

July 30, 2024

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA NO. 1**

JAY NANKIVELL  
GENERAL MANAGER

# MAYORAL MINUTE

1. MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 12/24 - DATED JULY 30, 2024 - SUPPORT FOR SILVERLEA EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES (D24/37005) ..... 3

## ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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**ITEM 1**MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 12/24SUBJECT:                    SUPPORT FOR SILVERLEA EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES  
D24/37005**Summary**

On 29 July 2024, the Mayor and members of Council's Executive met with board members of Silverlea Early Childhood Services regarding difficulties being faced by the service.

Council were informed that the service is essentially operating on a 'bare bones' staffing model after recent staff losses and repeated unsuccessful attempts to recruit to Broken Hill.

The facility is accredited to care for 22 children per day, however at least four (4) staff must be working in order to satisfy this quota. The service has 87 children on its waiting list.

The reported lack of staff has resulted in intermittent closures of the centre at short notice, unplanned changes in operating hours, and increased workload on remaining staff.

Staff shortages result in support staff having to undertake caring duties, which creates an administrative backlog.

The centre now operates on reduced hours of 8am-4pm (down from 6am-6pm) which adversely affects families who utilise the service and undertake shift work.

All of the above factors increase stress on existing staff and there are concerns at board level regarding staff burnout due to the current demands at the centre.

There are fears that the service could eventually face closure without Government support to alleviate staffing issues. Any closure would significantly compound the childcare issues already being faced by the city.

I recommend that Council writes to the Federal Minister for Education The Hon Jason Clare MP, NSW Deputy Premier The Hon Prue Car MP, NSW Shadow Minister for Education and Early Learning The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Federal Member for Parkes The Hon Mark Coulton MP, and the State Member for Barwon Mr Roy Butler to update them on the situation facing Silverlea.

Correspondence should also include a request for information on all current or upcoming Government incentive programs to encourage regional relocation, and any current or upcoming Government funding streams that could potentially help alleviate the issues being faced by Silverlea.

**Recommendation**

1. That Mayoral Minute No. 12/24 dated July 30, 2024, be received.
2. That Council provide an update on Silverlea's situation to the Ministers listed in this Mayoral Minute and request information on all current or upcoming Government incentive programs to encourage regional relocation, and any current or upcoming Government funding streams that could potentially help alleviate the issues being faced by Silverlea.

**Attachments**

There are no attachments for this report.

T. KENNEDY  
MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL

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