

Public Forum Question and Response

Subject: Childcare services and placements in Warringah

Question from: Mr Vincent De Luca OAM

Meeting Date: 12 December 2006

Question:

Asked the following questions to the meeting and made a statement of Seasonal Felicitations:

a) What funding has been allocated under the new Section 94 plan to create additional childcare places and how many new childcare places have been created?

Response:

The Director Customer and Community Services advised that since the 2001 Section 94 Plan commenced, 77 places have been provided with a further 49 places to be provided in the next 2-3 years. Council has recently adopted its Children and Family Services Strategy whose recommendations and findings state Council's strategic priority is to focus resources on actively working with not-for-profit and private providers to expand supply, with a particular focus on services gaps (such as the 0-2 years bracket and special needs areas). Therefore, in line with this strategic priority, the Section 94A Plan does not propose to use development contributions to fund any further public care places.

Question:

b) Is the Administrator aware of the Committee report authored by the Hon Brownyn Bishop MP regarding the cost of childcare, that some organisations offer salary sacrificing to employees for childcare costs and the recommendation that childcare be tax deductible? Does Warringah Council offer salary sacrificing to its staff for childcare and will it review the report and make appropriate submissions based on Warringah's childcare placement list?

Response:

The Director Customer and Community Services advised that Council does offer salary sacrificing to its staff. Council is seeking advice on whether childcare must be offered on site to be eligible for salary sacrifice.