

Inspiring Innovative Approaches To Regional Childcare

*Supporting families,
strengthening local
businesses, and driving
regional growth.*



@thefuturecareproject



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About the Initiative

The Future Care Project was created to give regional families a voice and to drive change where it is needed most. Our vision is to be a nationwide resource that champions childcare access, providing solutions that are built for regional realities. We are tackling one of the most urgent challenges of our time: the lack of early childhood education and care, which holds back families and the futures of our local communities.

In many regional areas, the lack of childcare services has become a critical barrier. Parents, particularly skilled women, are unable to return to work, and businesses struggle to retain staff. To respond, the Future Care Project seeks to support flexible and sustainable models of care, designed to support regional families and strengthen the stability of local workforce.



The Project has been built in collaboration between families, educators, and employers, with the conviction that solutions must be shaped and led by the community itself. Its mission is to deliver practical tools that meet real regional needs, while fostering collective wellbeing and long-term economic growth.



Why Childcare Access is Everyone's Business



+2 years waitlist

“ Parents—especially mothers—face childcare waitlists of more than two years, preventing their return to work.



78% Businesses

“ 78% of regional businesses reported significant operational challenges due to childcare shortages.



“ Fewer workers reduce productivity. The Future Care Project seeks to support flexible, CCS-eligible models and strengthen community run childcare centers.



In regional Australia, the lack of accessible childcare is not only a family concern but also a pressing economic issue. Within the Goondiwindi Region, waitlists often stretch beyond two years with parents unable to return to the workforce. This directly impacts business productivity and limits economic growth.

Survey data confirms the scale of the crisis: in 2024, the Goondiwindi Chamber of Commerce and Thrive by Five reported that 78% of regional businesses experienced serious operational challenges due to childcare shortages.

The consequences are clear: lost jobs, lost income, and lost opportunities for families who feel they can't stay, can't thrive, and can't choose to grow their families, all because access to care is out of reach.

The Future Care Project positions itself as both a community-led solution and a national economic driver. By promoting flexible, sustainable, CCS-eligible childcare models, it enables families to thrive, strengthens local businesses, and builds the resilience of regional economies.

The Voice Behind The Future Care Project



What began as personal advocacy has grown into a mission: to ensure that where you live doesn't determine the quality of care your children receive or the opportunities you have as a parent or business owner. Over the past 2 years, I've worked alongside families, educators, local providers, government and industry leaders to seek out long-term, community-driven solutions that support both families and businesses to access early childcare education and care.

I believe that when we provide parents with both a choice in the care their children receive and the choice of when they can rejoin the workforce, we can build stronger families and stronger regional economies.

“

Where you live should never determine the quality of care your children receive or the opportunities you have as a parent or business owner.

Hi, I'm Ange

Im a mum of three, business owner, and founder of the Future Care Project. After years of living and working in cities around the world, moving to regional Australia opened her eyes to the daily challenges families face—especially the lack of essential services like childcare.



How the Project Supports Businesses

Workplace Solutions



Enhances workforce stability and helps organisations become employers of choice by offering onsite childcare or flexible work arrangements.

Inclusive Care Options



Help fund the delivery of local home-based care providers who offer flexible and accessible solutions for parents with non-conventional working hours.

Partner With Us



Through business sponsorship, your organisation can play a vital role in expanding childcare access, strengthening the regional workforce, and supporting families.

Made possible through the support of CCS-eligible in-home care, family day care, and in-venue care models.

How the Project Supports Local Childcare

Workforce Solutions →



Building a pipeline from school leavers through to targeted engagement of mature-age workers, skilled migrants and strategies to re-engage qualified educators.

Expanding community capacity through inclusive, fit-for-purpose models. →



Delivering skills and tailored support to aspiring in-home carers & family day care providers to access qualifications, secure funding, and build sustainable businesses

Empowering Community Childcare Providers →



NFP community childcare centres are supported with targeted mentoring, funding pathways, and business development tools to help them adapt, grow, and remain sustainable.

Access to reliable childcare is essential for our businesses to retain talent and grow sustainably.

Rebecca Cover
Executive Officer
Goondiwindi Chamber of Commerce



How the Project Supports Greater Access to Care

The Future Care Project is dedicated to delivering childcare solutions for regional families that are affordable, flexible, and community-driven. No parent should ever be forced to choose between building their career and ensuring their children receive the quality care they deserve.

By attracting educators and supporting the growth of family day care, in-home care, and in-venue care, alongside strengthening community-run NFP childcare providers, the project seeks to build local capacity while meeting the diverse needs of both parents and children.



The Future Care Project is built on the belief that by providing wrap-around business support for smaller organisations and lesser-known care models, we can create more childcare places where they're needed most.

Connecting Families and Educators

1

We support families to find educators who truly fit their needs and then connect them with the right model of care.

Skilling a New Workforce

2

Delivering skills to help new educators thrive by bringing together support, practical tools, and educational resources in one place.

Data-Driven Solutions

3

We're building a central database to monitor childcare demand, waitlists, and workforce capacity, with built-in checks to support educator wellbeing, compliance, and childcare safety.

4

Inspired Funding Solutions

Our future goal is to make entry into home-based childcare more accessible by reducing the financial burden of training and initial setup faced by many emerging educators.

That's why we focus on solutions:

- Training and mentoring new educators to build local workforce capacity.
- Expanding access to family day care, in-home care, and in-venue care by providing funding that removes the barrier of start-up costs for establishing new services.
- Empowering community-based, not-for-profit childcare providers to creating a level playing field with for-profit services

Our Solutions

The Stats

 **250+**
& 2 year waitlist

With more than 250 families on our local waitlists Goondiwindi is considered a childcare desert, defined as having more than three children for every one available place.

Showcasing Solutions

The Future Care Project website will act as a platform to showcase community success stories where childcare barriers have been overcome. By highlighting what works and making these models practical, replicable, and accessible, it will provide a roadmap for other regions to strengthen their own childcare systems.

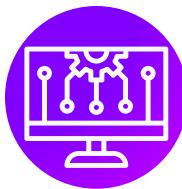


10,000+

Our goal is to create and deliver 10,000 hours of community-led care in the first year.

Address Workforce Shortages

Seek to strengthen the local childcare workforce by attracting new educators, supporting existing staff, and building sustainable local pipelines of care.



Adapting this education pilot into an online digital resource that can be accessed from anywhere.

Pilot Program for Flexible Care

Implementation of a first-of-its-kind program to back flexible, home-based childcare educators with the skills and confidence to succeed in self-employment. Building business capability, improving financial literacy, and strengthening understanding of tax, insurance, and compliance.

Strengthening Community-Based Childcare

Empower community-based, not-for-profit childcare providers by offering tailored workforce development, governance support, and access to funding pathways. By strengthening these services, we help build local capacity and create a level playing field with larger for-profit providers.



2027 & Beyond

Regional Expansion

Scaling The Future Care Projects delivery across other regional, rural and remote communities in Australia.

Strategic Partnerships

We seek to collaborate with other Chambers of Commerce, local councils, and community-run centres to share knowledge and strengthen regional childcare solutions.



Partner with us to build the future of regional childcare



We recognise that every organisation contributes in different ways.

To make your support meaningful and accessible, the Future Care Project offers tiered sponsorship levels.

Each level provides unique opportunities for visibility, recognition, and direct impact in building stronger regional childcare solutions.

Gold Partner

\$10,000

Prominent logo on all materials and events. Recognition in reports and media releases. Featured in case studies or impact stories. A powerful storytelling video showcasing your social impact, ready to share on your website.



Silver Partner

\$5000

Logo on selected materials and digital channels. Acknowledgement in community updates. Invitation to stakeholder forums.

Benefits for All Sponsors

- ✓ Association with a pioneering initiative that positions childcare as essential economic infrastructure.
- ✓ Brand recognition across regional and national networks.
- ✓ Opportunity to support your local community.
- ✓ Tangible way to demonstrate your corporate social impact with powerful reports, media features, and authentic community stories.

Bronze Partner

\$1000

Logo on website and communications. Recognition in social media updates. Certificate of appreciation.

For more information or to discuss these opportunities further, please contact our Founder Angela Cochrane on 0413 030 833.



FUTURE CARE PROJECT

Be Part of the Solution

- ✓ Volunteer Opportunities & Sponsorship Options
- ✓ Join in Upcoming Events
- ✓ Share Our Work Throughout Your Networks

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Be part of the change. Join us in building accessible, flexible, and sustainable childcare for regional families. Together, we can strengthen communities and create real opportunities to face this crisis head on.



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