



the bushland shire

creating a living environment

SUPPLEMENTARY ATTACHMENTS

ORDINARY MEETING

**Wednesday, 17 November, 2010
at 6.30pm**

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REPORT NO. CC74/10

ITEM 23

1. LETTER TO PARENTS/CARERS

Your Reference:
Our Reference: F2005/00249
Related Records:
Contact Person: Mrs Narelle Misko
Hours: 8.30am to 5.00pm
Telephone: (02) 9847 6584
Fax: (02) 9847 6020

21 October 2010

Parents and Carers
Westleigh and Asquith Nursery and Preschool Centres

Dear Parents and Carers

Notification of operational changes at Westleigh and Asquith Nursery and Preschool Centres

The purpose of this letter is to notify parents and carers of children enrolled at the Westleigh and Asquith Nursery and Preschool Centres that, as of January 2011, Council has endorsed a change to the child care service which will be offered at these Centres.

From the week commencing 24 January 2011, the following service features will apply at both the Westleigh and Asquith Nursery and Preschool Centres:

- The Centres will operate between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm - Monday to Friday for 51 weeks per year (i.e. excluding the week between Christmas and New Year).
- The Centres will offer care for up to 29 children per day.
- The daily child care fees will be reduced to \$75.00 per day (which is down from the current \$82.00 per day).
- Centres will only offer care to children over the age of two years.
- Parents/carers will be required to provide their children's daily food requirements and nappies (if required).

As per the requirements of the Local Government Act, the new, lower service fee has been placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. Parents and carers are invited to make written submissions on the new fee to the Manager Children's Services by Wednesday 1 December 2010. Council will consider the feedback on the new service fee at the 15 December 2010 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

It should be noted that children who are two years of age or older by January 2011 and are currently enrolled at the Westleigh or Asquith Centres will automatically continue their enrolment at these Centres in 2011 if they so desire.

(Narelle Misko-H:\ChildCare\Flexible Child Care Aug 2010\Final Draft Letter Parents Flexible Care WNP ANP Oct 2010 (2).doc)

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Notification of operational changes at Westleigh and Asquith Nursery and Preschool Centres

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To accommodate families with children under 2 years of age as at January 2011, Council is offering preferential placement at the Hornsby Nursery and Preschool for children that would have continued their enrolment in the Nursery Room at the Westleigh or Asquith Centres in 2011 had this service not been withdrawn at these locations. Alternatively Council may also be able to accommodate children under 2 years of age at the new Greenway Park Centre or Somerville Park Early Childhood Education Centre. Please contact Council's Waiting List Officer on 9847 6530 to pursue these options.

Families with children under 2 years of age presently enrolled at Westleigh and Asquith Centres and who will not turn 2 years old by 24 January 2011, are requested to contact the Waiting List Officer no later than **Monday 15 November 2010** if they wish to arrange for their child's placement at another Council operated centre.

The new fee and service at Westleigh and Asquith Nursery and Preschool Centres will come into effect from **Monday 24 January 2011**, to allow for children to transition on to school and other early childhood services.

Please note that the above changes will still allow families to access Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Tax Rebate if they are eligible. These changes to the service offered have been made based on current and forecast service waiting lists, current service utilisation levels, feedback from parents on the increasing cost of care and the need for Council to continue to operate child care on a cost recovery basis.

Yours faithfully



NARELLE MISKO
Manager
Children's Services
Community Services Branch

(Narelle Misko-H:\ChildCare\Flexible Child Care Aug 2010\Final Draft Letter Parents Flexible Care WNP ANP Oct 2010 (2).doc)

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