

Public Forum Question – Response

Subject: Child Care Services

Question From: Vincent De Luca

Meeting Date: 28 October 2003

Question:

Is the *Daily Telegraph* true with its article some months ago that there are over 1000 local children on Warringah Council's child care waiting list? How many are on the waiting list? While Council spent funds on relocating the Kia Child care Centre, can Council please advise how much money has been collected through Section 94 for child care, how much will be spent on providing additional child care centres and places to address the waiting list and in what year can the community expect to see more child care centres and placements?

Response:

This is correct, at present there are 1,045 different families on the waitlist for Council's Long Day Care and Family Day Care Services. Some families are on the waitlist for both services. The figures are: Long Day Care 841 Family Day Care 616 The age breakup of this list indicates that approximately 91% are for children under 3 years of age. There are 108 unborn children at present on this list. This waitlist has been over 1,000 for the past 10 years. Council is developing a Child Care Strategy that will in part attempt to address this need. Council currently provides 204 Long Day Care places per day, spread across 4 Centres with a 99% utilisation rate. Council also provides approximately 210 effective fulltime Family Day Care child places which provides private employment for 52 carers. Approximately 20 places per day are provided by Council's Mobile Occasional Care Service.