

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2009

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7 April 2009

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that a Community Services Committee of the Council of the City of Randwick will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick, on Tuesday, 14 April 2009 at 6:00pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor, B Notley-Smith, Bowen, Matson, Matthews, Smith (Deputy Chairperson), Tracey, Woodsmith (Chairperson).

Quorum: Four (4) members.

NOTE: At the Extraordinary Meeting held on 28 September 2004, the Council resolved that the Community Services Committee be constituted as a committee with full delegation to determine matters on the agenda.

Apologies/Granting of Leave of Absences

Confirmation of the Minutes

Community Services Committee - 10 March 2009

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Committee by Members of the Public

Urgent Business

Community Services Reports

C6/09 Moverly Children's Centre Update 1

Library Reports

Nil

Closed Session

Nil

Notices of Rescission Motions

Nil

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Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Community Services Report No. C6/09



Subject: Moverly Children's Centre Update
Folder No: F2006/00727
Author: Barbara Todes, Manager Library Services

Introduction

Over the past five (5) months there has been significant improvements to processes, administrative practices, policies, staff training and communication with parents at Moverly Children's Centre. The Centre underwent accreditation recently and received the highest quality accreditation.

At its Ordinary Council Meeting of 24 June 2008, Council resolved:

"**(Andrews/Nash)** that a report be brought back to Council on the management options for Moverly Children's Centre."

Issues

The National Childcare Accreditation Council assesses each childcare centre every two and a half years. The NCAC assesses the centre against 750 indicators and also takes into account parent surveys, worth 10%, staff surveys, worth 10% and a self study, worth 20%. If a centre does not pass accreditation, the government can cancel funding and parents would then have to pay full fees.

The Validator from the National Childcare Accreditation Council arrived, unannounced on 3 March 2009 at 8am and stayed for two days.

During that time her role is to observe interactions between staff, children and families. She spends a lot of time in the room watching staff practices. The Validator checks all OHS requirements including fire drills, cleaning checks, opening and closing checks, yard maintenance, curriculum, safety and compliance and hygiene.

The Validator assesses management, communication to families and the wider community, networking with community services, advocacy, centre philosophy, policies and procedures and importantly children's programs, observations and reflections.

In the office, the Validator goes through everything from professional developments, qualifications, staff certificates, professional development plans, staff meeting minutes, council minutes, parent meeting minutes, and newsletters. The Validator was extremely thorough and required evidence to demonstrate that the Centre was achieving all these areas.

Out of 750 indicators Moverly had only *one*, minor, partial indicator that was not fulfilled, namely that there was not evidence on day one as to whether the plants had been checked and were poisonous or not. By the morning of day two the Coordinator had found information about the plants and had it on display.

This is an exceptional result and the Acting Coordinator and staff are to be commended for this achievement.

Furthermore, on the basis of the current state of the childcare industry, Council should retain management control of the centre for the foreseeable future.

C6/09

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

- Outcome 2: A vibrant and diverse community.
Direction 2b: Enrich our range of community services that meet our community's needs.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

The National Accreditation Council has awarded Moverly Children's Centre the highest quality rating against the 750 indicators. This exceptional achievement is due to the Acting Coordinator and her staff, who have made significant improvements in all areas in the Centre in a short timeframe.

Recommendation

That:

- a) the report be received and noted; and
- b) the Coordinator and staff at Moverly Children's Centre be commended for achieving high quality accreditation.

Attachment/s:

Nil

C6/09