalding-Rodleys
Gymea-

I want to work full-time and I have large career aspirations but I’ve had to put my career on hold

KASEY RAE CHAMBERS

ANZ MOBILE LENDERS
THE HOME LOAN SPECIALISTS WHO COME TO YOU

ANZ mobile is coming soon to your area. Ask your nearest ANZ branch for details.

High costs take toll on careers of parents

CLOE READ

PARENTS in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland are feeling the pinch of exorbitant childcare costs, with some giving up their career aspirations in order to pay it.

The Government has commissioned an independent evaluation of the childcare package led by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), with a final report due in 2021. It will include information from surveys with providers, interviews with parents, and other key stakeholders.

CUT BACKS: Beensah mum Casey Sculley (right) dropped her second child in childcare costs.

Australian National University economic and social researcher Ben Phillips agreed the reasons for the sharp increase weren’t clear.

"Possible explanations include some catch-up in prices as Queensland is typically a lower cost state," he said.

Or centres could be offering shorter 10-hour days instead of 12-hour days, which lowers the hourly rate in the statistics but doesn’t mean affordability had worsened, Mr Phillips said.

The Government has commissioned an independent evaluation of the childcare package led by the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), with a final report due in 2021. It will include information from surveys with providers, interviews with parents, and other key stakeholders.

"It certainly did increase... it’s harder for partnered or double-income families because they’re expected to pay double. Simply by stepping down to part-time, I’ve dropped it back to $290 per week... That’s a lot of money I’ve saved — it just wasn’t financially viable," she said.

With a career in the financial services industry, Ms Chambers said it has impacted on her work.

"At the end of the day, I want to work full-time and I have large career aspirations but I’ve had to put my career on hold," she said.

Ms Chambers said the increase is affecting the hierarchy of the company.

"I’ve come across mums with newborns that can’t work because they have to be in childcare and they can’t afford to enrol two older ones to childcare because they can’t afford it," she said.

"There’s not enough support — the government has no idea what the needs are or what the priorities are, like no one wins. The childcare workers are also not getting paid enough for what they do."