

Public Forum Question and Response

Subject: Childcare Placements in Warringah

Question From: Vincent De Luca

Meeting Date: 27 July 2004

Question:

I refer to my question of 24 February 2004 about Council's Childcare Strategy and whether the Council's Section 94 plan could be amended to provide for more childcare placements. I recall Council's advice that as at 30 January 2004 there were 1028 children on the childcare waiting list, the Council's Childcare strategy was being written and that the Section 94 plan could be amended if there was a demonstrated need and this would be reviewed. Has Council's Childcare Strategy been completed and has the investigations promised at the meeting taken place to address the need for possible amendments to the S94 plan?

Response:

The Acting Manager Strategy and Policy advised that a draft version of the Childcare Strategy has been completed, however its adoption for exhibition has been delayed due to the need for further consultation with staff and changes in the childcare market since the Strategy was commenced. Those changes in the market include an influx of new childcare providers to the area; the initiation of a parallel planning process under SHOROC, and the availability of new statistical information including Census data. A revised strategy, however, is scheduled for completion and exhibition in late 2004. A review of Council's Section 94 plan is presently underway, with the provision of additional childcare places as one of its objectives. It is anticipated that the draft Section 94 plan will be completed and available for public exhibition in late 2004.