

Raising funds for your centre doesn't need to be all work, it can be an opportunity to increase parent and community involvement, publicise your centre and also be a social event for families, children and staff. Try to organise a unique event that will get your centre noticed and create a real buzz amongst your families and local community.

Legalities

Under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 an organisation wishing to raise money by a fundraising appeal must hold an *Authority to Fundraise*. A definition of a 'charitable purpose' is very broad and based on common law.

Where a not-for-profit organisation wishes to conduct a fundraising appeal, it applies to the NSW Department of Gaming and Racing for an Authority to Fundraise (02) 9995 0333 or go to their website www.dgr.nsw.gov.au. This authority is usually granted for five years and has no fees attached. An information package is available and a publication, *Best Practice Guidelines for Charitable Organisations*.

Specialist fundraising companies

There are a number of companies that specialise in fundraising products, such as items for food/ plant/ bulb drives, centre merchandise, raffles etc. These companies regularly send advertising material to schools so ask if they could pass such information on to the centre. Fundraising this way means that not all profits go to the centre, but by using their products you may actually raise more money.



Getting everyone involved

Forming a fundraising committee will bring a level of organisation to the process. You may already have a fundraising officer on the management committee but by pulling in other parents/ interested party fundraising can be a cohesive effort that makes everyone feel a part of the centre. You may also find the Network Factsheets on **Parent Involvement**, **Volunteers** and **Publicity** useful, these are available for free upon request from the OOSH Development desk.

Some rules

- It is prohibited to have tobacco products, more than 20 litres of alcohol, firearms, ammunition, weapons or cosmetic surgery as prizes.
- Money prizes are capped at \$5000.
- It is now lawful to offer "lucky door" or "lucky seat" prizes as and conduct football tipping competitions within certain conditions.
- All volunteers, or persons receiving a wage, fee or commission to conduct face to face fundraising appeals on behalf of an organisation must wear an identification badge or card. A description of a valid badge and other considerations can be found in the publication, *Best Practice Guidelines for Charitable Organisations*.
- The minimum age for children participating in an appeal as a volunteer is 8 years and 13 years if in receipt of payment. In both cases there must be codes of practice observed; ie degree of supervision etc.

Twenty fundraising ideas

1) Kids disco- theme it for Christmas/ Chinese New year/ Valentines or anything at all. Have games, a DJ, disco lights and sell snacks/ drinks to make extra revenue. This is popular with kids, and parents (who get a night off).

2) Selling centre merchandise. Get T-shirts, T-towels, hats, badges etc designed by the kids, made up then sell them to families.

3) Car boot Sale/ Trash & Treasure Evening- Parents pay the centre a fee for their spot then sell their old stuff and make a profit.

4) Trivia night- either family trivia or parents only. Organise a quiz-master, food/ drink sales, entry fee, raffles and of course a prize. This could be the social event of the year!

5) Raffles- the simplest ideas are often the best. Try and get some prizes donated from local businesses- see if there are any family connections that could be used.

6) Get the kids to bake cakes etc and sell to parents when they come to collect them.

7) Hold a family movie night, selling tickets and popcorn etc.

8) Have a fashion show at your centre. Get local shops to lend the clothes (they get free advertising), the children are the models and the centre sells tickets/ snacks etc.

9) Hold a Sponsored Silence where the kids get sponsored for every minute they manage to keep quiet. any other sponsored event could work just as well.

10) Throw a wine tasting evening for the grown-ups, ask local wine merchants if they do these.

11) Bingo- great for the whole family as they can play together. You'll need numbered balls, cards and an enthusiastic MC. A small fee is charged per card and a % of cash raised is used for prizes.

12) Get a stall at the local shopping centre on a Saturday afternoon doing face-painting, crazy hair spraying etc, for a small fee. This is also a great way to spread the word about your service.

13) Throw a Friday night BBQ for families, selling food and offering beer/ wine for gold coin donation.

14) Hold a Fair/ Fete selling food and craft, with games, balloons, bouncy castle, craft activities etc. Make it the social event of the year!

15) Make and sell a centre cookbook with parent's and staff's favourite recipes.

16) Hold a talent show where the kids get a chance to show off and sell tickets to families.

17) See if your local council has any small grants that the centre could apply for, there is also a directory of grants available to community organisations on the 'Our Community' website: www.ourcommunity.com.au

18) Skills Auction- parents offer to donate a certain amount of their time/ skills (if they owned a restaurant they might offer a free meal, a driving instructor might offer some free lessons etc) to be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

19) Guess the number of jellybeans in the jar- people pay a small fee and give their guess, the winner either gets the jar or a cash prize. This can be done in the centre over a certain period of time.

20) Car washing- choose a safe place near the centre where the kids can wash cars for gold-coin donations.