

Vincent De Luca OAM

Media Release

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De Luca welcomes additional childcare places in Warringah

Warringah community worker and President of the Curl Curl Youth and Community Centre, Vincent De Luca has welcomed Warringah Council's advice that a further 49 childcare places will be provided by Warringah Council over the next 2-3 years.

Mr De Luca first requested that the Council allocate additional funding for child care on 27 July 2004. At the time, the Council responded that "a review of Council's Section 94 plan is presently underway, with the provision of additional childcare places as one of its objectives".

At the Council's meeting on 12 December 2006, in response to a further question from Mr De Luca, the Council announced that a further 49 places will be provided in the next 2-3 years. The Council, through its Children and Family Services Strategy will also focus resources on actively working with not-for-profit and private providers to expand supply, with a particular focus on services gaps.

"I am delighted with the Council's commitment to introduce 49 extra child care places. Childcare is one of the major issues facing Warringah's families and I am sure these additional places will be snapped up very quickly" Mr De Luca said.

"I agree with the statement made by Bronwyn Bishop MP in the *Daily Telegraph* on 7 January 2007 that we have an obligation as a society to make it as easy as possible for mothers to work and have accessible childcare".

"I have read with interest the report of the Federal Standing Committee on Family and Human Services Committee, which Mrs Bishop chaired, *Balancing Work and Family* and believe that it has put the subject of childcare and working families on the public agenda – for this I congratulate Mrs Bishop and her colleagues".

"I think it is essential for this important issue to be properly debated and for the Federal Government to introduce reforms that will serve the needs and interests of women, families and children" Mr De Luca said.

"The report also makes recommendations concerning relationship education as well as carers of people with a disability or the elderly. For far too long Governments have ignored the enormous work that carers of people with a disability and the elderly undertake. The State Government has looked at including carers in the *Mental Health Act* and I am pleased that the issue of carers for people with a disability and the elderly receiving financial and respite assistance has been brought to public attention by this report at the Federal level also" Mr De Luca concluded.

*** For more information, please contact Vincent De Luca by telephone on 0414 990 551 ***