

EDMUND RICE CAMPS NSW

IMPORTANT 2021 UPDATE



Like many organisations, COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on our work, our financial position and – of course – the lives of those in our community. While we are hoping to return to face-to-face service delivery as soon as possible, there are some important changes we want to inform you of.

Firstly, to make sure that our return to face-to-face programs is COVID safe, we've had to make some very difficult decisions about what types of activities we can provide and how many children and volunteers can be accommodated.

Accordingly, we are planning to deliver the following:

- Three 'Day Camp' Programs on Tuesday 12th, Thursday 14th and Friday 15th of January, between 8.30am–3.30pm; and
- a very small residential camp from Monday 18th to Friday 22nd January.

Please note that these programs are contingent on Public Health Advice and subject to change at a moment's notice.

Secondly, we are not in a position to receive referrals for these programs. Rather, we are directly contacting referring agencies to offer places to children and young people on the priority waiting list. Priority has been determined by a number of factors, including but not limited to: those whose camps were cancelled in January due to bushfires and in April due to COVID-19; young people who are approaching our age limit (16 years of age); and known family circumstances. We are also taking factors such as postcode/LGA into consideration in an attempt to minimise the possible spread of infection/virus from one (geographic) community to another.

Thirdly, COVID-19 has greatly impacted our bottom line – with both diminishing funding from our major funders and fueling a more competitive and changing NFP sector landscape. Regrettably, this in turn has forced ERCNSW to modify both our program offerings and fee structure.

In 2021, we are hoping to offer five metro weeklong camps, one regional weeklong camp (Tuross Head/South Coast), two BOACs and two Head2Hearts (a new 24 hour program). Weeklong camps will now commence on Monday afternoons and close late morning on Friday.

ERCNSW will always focus on keeping costs as low as possible to maintain extremely modest camp fees. However, in 2021, camp fees will need to increase slightly to account for our changing funding circumstances. It is important to note that these fees do not represent the full cost of camp per head.

Programs	Fee
Weeklong Camp (Regional and Metro)	\$225
BOAC	\$100
Head2Heart	TBC (<\$65)

Families experiencing financial distress can contact our Executive Officer on 0468 511 096 for a confidential conversation. Unfortunately, as a very small not-for-profit organisation we are no longer in a position to offer discounts to referring agencies.

We acknowledge that this may be disappointing and unwanted news – and for that we apologise without reservation. We too are disappointed and had hoped for a timelier return to standard service provision after such a difficult start to the year. We will continue to look at ways to make Eddie Rice Camps as affordable as possible and we are hopeful that camp will soon get back into full swing – we're just not quite sure when. With a bit of luck, we might be in a position to open referrals in time for our April programs.

In the meantime, the best way to keep up to date is to signup [here](#). You are also welcome to contact the team if you'd like to discuss any of these matters further.