



12 August 2015

Dear Scotland Island Residents Association,

I am writing on behalf of Scotland Island and Offshore Children's Services (the Kindy), as the new Treasurer. Due to numerous changes in the regulatory environment requiring increased staff numbers and staff time to ensure compliance, coupled with relatively low enrolment numbers, we find ourselves in difficult financial straits.

The committee is working diligently to cover our operating expenses by increasing our fees, holding monthly fundraisers, and applying for grants. However, our efforts to increase income and minimize expenses will be ongoing for some time before the Kindy is returned to a break-even financial state.

The island has supported a community run preschool for over (thirty) years, with the current director having been in care here many years ago. SIOCS is the only offshore long-day care/preschool available to residents and there are no Family day care alternatives available to families with young children on Scotland Island or the adjacent water-access-only communities of the Western foreshores. Pre-school children at SIOCS develop necessary academic and social skills to succeed in primary school and they also develop strong bonds that help them prepare for and navigate the school ferry that transports the offshore children from the community to the mainland primary school.

In the past SIRA has very generously supported the Kindy by waiving fees to support fundraising activities in the Community Hall. In my new role as Treasurer of SIOCS, it has come to light that we have not requested such support for recent activities or that support has been denied. I am writing now because the Kindy truly does need every penny that we can scrape together and am asking that SIRA retrospectively support our fundraising efforts by refunding the \$217.50 that the Kindy has paid in rental fees for four activities (see below). These fees represent nearly 20% of our intake at those events.

A fee waiver/reimbursement would go a long way in helping us get on our feet financially and reduce anxiety about potentially having to close our doors. We would really appreciate the breathing space while we engage in fundraising activities and pursue other grants from various other levels and government departments as well as from the private sector.

We look forward to hearing back from you with a positive response.

Sincerely,

Betsi Beem

Treasurer

Date	Amount
31-10-2014	52.50
30-11-2014	60.00
10-5-2015	60.00
7-6-2015	45.00