



Moora District Child Care Centre Strategic Plan 2012-2016



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Executive Summary

“Local Governments primary responsibility is to ensure community well being.”

The Shire of Moora recognises that child care is a key factor in the creation of a sustainable and viable community and investment in the facility and its services will enable the continuous development of community wellbeing and capacity.

The Shire of Moora Community Strategic Plan has a strong focus on existing asset renewal and on growth for the Moora region. The Moora Districts Child Care Strategic Plan 2012-2016 (the Plan) will help the Shire of Moora in achieving this by assisting in enabling Moora to provide high quality services and facilities to the local community and to pave the way for future growth. A key results area of the Community Strategic Plan is to maintain, improve and sustain our assets, facilities and essential infrastructure. The Plan will assist in improving and increasing the sustainability of the Moora Child Care Centre and, as a result, the general community.

Overview – Moora & Districts Child Care Centre

The Moora District Child Care Centre (the Centre) has been in operation since the 1960’s after starting out as a kindergarten. It has been housed in its current location since 2007 soon after the Shire of Moora took over management of the facility. It is the sole childcare facility in the Shire of Moora and caters for up to 28 children daily from the age of 6 weeks to 6 years. The Child Care centre is located centrally on Keane Street, Moora and is licensed as a 48 week occasional care facility.

The Moora District Child Care Centre plays an integral role in the Moora and district community as it allows parents to return to work which has a positive effect on the local economy, and it also provides a central community point for those with young children to build and develop relationships, support each other and access important child-related information. Children attend the centre from surrounding shires and towns including Dandaragan, Badgingarra, New Norcia, Gillingarra and also from within towns located in the Shire of Moora including Watheroo and Miling.

The Centre is fully accessible to the community and adheres to the Shire of Moora’s Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. The Centre caters for children from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and has 77 families (88 children) who currently access the Moora District Child Care Centre throughout the year.



Vision statement:

Every family is able to access affordable, convenient, high quality early childhood education and care within a safe environment for their children.

Values and Goals:

- Each child is valued and respected as an individual
- To practice the National Quality Standard Early Years Learning Framework essential to support and enhance young children's learning with a strong emphasis on play-based learning providing
- To extend and develop each child's skills, knowledge and interests through successful experiences which encourages the development of a healthy self-concept and positive self-esteem
- To encourage social development so each child learns to interact successfully in a variety of situations
- To be sensitive and respectful of varied cultural and religious practices
- To provide an environment that encourages children to develop their capabilities and interests at their own pace and according to their individual needs
- To provide a warm, nurturing and safe environment that encourages the development of the whole child
- To be a support to all families in all aspects of each child's development
- To provide qualified, experienced and caring staff to meet the needs of the individual child
- Equality of access



Stakeholders

Shire of Moora
Moora & Districts Child Care Centre
Families of the Centre
Community
Department of Communities
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
CY O'Connor Institute

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Moora & Districts Child Care Strategic Plan was developed by staff in conjunction with parents of the Centre.

An analysis of feedback received from all parties resulted in identification of the operational and capital priorities.

This strategic plan is a working document. As a matter of course, it will be revisited annually by staff with the provision of consulting parents of the Centre to ensure they have the opportunity to provide feedback.



Identified Operational Priorities

PRIORITIES	ACTIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Provision of a high quality service	1. Increase staff capacity	Currently: 1 permanent full-time staff, 3 permanent part-time staff, 5 casual staff Target: Employment of a trainee in Certificate III in Children's Services
	2. Support staff with training and personal development	Currently: 3 educators studying Diploma in Children's Services Target 1: All permanent educators to complete Diploma in Children's Services Target 2: Provide opportunities for training and professional development of educators that is consistent with the National Quality Standard Early Years Learning Framework.
	3. Provision of holistic programs and activities to ensure the cognitive, social and emotional development and fine and gross motor skills development of all children attending the Centre.	Currently: Holistic programs and activities are incorporated into daily programming Target 1: Continue to offer holistic programs and activities as part of the daily programs Target 2: Increase the capacity of resources to offer more comprehensive programs and activities into the daily programs Target 3: Integrate National Quality Standard Early Years Learning Framework into programming
Provision of an accessible service	4. Operational Hours	Currently: Current operational hours are 8.30am-5.00pm for 48 weeks of the year (closure of Centre from Christmas period into January) Target 1: Review operational weeks to reduce impact of January closure Target 2: Review and cost operational hours to extend to 8.15am-5.15pm

Identified Capital Priorities

PRIORITIES	ACTIONS	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
Facility Upgrade	1. Replace flooring in the centre	Currently: Vinyl flooring in the main areas, carpet in the separate play and sleeping areas, painted concrete in bathroom, toilet and storeroom. Poor condition Target: Replace all floors with high quality vinyl and 2 large carpet mats in main play areas, replace carpet in sleeping areas and office, repaint surface in bathroom, toilet and storeroom
	2. Secure eastern semi-enclosed verandah	Currently: This semi-enclosed verandah is underutilised in its current state due to inadequate security for children Target: Install 1.2m pool fencing to secure the area to create additional space for children activities
	3. Install shade structures at the Centre to enable year round outdoor play and reduce exposure to sun	Currently: 2 shade cloth (poor condition) covering playgrounds and a new all-weather shade structure Target: Replace existing shade cloth with high quality minimum 90% UV block capabilities and install additional shade sail in babies play area
	4. a) Re-Landscape garden at the Centre b) Installation of a bull nose verandah at the front of the building to reduce the impacts of the sun into the sleep area, kitchen and office	Currently: The current garden is inadequate and not conducive to activities of a child care centre Target 1: Develop an easy maintained garden incorporating sensory components to enable integration of programming Target 2: Install artificial turf or softfall under the main shade cloth structure Currently: No verandah at the front of the building, however there are awning that provide limited protection Target: Construct 16.5m x 1.5m verandah along the front of the building
	5. Replace tiling in bathroom & painting of woodwork	Currently: Tiling around the skirting and woodwork is in poor condition Target: Replace tiles around the skirting and paint woodwork
	6. Installation of bike path around babies outdoor play area	Currently: The north play area designated for the babies currently has no bike path or retainment of sand which disperses onto the grass Target: Install a concrete bike path around the perimeter of the sand pit to create a retainer for the sand and a bike path
	7. Installation of signage to promote the Centre	Currently: Signage is poorly visible and not aesthetically pleasing Target: Installation of upgraded signage to promote the service

Resources for the Strategic Plan

Funding required satisfying priorities set out in the Strategic Plan will be derived from the Shire of Moora budget with childcare service being provided to the community with the objective of childcare service provision being cost neutral to Council. Operational priorities identified will be dependent on staff availability, council and licensing approval.

Fee increases will be considered by the Council during annual budget planning deliberations.

Other sources of funding include:

- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations – Community Support Program for operational assistance
- External Funding – for identified capital priorities

