



Family Day Care educator Jacki Wright with Alisha and Grady.

Picture: CARMELO BAZZANO

Day care expands

CRAIGIEBURN FAMILIES BROUGHT ON BOARD

Barry Kennedy

SUNBURY and Macedon Ranges Family Day Care has grown to include Craigieburn families after a service was disbanded last month.

Eleven family day care educators will now be managed by the Sunbury Community Health Centre, growing their service reach to 460 families from Craigieburn to Kyneton.

The new arrangements were made over six weeks from mid-December after it was confirmed the Family Day Care Program operated by the Brotherhood of St Lawrence in Craigieburn would be closed on January 31.

Sunbury and Macedon Ranges Family Day Care manager Robyn Byrne said Federal Government operational funding arrange-

ments were changing, making it harder for public metropolitan-based family day care centres to maintain accreditation.

As Sunbury Community Health Centre's was considered regional, it was less likely to be adversely affected by changes in funding, Ms Byrne said.

The short lead-up time meant significant resources were directed to running information evenings and ensure the necessary accreditation was completed by February 2.

"We've had about 50 families transferred across to our program, but more importantly those families get to continue to use educators they have a relationship with," she said.

"It's a really important type of childcare which works for a lot of families

who get to have their child cared for in a home-style environment."

Ironically, the original Sunbury-based family day care program set up by Sunbury Community Health Centre had once incorporated Craigieburn and Macedon Ranges families.

The Sunbury Community Health Centre took educators and their families from Kyneton's Cobaw Community Health in 2012.

Craigieburn-based educator of 19 years, Jacki Wright, said she was pleased to have joined the new network in Sunbury.

"I'm keeping all of my children which I'm happy about and so are my families," she said.

Family day care is available for children up to age 12.

Details: 9744 4455.