

**ITEM 18 - BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 164/24 - DATED OCTOBER 23, 2024 - PROPOSED EXPANSION OF PLAYTIME PRESCHOOL AND RELOCATION OF CWA TO ALMA INSTITUTE**

D24/51148

**RESOLUTION**

Minute No. 47679

Councillor A Chandler moved )

Councillor A Byrne seconded )

**Resolved**

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 164/24 dated October 23, 2024, be received.
2. That Council approve, for the purposes of public exhibition, the granting of a 12-month license for the Alma Institute to the Broken Hill CWA with the view to obtaining ministerial consent for a longer-term lease.
3. That the proposed license of the Alma institute be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days for public comment.
4. That Council approve Playtime Preschool occupying the whole of the Fred Jobson Community Centre site
5. That the General Manager be authorised to negotiate Lease arrangements with Playtime Preschool.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

October 23, 2024

**ITEM 17**BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL REPORT NO. 164/24

SUBJECT:                    PROPOSED EXPANSION OF PLAYTIME PRESCHOOL AND  
RELOCATION OF CWA TO ALMA INSTITUTE                    D24/51148

**Recommendation**

1. That Broken Hill City Council Report No. 164/24 dated October 23, 2024, be received.
2. That Council approve, for the purposes of public exhibition, the granting of a 12-month license for the Alma Institute to the Broken Hill CWA with the view to obtaining ministerial consent for a longer-term lease.
3. That the proposed license of the Alma institute be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days for public comment.
4. That Council approve Playtime Preschool occupying the whole of the Fred Jobson Community Centre site
5. That the General Manager be authorised to negotiate Lease arrangements with Playtime Preschool.

**Executive Summary:**

Playtime preschool was established in 1952 and currently operates 29 places per day, 5 days a week accommodating 63 children weekly. Playtime currently has a waitlist of over 100 children aged 0-5 with approximately 17% of the children being indigenous. Playtime preschool keeps daily fees low, averaging \$15 depending on the family's circumstances providing essential affordable childcare.

Playtime Preschool has applied for and are hopeful of securing grant funding of \$1,700,000 to renovate and upgrade the existing preschool and also utilising space within the building currently occupied by the CWA.

Council has proposed that the CWA relocate to the Alma Institute to allow for this expansion of childcare. The proposed relocation of the CWA to the Alma institute has been discussed with their members with a site visit of the Alma institute having taken place. The CWA are supportive of Playtimes expansion and have agreed to the proposed relocation.

**Report:**

Playtime preschool was established in 1952 and currently operates 29 places per day, 5 days a week accommodating 63 children weekly. Playtime currently has a waitlist of over

100 children aged 0-5 with approximately 17% of the children being indigenous. Playtime preschool keeps daily fees low, averaging \$15 depending on the family's circumstances providing essential affordable childcare.

The proposed expansion of Playtime Preschool would add 40 placements per day and an additional 12 staff roles. Childcare is in high demand in the city and is a critical component of enhancing the city's livability and attraction of workers to the city.

During consultation sessions for Council's Asset Optimisation Project, it was identified that Playtime preschool would like to expand operations if they were able to occupy the whole of the Fred Jobson Community Centre. The current grant funding opportunities come at an ideal time, and it is hopeful that the application is successful. Regardless of the grant funding outcome, the ability for Playtime to occupy the entirety of the Centre will assist the expansion of the preschool and lead to more placements being available for Broken Hill Children.

#### Fred Jobson Community Centre and Alma Institute Site



The Broken Hill Branch of the CWA is supportive of the expansion of Playtime preschool and have agreed to the relocation to the Alma Institute building.

The Alma Institute consists of 5 separate rooms and a verandah facing Patton street. The building is currently being utilised for storage while the new Library is being constructed, as such the relocation of the CWA to the Alma institute will be timed to fit in with that project. The finishes, fittings and services of the building are currently in poor condition and require refurbishment including kitchen facilities and toilets to bring up to current standards to be fit for purpose. These upgrades would be funded by Council with grant funding sought where possible. Budget for these upgrades will be sought through Councils Budget processes.

**Community Engagement:**

N/A

**Strategic Direction:**

Key Direction:	4	Our Leadership
Objective:	4.1	Openness and transparency in decision making
Strategy:	4.1.5	Support the organisation to operate within its legal framework

**Relevant Legislation:**

*Local Government Act 1993*

*Crown Land Management Act 2016*

**Financial Implications:**

Crown Lands License fee of \$618

The Alma Institute building requires refurbishment to be suitable for use by the CWA. Budget to be sought through Councils established budget and budget review processes once costs are known.

**Attachments**

There are no attachments for this report

SIMON BROWN

DIRECTOR FINANCE AND COMMERCIAL

JAY NANKIVELL

GENERAL MANAGER