



AGENDA APPENDIX
Council Meeting
Wednesday 22 May 2013

**AGENDA ITEM FOR SEPARATE DISTRIBUTION TO COUNCILLORS AND
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM DUE TO DOCUMENT SIZE.**

**THE ITEM IS ACCESSIBLE VIA THE COUNCIL WEBSITE OR BY
CONTACTING COUNCIL ON 03 5662 9200.**

**E.1 EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES BUILDING ASSETS POLICY
FRAMEWORK**

APPENDIX 1



*South Gippsland
Shire Council*

Early Childhood Services Building Assets Policy Framework

March 2013

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Executive Summary

The Council Plan 2010-2014 Strategy 4.2 defines Council's commitment to the provision of early years facilities through sustainable asset management.

A review of early year's policy, service provision and existing facilities has provided a framework for how and where new early year's facilities are to be provided and existing facilities upgraded. This positions Council to be able to respond to community need for services and to funding opportunities when they arise

New and recently upgraded Council facilities address current service standards, however, timely strategic planning and collaboration between Council and service providers is required to ensure:

- Optimal use of existing facilities,
- Future investment is allocated on need rather than historical practice.

This paper provides:

- An overview of current early childhood policy, standards and other operational requirements.
- An overview of early years services and facilities provided in the South Gippsland Shire.
- Guidelines for accessing how and where new facilities are to be provided and existing facilities upgraded.
- Recommendations to inform:
 - The Building Asset Management Plan,
 - The annual business planning and budgeting process,
 - Strategic partnerships with early year's service providers.

1. Introduction

Why do we need a policy framework?

The development of a policy framework that informs decision making for new infrastructure and the renewal and maintenance of existing early childhood services buildings is a core strategy of the South Gippsland Shire Council Municipal Early Years Plan 2012 – 2016. (MEYP)

The MEYP was adopted after extensive community consultation with families and service providers, and identifies Council's role in early year's services as:

- planning and co-ordination,
- community capacity building;
- advocacy;
- service and infrastructure provision.

Council's infrastructure provides the foundation for the provision of a safe and functional environment for the community.

Changes to early childhood policy and community expectation require a shift in the planning and provision of facilities that allow integrated service delivery. Servicing areas of declining population and meeting the needs of communities who have a growing number of children but no facilities must also be addressed.

Developing clear guidelines for how and where new facilities are to be provided and existing facilities upgraded positions Council to be best prepared to respond to community need for services and to funding opportunities when they arise.

2. What are early childhood services?

Services aimed at children 0 – 8 years old, including maternal & child health, childcare, kindergarten, playgroup, therapy, advice and counselling services

3. Early Childhood Policy Context

Council of Australian Governments (COAG) policy reforms introduced in 2009, require all early year's services to work in an integrated and collaborative manner with other local services for children 0-8 years.

This aims to enhance children's learning and well-being, support families in their parenting roles, build the capacity of services and information sharing, supports joint problem solving and the development of best practice models.

Developing premises to provide an *Integrated Children's Centre* where a broad range of early childhood services are provided in a "one-stop-shop" model is encouraged, while "stand-alone" services need to collaborate with other providers to assist families' access and transition seamlessly between services.

A National Quality Framework prescribes standards in relation to:

- Education program and practice
- Child health and safety
- Physical environment
- Partnerships with families and communities
- Leadership and management

The core aim of the framework is to raise quality and drive continuous improvement and consistency in service provision.

4. Funding Early Years Infrastructure

The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development – Victoria provides Children’s Facilities Capital Grants. Funding is available to:

- Upgrade existing facilities
- Establish new kindergarten programs
- Provide integrated children’s centres

The provision of new facilities or building upgrades should result in the following outcomes:

- Increased capacity to deliver 15 hours of high quality kindergarten for all children in the year before school.
- Improved access to high quality kindergarten education in the same place as long day care and other children’s and family services.
- Improved access to early childhood services for children from vulnerable and/or disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Establishment of more services for children and families on or near school sites.
- Integrated, inclusive and collaborative early childhood education and care services that provide high quality programs to meet the needs of young children aged 0-8 years.

Local government, schools and organisations who provide kindergarten programs who **own buildings**, are the only eligible organisations to apply for funding to upgrade buildings.

Local governments, community service organisations, kindergarten cluster managers and schools in partnerships with local government or community organisations are eligible to apply for funding to establish a new facility to provide funded kindergarten programs.

Local government, community service organisations and government schools in partnership with local government / community service organisations are eligible to apply for funding to establish an Integrated Children’s Centre.

Existing funding grants do not cover the cost of establishment and upgrade of facilities.

Currently, only 40% to a maximum of \$1.5 million is granted by the State government to fund the building of integrated children's centres; 75% to a maximum of \$600,000 to build a new early learning centre; and \$300,000 to upgrade existing facilities. Funding applications must demonstrate that all funds (except those being applied for) are committed to the project.

To date, only one commercial operator has chosen to build and deliver a childcare service in the municipality. Historically, childcare and kindergarten has been provided by not-for-profit community service organisations in South Gippsland.

As new housing developments are planned, there will be opportunity for Council to secure a contribution from developers for the provision of social infrastructure, including early year's services.

5. What does SGSC currently provide?

Provision of early childhood services and infrastructure is not uniform across the State. Some local government authorities provide both the infrastructure and the full range of education, care and support services for young children.

Prior to the introduction of Compulsory Competitive Tendering, South Gippsland Shire Council was responsible for the provision of many of the kindergarten and childcare services. In 1996 during the period of Compulsory Competitive Tendering, Council (then administered by Commissioners) made the decision to outsource the provision of kindergarten, childcare, vacation care and mobile children's services (Bush Link). Council did submit its own tender to provide integrated Family & Children's Services encompassing all children's services and Aged & Disability services. However that tender was not accepted and the Maternal & Child Health and Pre School Field Officer were the only services maintained.

SGSC currently owns and is responsible for the majority of early childhood facilities operating across the shire. A commercial childcare service in Leongatha and the St. Andrews Child Care service at Mirboo North are exceptions.

(See Table 1 South Gippsland Shire Council: Overview of Early Years Infrastructure & Services.)

Table 1. South Gippsland Shire Council: Overview of Early Years Infrastructure & Services

Nyora	Poowong	Loch	Korumburra	Leongatha	Mirboo North	Meeniyah	Dumbalk	Tarwin Lower	Fish Creek	Foster	Toora	Welshpool
Maternal & Child Health provided in Primary School facilities	Co-located Maternal & Child Health and Kindergarten	Stand-alone Kindergarten	Maternal & Child Health provided from leased hospital site. Stand-alone childcare at Victoria Street.	Integrated Children's Centre providing Maternal & Child Health, Childcare, Out of School Hours care and Kindergarten at Symmons Street	Co-located Maternal & Child Health and Kindergarten at Brennan Street.	Stand-alone kindergarten	Redundant co-located Maternal & Child Health and kindergarten	Maternal & Child Health provided in Community Health Centre, owned by SGSC and leased by Gippsland Southern Health Service.	Stand – alone Kindergarten Playgroup	Integrated Children's Centre providing Maternal & Child Health, Childcare , Out of School Hours Care and Kindergarten at Pioneer Street	Stand-alone Kindergarten Playgroup	Kindergarten with redundant Maternal & Child Health facility. Playgroup
Playgroups: - school - hall	Playgroup: Uniting Church		Stand-alone kindergarten at Victoria Street.	Stand-alone Kindergarten at Symmons Street. Stand-alone Kindergarten at Hassett St	Childcare and 3 yr. old kindergarten at Ridgeway Street	Redundant Stand-alone Maternal & Child Health Centre		Playgroup at school		Playgroup at Scout Hall	Family Day Care	
	In- venue Family Day care at Primary School		Out of School Hours Care at Primary School	Commercial Childcare at Brown Street	Playgroup at the old train station	Playgroup at Uniting Church				Family Day Care		
			Family Day Care	Playgroups held at RSL offices	*The Maternal & Child Health, Kindergarten and childcare are adjacent and form an early year's precinct.	Family Day Care		*When this facility was built, the community planned to provide kindergarten services at some point in the future.				
			Playgroups: - Baptist Church, - Milpara, - Coal Creek -St. Josephs Primary	Family Day Care In- venue Family Day care at Primary School								

KEY

- Maternal & Child Health , space provided by others or leased
- Co-located Kindergarten, Maternal & Child Health
- Stand-alone Service
- Integrated Children's Centre encompassing Maternal & Child Health, Childcare and Kindergarten service
- Building and service provided by other operators
- Redundant SGSC Early Years' Service – community usage
- Owned by Council, leased to Gippsland Southern Health Service

Council operates and maintains its early childhood services buildings by ensuring the building assets:

- Are maintained at a safe and functional standard as stated in the SGSC Asset Management Plan.
- Provide for the delivery of agreed levels of service to the community in a sustainable and cost-effective manner.
- Meet the requirements of Council's service providers.

This is achieved through:

- An annual building condition and performance inspection.
- Programmed maintenance.
- Reactive/Breakdown maintenance.
- Consultation with service providers.
- Renewal and upgrade to address legislation changes, building regulations and the need to meet required service levels
- Provision of annual \$3,000 maintenance grant to lessees to subsidise the costs of minor maintenance required by lease agreements.

Council also provides the planning, advocacy, submission of grant applications and project management for the provision of new facilities and the extension/upgrade of existing buildings.

6. Current Status of Early Years Infrastructure

Early Childhood facilities currently assist the provision of Maternal & Child Health, Kindergarten, Childcare and Playgroups and have a replacement value of approximately \$11,500,000.

Council has been active in the oversight of early year's infrastructure. New buildings have been erected and extensions and upgrades have been undertaken to address the needs of services as they respond to funding and service requirements and community expectations.

Council's Building Asset Management Plan documents current levels of service, future demand for services, life cycle management to be addressed, maintenance renewal and upgrade of existing buildings. It also plans for new infrastructure.

The establishment of the Prom Coast Centre for Children at Foster in 2011 has provided an Integrated Children's Service in the eastern area of the Shire. The 2012 extension to the Leongatha Children's Centre has seen integrated service delivery also available to the Leongatha area.

An extension to the Korumburra kindergarten in 2012 has addressed the short-term needs for capacity to deliver 15 hours of kindergarten. However the stand-alone nature of this and the other early year's services in Korumburra and the increasing demand for service, requires the establishment of new

facilities. Council is currently actively working with the Korumburra community to establish an integrated children's centre.

The Fish Creek, Hassett Street, Loch, Meeniyan, Mirboo North, Poowong and Toora kindergartens have had extensions and/or upgrades within the last 10 years, while the Allora Kindergarten at Leongatha is relatively new. Service feedback to date indicates Mirboo North is the only kindergarten seeking improvements to facilities.

The only building rated as unacceptable is the Birralelee Childcare Centre. This rating is due to the fact that the building is not big enough to address demand for service. The proposed Korumburra Integrated Children's Centre should rectify this issue.

See Tables 2.1 to 2.5 - Early Years Overview 2013

Table 2.1 – Nyora, Poowong and Loch Early Years Services Overview 2013

Town	Nyora Nyora Primary School	Poowong 12 Ranceby Rd	Loch 18 Smith St
Building Information	Maternal & Child Health conducted in portable building owned by DEECD. School offered additional unused building (which they own) for potential kindergarten service. Currently investigating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community support for kindergarten service Suitability of refurbishment of existing building versus development of purpose built facility. 	Co-located MCH and kindergarten service, built 1960 - brick Minor refurbishment undertaken in past 10 years to ensure functionality and to meet licensing requirements Will require refurbishment or major upgrades in next 10 -15 years	Stand-alone kindergarten built 1960 - Besser Block. Minor refurbishment to ensure functionality and to meet licensing requirements. Will require refurbishment or major upgrades in next 10 -15 years.
Functionality Rating	Maternal & Child Health has no internet access.	Meets current needs.	Meets current needs.
Condition Rating	Not Applicable	Good	Good
Service Information	Maternal & Child Health: 3 hrs. per fortnight service from Primary School No kindergarten services. Families access kindergarten at Lang Lang, Poowong or Loch. School hosts playgroup one morning per week for children 0-5 years in building where MCH is conducted.	Maternal & Child Health: 8 hrs. per fortnight 4 yr. kindergarten - 15 hrs. per week 3 yr. kindergarten - 2.5 hrs. per week Plus administration time	4 yr. kindergarten - 20 hrs. per week 3 yr. old kindergarten: 2 hrs. per week Plus administration time Currently no playgroup
Service Manager	Maternal & Child Health - SGSC	Maternal & Child Health - SGSC Kindergarten- Cluster Managed by Uniting Care Gippsland	Kindergarten – Stand-alone Incorporated Parent Committee
Licensed Capacity	Not Applicable	30	30
Current Enrolment	Maternal & Child Health - 23 Playgroup - approx. 15 per week	Maternal & Child Health - 8 4 yr. Kindergarten - 26 3 yr. kindergarten - 16	4 yr. kindergarten - 30 3 yr. kindergarten - 7
Additional Comments	*Playgroup also held at hall 1.5 hrs. per week. Proposed housing development will drive demand for establishment of early childhood education and care services. Some families using early year's services in Lang Lang. Anecdotal evidence of many families opting to enrol children in school in the town where they went to kindergarten.	Additional and/or re-arrangement of service hours could provide for additional kindergarten enrolments. *Playgroup 1.5 hrs. per week at Uniting Church *In – venue Family Day Care at primary school providing capacity for 7 Out of School Hours Care places. (UnitingCare Gippsland)	Additional and/or re-arrangement of service hours could provide for additional enrolments. Some families using Nyora playgroup

Table 2.2 – Korumburra Early Years Overview 2013

Town	Korumburra – Maternal & Child Health	Korumburra - Birralelee Childcare Centre 28 Victoria St	Korumburra – Kindergarten 4 Victoria St
Building Information	Building leased at Korumburra Hospital grounds.	Birralelee Childcare Centre constructed in brick in 1985. Extensions completed mid 1990's.	Co-located MCH/kindergarten constructed 1970 in Shadowline material. MCH relocated and extensions undertaken in 2012 to address demand for kindergarten service. Now stand-alone kindergarten service
Functionality Rating	Meets current needs	Unable to meet current needs	Meets current needs
Condition Rating	Not Applicable	Good	Fair
Service Information	40 hrs. per fortnight	Childcare 7.30 am – 6.00pm weekdays. Stand-alone childcare service	4 yr. Kindergarten: 20 hrs. per week 3 yr. Kindergarten: 6 hrs. per week
Service Manager	SGSC	Stand – alone Incorporated Parent Committee	Stand –alone Incorporated Parent Committee
Licensed Capacity	Not Applicable	45 0-2 yr. old -15 2-3 yr. old- 10 3-5 yr. old - 20	44* *Extensions to building created capacity to provide for a group of 44 children at one time. Increased staffing levels have been implemented to address child: staff ratio requirements and service quality.
Current Enrolment	Approx. 60	Full enrolment with waiting list. Approx. 130 children use service during the week 40 children per week in 0-2 yr. room 32 children per week in 2-3 yr. room 56 children per week in 3-5 yr. room	4 yr. kindergarten – 54 3 yr. kindergarten - 27
Additional Comments	Council and community planning the establishment of a facility and governance structure to provide all services from one site in the near future.	At capacity. No kindergarten service provided from this service. No Out of School Hours Care, though school vacation care available. Birralelee active with Kindergarten and SGSC to establish a facility and governance structure model to provide all services from one site.	Some capacity for additional enrolments via additional and/or rearrangement of service hours. Council and community planning the establishment of a facility and governance structure to provide all services from one site in the near future.

*4 playgroups each operate for approx. 2 hrs. per week. Sessions held at Baptist Church, Milpara, Coal Creek and St. Joseph's Primary School.

* 1 Family Day Care Staff (Managed by UnitingCare Gippsland)

* Out of School Hours Care located at and operated by Korumburra Primary School. Capacity 25 – average attendance 10

Table 2.3 – Leongatha Early Years Overview

Town	Children's Centre Symmons St	Allora Kindergarten Symmons St	Hassett St Kindergarten Hassett St	Time 4 Tots -Childcare Centre Brown St
Building Information	Childcare centre built 1997- brick & hardiplank. Extensions completed 2012 for provision of MCH and additional education & care places.	Stand-alone kindergarten built 2001 - brick	Stand-alone kindergarten built 1975 – brick Major upgrades and extensions undertaken in past 10 years.	Purpose built commercially operated facility.
Functionality Rating	Exceeds current needs	Meets current needs	Meets current needs	Not Applicable
Condition Rating	Good	Very Good	Good	Not Applicable
Service Information	Maternal & Child Health: 63 hrs. per fortnight Childcare + Out of School Hours Care: 7.30am – 6.00pm weekdays Kindergarten: 25 hrs. per week	4 yr. kindergarten: 24 hrs. per week 3 yr. kindergarten: 3hrs per week	4 yr. Kindergarten: 30 hrs. per week	Childcare and Out-of-School Hours- Care: 7.30am – 6.00 pm Weekdays Kindergarten: 15 hrs. per week
Service Manager	<i>Maternal & Child Health:</i> SGSC <i>Childcare & Kindergarten:</i> Stand-alone Incorporated Parent Committee	<i>Kindergarten:</i> Stand-alone Incorporated Parent Committee- Shared with Hassett St.	<i>Kindergarten:</i> Stand-alone Incorporated Parent Committee- Shared with Symmons St.	Commercially owned and operated facility
Licensed Capacity	90	27	30	120
Current Enrolment	Maternal & Child Health: 83 ChildCare: 81 places (202) 0-2 yrs.: 26 4-5 yrs.: 47 2-3 yrs.: 41 5-6 yrs.: 13 3-4 yrs.: 59 6+yrs: 16	4 yr. kindergarten: 37 3 yr. kindergarten: 15	4 yr. kindergarten: 50	4 yr. kindergarten: 10 Room 1: 15 (0-18 mths) Room 3: 25 (18 mths – 3 yrs.) Room 5: 20 (3-4 yrs.) 3 rooms currently closed
Additional Comments	Capacity to offer additional kindergarten places. Potential for new management models to support integrated service delivery.	Capacity to provide additional kindergarten places under current service model. Potential for new management models to support integrated service delivery.	Capacity to provide additional places under current service model. Potential to investigate new management models to support integrated service delivery.	Exact figures unavailable, service indicates it is operating at 40% capacity. Additional childcare and kindergarten places available. Potential to investigate collaborative planning to ensure use of all available capacity in Leongatha.
*Playgroup 1.5 hrs. per day, 3 days per week at RSL offices (former Michael Place kindergarten)				
*In Venue Family Day Care at primary school providing Out of School Hours Care. 7 places per day. (Operated by UnitingCare Gippsland)				
* 7 Family Day Care Staff (Managed by UnitingCare Gippsland)				

Table 2.4 – Meeniyan, Mirboo North and Tarwin Lower Early Years Overview 2013

Town	Meeniyan 95 Whitelaw St.	Mirboo North 34 Ridgeway St	Mirboo North Childcare - St. Andrew's Childcare Centre 32 Ridgeway St	Tarwin Lower Tarwin Lower Community Centre
Building Information	Stand-alone kindergarten built 1970-brick. Refurbishment and extension completed approx. 5 years ago. Capacity to increase kindergarten enrolment under current service model.	Co-located Maternal & Child Health and Kindergarten service. Renovation and upgrade undertaken to MCH and kindergarten approx. 10 years ago. Will require refurbishment or major upgrades within 10-15 years.	Converted Uniting Church Hall	Community Centre built mid 1980's owned by SGSC and leased by Gippsland Southern Health Service. Original plan to offer kindergarten service from site. Building would need upgrade to meet current standards if service was implemented at this facility.
Functionality Rating	Meets current needs	Meets current needs, but requires updating.	Not applicable	Lack of internet access
Condition Rating	Good	Good	Not applicable	Not applicable
Service Information	4 yr. kindergarten: 15 hrs. per week. 3 yr. kindergarten: 3 hrs. per week.	4 yr. kindergarten: 30 hours per week. 3 yr. kindergarten discontinued 2013	Childcare + Out of School hours Care 7.30am – 6.00pm weekdays. 3 yr. kindergarten: 8 hrs. per week	Maternal & Child Health 3.5 hrs. per fortnight
Service Manager	<i>Kindergarten:</i> Stand-alone Incorporated Parent Committee	<i>Maternal & Child Health:</i> SGSC <i>Kindergarten:</i> Cluster managed by YMCA Ballarat	<i>Childcare and 3 yr. kindergarten:</i> UnitingCare Gippsland	<i>Maternal & Child Health:</i> SGSC No kindergarten Service. Gardiner Foundation Project currently exploring options for service.
Licensed Capacity	27	26	42	Not applicable
Current Enrolment	4 yr. old kindergarten: 15 3 yr. old kindergarten: 13	MCH:27 4 yr. kindergarten- 39	Childcare: approx. 20 per day 3 yr. kindergarten:13	Maternal & Child Health:14
Additional Comments	Redundant MCH building located in Whitelaw St immediately in front of Kindergarten. Used for community meetings. *Playgroup -1.5 hrs. per week held at Uniting Church. 2 Family Day Care Staff (Managed by UnitingCare Gippsland)	Operational changes could provide for additional enrolments. MCH and Kindergarten located next door to Childcare centre. Opportunity to provide integrated service via collaborative planning, service delivery and refurbishment.	Additional capacity for childcare and 3 yr. old kindergarten places. *Playgroup at old train station	Work currently being undertaken via Gardiner Foundation to explore options for provision of kindergarten service. *Playgroup -2 hrs. per week held at primary school

Table 2.5 - Fish Creek, Foster, Toora and Welshpool Early Years Overview 2013

Town	Fish Creek 2 Ryan St	Foster 30 -32 Pioneer St	Toora Cnr Grey & Dutton Sts	Welshpool 15 Main St
Building Information	Kindergarten built 1975 – brick Minor refurbishment undertaken over its life-span. Will require refurbishment or major upgrades in next 10 -15 years.	Integrated Children’s Service, built 2011 – brick blocks. This is a new facility.	Co-located Kindergarten/MCH built 1970 – brick. Refurbishment and upgrade undertaken in past 15 years. Now operates as stand-alone kindergarten. Will require refurbishment or major upgrades in next 10 -15 years.	Co-located kindergarten/MCH built 1965 – brick. Minor refurbishment over its life-span. Will require refurbishment or major upgrades in next 10 -15 years.
Functionality Rating	Meets current needs	Exceeds current needs	Meets current needs	Meets current needs
Condition Rating	Good	New	Fair	Fair
Service Information	4 yr. kindergarten: 15 hrs. per week. 3 yr. kindergarten: currently integrated into delivery of 4 yr. kindergarten service Playgroup: 3 hrs. per week	Maternal & Child Health: 8hrs Wednesday and alternate Fridays Childcare + Out of School Hours Care 7.30am – 6pm weekdays 4 yr. kindergarten: 15 hrs. per week 3 yr. kindergarten: 6 hrs. per week	4 yr. kindergarten: 18 hrs. per fortnight Playgroup: 3 hrs. per week Capacity to provide additional kindergarten via extra service hours	4 yr. kindergarten: 12 hrs. per fortnight Playgroup: 3 hrs. per week Capacity to provide additional kindergarten via extra service hours
Service Manager	<i>Kindergarten:</i> Cluster managed by UnitingCare Gippsland and operating as outreach of Prom Coast Centre for Children	<i>Maternal & Child Health:</i> SGSC <i>Childcare and Kindergarten:</i> Cluster managed by UnitingCare Gippsland as Prom Coast Centre for Children	<i>Kindergarten:</i> Cluster managed by UnitingCare Gippsland and operating as outreach of Prom Coast Centre for Children	<i>Kindergarten:</i> Cluster managed by UnitingCare Gippsland and operating as outreach of Prom Coast Centre for Children
Licensed Capacity	28	Childcare: 30 4 yr. Kindergarten: 27	22	23
Current Enrolment	4 yr. kindergarten: 17 3 yr. kindergarten: 10	Maternal & Child Health: 48 Childcare: 148 families 4 Kindergarten: 27 3 yr. Kindergarten: 28	17	17
Additional Comments	Additional kindergarten capacity available via provision of additional service hours.	Integrated Service delivery pilot model yet to reach its full potential. Additional kindergarten capacity available via provision of additional service hours.	Service delivery and clients are shared by Toora and Welshpool – i.e. service alternates between Toora and Welshpool sites. This is responsive to the social needs of the families and the two communities. 1 Family Day Care Staff at Toora (Managed by UnitingCare Gippsland)	

Table 2.6 - Family Day Care Service Delivery Overview 2013

Town	Nyora	Poowong	Loch	Korumburra	Leongatha	Mirboo North	Meenyan	Tarwin Lower/ Venus Bay	Fish Creek	Foster	Toora	Welshpool
In- Home Care Number of Staff	0	0	0	1	7	0	2*	0	0	1	1	0
Capacity for preschool age places	0	0	0	4	28	0	8	0	0	4	4	0
In-Venue Number of Staff	0	1*	0	0	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capacity for school-age places	0	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Comments		* 2 staff part-time staff providing before and after-school care at Poowong Primary School Vacancies exist.			*3 part-time staff providing after-school care at Leongatha Primary School Vacancies exist.		* 1 staff member located at Stony Creek					

7. Current Status of Early Years Services

7.1 Maternal & Child Health

Maternal & Child Health Services have been constantly modifying service delivery since the mid 1990's. Not all towns have a service centre, however "out-reach" service delivery to those families considered vulnerable, access to 24 hour help via phone and internet has addressed needs of families.

As the Maternal & Child Health service provider, Council is able to plan for, respond to service needs in a timely fashion, ensure staff are skilled to undertake their role and seek to work collaboratively with other early years' service providers.

7.2 Childcare

Childcare services exist in two forms:

- Centre based care at Foster, Korumburra and Leongatha;
- The Family Day Care service operated by UnitingCare Gippsland, where trained and regulated staff may care for up to four children under school – age in their home and up to seven school- aged children in a registered public building. (See Table 2.6 Family Day Care Services Overview 2013)

The community child care centres at Foster, Leongatha and Korumburra are at capacity, while the commercial services at Leongatha and Mirboo North have vacancies.

While the Family Day Care model would seem the logical solution for the provision of childcare in areas of small population, anecdotal evidence suggests sufficient staff cannot be recruited to provide a service to each town. Increasing regulation, a need to operate at full capacity for a reasonable wage and service booking processes may be contributing factors in staff recruitment.

Currently staffing provides capacity for 48 places for preschool in-home care and 14 in-venue school-age care places.

Evidence also suggests that those services that are responsive to the individual needs of families and children provide experienced staff and high quality programs have the highest demand.

While Council owns three buildings operating childcare centres, it does not have jurisdiction to address service hours, programming or staffing matters. Influence through developing collaborative partnerships is currently the only avenue to bring about changes in practice. The National Quality Standards provide Council with the platform to bring services together for collaborative strategic planning and co-operative service delivery.

7.3 Kindergarten

The implementation of Universal Access to Kindergarten policy in 2013 providing 15 hours of kindergarten to all eligible four year olds, has resulted in a 50% increase

in the numbers of hours traditionally offered. This means that buildings are being used for longer hours per day and/or more days per week.

While many stand-alone kindergartens have the licensed capacity to service more than 25 children at one time, some services have made the decision to cap group sizes to 25 in the interest of service quality. Policy reforms will see staffing ratios change in 2016, which may influence group size and financial viability of services.

Korumburra, Leongatha, Loch, Meeniyan, Foster, Fish Creek, Toora and Welshpool have capacity to take additional enrolments. Increasing staff hours, employing additional staff and/or a rearrangement of service times could provide Mirboo North and Poowong with additional capacity.

Innovative arrangements of hours of service are necessary where there is a full enrolment of four year olds and a demand for three year old programs. A co-ordinated approach to enrolment procedures could address the duplication of enrolment at multiple services, which has been reported as occurring in Leongatha where four kindergarten services are available.

As with Childcare, Council does not have the jurisdiction to address operational matters. As previously stated, the National Quality Standards provide Council with the platform to bring services together to develop collaborative strategic planning and co-operative service delivery. Extensions or new buildings should not be considered until the use of non-traditional hours of operation and additional staffing no longer address demand for service.

8. Contractual Arrangements

Council Land

The contractual agreement between Council and the service provider is a lease. Negotiations on the terms of the lease are dependent upon the service provider and the demand for service. In the past, Council has negotiated leases of its premises for a term of five years with three x five year options.
(See Table 3. SGSC Early Years Building Lease Summary)

Crown Land

For crown land such as the Prom Coast Centre for Children at Foster, Korumburra and Hassett Street Leongatha kindergartens, the contractual arrangement is either a lease with Council - as Committee of Management for the land (pursuant to Section 17D of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act.) or a lease direct with the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Rental

Council currently charges a nominal rental of \$1 per annum.

Maintenance

The lease provides for payment of a grant of \$3000 per year by Council to the lessee to subsidise the cost of the lessee maintaining buildings and grounds in good order.

The recent provision of new facilities and the updating of existing facilities have highlighted shortfalls in existing arrangements with lessees/tenants in relation to building maintenance and usage that need to be addressed. Generally, the maintenance obligations of the service provider are not well understood. This is partly due to the ever-changing membership of committees of management or staff representing lease-holders.

Council currently does not audit the expenditure of the \$3000 maintenance grant, and there has been concern by some cluster managed services that they have difficulty in accessing monies to undertake necessary maintenance.

The Children & Family Services department is working collaboratively with Council Building Operations and Property Management Staff to trial procedures to inform lessees of their obligations and to provide oversight of the maintenance grant.

Property Management staff are currently undertaking a review and update of existing leases. This will include development of a Leasing Policy to capture the legislative framework and purposes when leasing a Council property.

Table 3. SGSC Early Years Building Lease Summary

Building	Land owner	Lessee	Lease commenced	Expires	Comments
Poowong	SGSC	Uniting Care Gippsland	2002	2022	Initial term 5 years + 3 further terms
Loch	SGSC	Loch & District Pre School Inc.	2002	2022	Initial term 5 years + 3 further terms
Korumburra Kindergarten	Crown	Korumburra Kindergarten Inc.	2002	2022	
Birralee Childcare Centre	SGSC	Korumburra Community Child Care Co-op Ltd	1995	2015	20 year lease
Korumburra MCH		*SGSC - leased from GSHS	2006	2018	Operating in further option. Commercial rental
Allora Kindergarten	SGSC	Leongatha Community Pre Schools Inc.	2002	2022	Initial term 5 years + 3 further terms Currently under renewal
Hassett St Kindergarten	Crown	Leongatha Community Pre Schools Inc.	2002	2022	Initial term 5 years + 3 further terms. Currently under renewal
Leongatha Children's Centre	SGSC	Leongatha Children's Centre Inc.	1998	2023	Lease variation being finalised to reflect co-location of MCH and additional area
Meeniyah Kindergarten	SGSC	Meeniyah & District Pre School Committee Inc.	2002	2022	Initial term 5 years + 3 further terms
*Dumbalk MCH/Kindergarten	SGSC				Redundant to needs Lease currently being negotiated with Dumbalk & District Progress Association for use as Community House
Mirboo North Kindergarten	SGSC	YMCA Ballarat	2002	2022	Initial term 5 years + 3 further terms
Fish Creek Kindergarten	SGSC	UnitingCare Gippsland. Lease transferred from Prom Coast Children's Services 1/1/2011	2002	2022	Initial term 5 years + 3 further terms
Prom Coast Centre for Children - Foster	Crown	UnitingCare Gippsland	2011	2021	Initial term 5 yrs. Renewal 2016
Toora Kindergarten	SGSC	UnitingCare Gippsland. Lease transferred from Prom Coast Children's Services 1/1/2011	2002	2022	Initial term 5 years + 3 further terms
Welshpool Kindergarten	SGSC	UnitingCare Gippsland. Lease transferred from Prom Coast Children's Services 1/1/2011	2002	2022	Initial term 5 years + 3 further terms

9. Redundant Early Years Assets.

Several buildings have been deemed redundant for early years' services. This is due to the erection of replacement buildings, insufficient demand for service or new service delivery models. Some buildings have been sold. Others are being utilised for other purposes. See Table 4: Redundant Buildings Status

Table 4. Redundant Buildings Status

Building & Location	Status	Usage
Maternal & Child Health/Kindergarten Miller Street, Dumbalk	Council owned. Lease currently being negotiated with Dumbalk Community	Community House activities
Maternal & Child Health Centre/residence, Pioneer Street Foster	Purchased by South Gippsland Water Board	South Gippsland Water purposes
Kindergarten, Pioneer Street Foster	Purchased by South Gippsland Water Board	South Gippsland Water purposes
Maternal & Child Health/Kindergarten, Smith Street, Leongatha	Purchased by RSL	RSL purposes. Playgroups also operating 2-3 times per week
Maternal & Child Health Centre Whitelaw St, Meeniyan	Council owned	Community meetings & activities.

10. Planning for the future

Existing Council plans provide strong direction for planning for future. The Council Plan 2010- 2014 Strategy 4 and the Building Asset Management Plan 2012 aim to *“...provide for buildings and facilities that meet contemporary needs and provide a sustainable cost benefit...”*

The Municipal Early Years Plan (2012 – 2016) states that Council should *“...continue to maintain and plan for building upgrades for the provision of early years services based on demand and the social outcomes that are to be delivered...”*

Work with local communities to plan for new buildings and review utilisation of existing buildings to meet service demands and to create a safe learning environment for kindergartens and childcare services...”

The 2012/13 Council Annual Plan identified the need to establish service levels for the early years facilities so a renewal program can be established. During this period, local early childhood services have been pre-occupied with addressing new service standards, staffing requirements and a 50% increase in kindergarten service delivery. Childcare usage has changed as children are spending longer in kindergarten.

SGSC Children & Family Services are currently meeting with early years' service providers to facilitate collaborative strategic planning. Evidence from the initial meeting indicates council staff need to assist services to think and plan for more than the year ahead. When engaging service managers, staff, committees of management and parents, using collaborative partnering principles, open dialogue and an understanding of long-term sustainable levels of service and infrastructure will help to shared solutions

It is suggested that Council work with service providers using the criteria for the provision of early years facilities in Table 5.1- 5.3 as a framework for collaborative strategic planning.

The following parameters will also be utilised as a framework:

- That those living in small towns or settlements should be within a 20 minute drive of a town with a full range of early year's services.
- Any new early years services should be located on or near a primary school.
- All facilities meet service requirements and current license and DEECD regulations and policy.

Table 5.1 Early year’s services recommended for towns of more than 1000 people

Large Town >1000	MCH	Childcare	Kindergarten	Playgroup	Other
Leongatha Korumburra Mirboo North Foster Nyora	Service in each town co-located with other early years’ service. Hours of delivery as per service level requirements.	Capacity to meet service demand based on population data.	Service capacity for 15 hours per week for every eligible 4 yr. old 2 hours per week available to 3 yr. olds according to demand	Capacity to meet service demand. Service delivered from early years or other community spaces.	Playground within 400 m of town residential areas Toy Library.

*Nyora only town with no purpose built early years infrastructure, childcare or kindergarten services

Foster is the service centre for the Corner Inlet area, indicating a need for services beyond the town population.

The larger towns are hubs for service delivery within the Shire. People coming to work in these towns often utilise these childcare and kindergarten services rather than those in their home town.

Table 5.2 Early year's service recommended for towns of 500 – 1000 people

Medium Town 500 – 999	MCH	Childcare	Kindergarten	Playgroup	Other
Loch	Access Korumburra/Nyora. Outreach for vulnerable families.	Access Korumburra/Nyora Family Day Care	15 hrs. for all eligible 4 yr. olds. 2 hrs. per week for 3 yr. olds to meet demand Review of service required re Nyora	Provided in community space or early years facility	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Fish Creek	Access Foster Outreach for vulnerable families	Access Foster Family Day Care	15 hrs. for all eligible 4 yr. olds. 2 hrs. per week for 3 yr. olds to meet demand	Provided in community space or early years facility	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Meeniyan	Access Leongatha Outreach for vulnerable families	Access Leongatha Family Day Care	15 hrs. for all eligible 4 yr. olds. 2 hrs. per week for 3 yr. olds to meet demand	Provided in community space or early years facility	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Poowong	Access Korumburra/Nyora. Outreach for vulnerable families. Review of current service required.	Access Korumburra/Nyora	15 hrs. for all eligible 4 yr. olds. 2 hrs. per week for 3 yr. olds to meet demand Review of service required re Nyora	Provided in community space or early years facility	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Venus Bay	Outreach for vulnerable families	Family Day Care	15 hrs. for all eligible 4 yr. olds. 2 hrs. per week for 3 yr. olds to meet demand.	Provided in community space or early years facility	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
<p>* These towns serve districts. Population data does not reflect children attending from surrounding areas. * Facilities at Tarwin Lower currently serve Venus Bay. Need to determine best location. Venus Bay offer Community House as optional mini hub location for playgroup and Maternal & Child Health. Tarwin Lower provides option of Early Years Precinct with School and Community House.</p>					

Table 5.3 Early years' service recommended for towns of less than 500 people

Small Town ≤ 500	MCH	Childcare	Kindergarten	Playgroup	Other
Buffalo	Access Foster. Outreach for vulnerable families	Access Foster Family Day Care	Access Meeniyah/Fish Creek	In community space	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Dumbalk Koonwarra	Access Leongatha. Outreach for vulnerable families	Access Leongatha Family Day Care	Access Leongatha or Meeniyah	In community space	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Kongwak	Access Korumburra	Access Korumburra Family Day Care	Access Korumburra	In community space	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Port Franklin Port Welshpool	Access Foster. Outreach for vulnerable families	Access Foster Family Day Care	Access Foster or develop outreach model	In community space	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Sandy Point	Access Foster. Outreach for vulnerable families	Access Foster Family Day Care	Access Foster or develop outreach model	In community space	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Stony Creek	Access Leongatha Outreach for vulnerable families	Access Leongatha Family Day Care	Access Meeniyah	In community space	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Tarwin Lower	Outreach for vulnerable families. *Review of current service required.	Access Leongatha Family Day Care	Access Meeniyah/Fish Creek/Inverloch or develop outreach model	In community space	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Toora	Access Foster. Outreach for vulnerable families	Access Foster Family Day Care	Access Foster or develop outreach model	In community space	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Walkerville Waratah Bay	Access Foster/Tarwin Lower Outreach for vulnerable families	Access Foster Family Day Care	Access Foster/Fish Creek or part of outreach model		Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Welshpool	Access Foster. Outreach for vulnerable families	Access Foster Family Day Care	Access Foster or develop outreach model	In community space	Playground within 400 m of town residential area
Current service provision is based on historical practice. Some communities that have the higher number of children have no service, while those with the lowest number do. A review and further planning is required for Sandy Point, Toora and Welshpool.					

Department of Planning and Community Development population projections indicate growth in the population of young children. (See appendices).

The proposed Korumburra Integrated Children's Centre, an extension to Allora Kindergarten and co-ordinated planning between all early years' service providers to ensure existing capacity is utilised, should address the long term service demands of Korumburra and Leongatha.

The number of children currently utilising Maternal & Child Health Services in Nyora and Tarwin Lower indicate sufficient numbers of children to consider a kindergarten service. This will require further investigation and consultation with the neighbouring communities that currently provide early years services, to determine the most appropriate location for the investment of funds.

In the eastern district of the Shire, existing capacity is adequate to address the projected population growth. One facility would address the current and projected kindergarten and playgroup needs of the Toora and Welshpool area. Further investigation and consultation needs to be undertaken prior to any further investment of funds.

Sufficient capacity exists at Mirboo North to address both childcare and kindergarten demand. This could be achieved through collaborative planning and service provision of all early years' service providers. Some refurbishment to the existing buildings and a development of an early year's precinct would be required.

Where facilities are required or buildings require replacement, opportunity exists to work with DEECD, service providers and the community to identify if other buildings (e.g. local primary school) could be utilised to enable early year's services provision. Options for mobile or outreach services could also be investigated. This would address policy directions requiring co-location and integration of services.

Following is a summary of recommended actions to address the needs for early year's facilities in each town in the shire. (Table 6. Early Years Infrastructure Recommendations)

Table 6. Early Years Infrastructure Recommendations

Location	Time Frame	Recommendation
Korumburra	Immediate	Continue to progress implementation of Korumburra Integrated Children's Project
Toora Welshpool	Short term 2013-2014	In partnership with service providers, DEEDC and Toora & Welshpool communities undertake service review to inform future capital works.
	Mid Term	Undertake capital works based on service review recommendations.
Nyora	Short term 2013 - 2018	Undertake investigation into demand for and viability of a kindergarten service. Consult with service providers and Nyora, Poowong & Loch communities about most appropriate location for early years services
	Mid term 2018 - 2023	Work with developers of proposed housing estates to seek financial contribution towards provision of early year's services facilities. Funds allocated for facility/facilities to service Nyora. Poowong & Loch district
Poowong	Short term 2013 - 2018	Consult with service providers and Nyora, Poowong & Loch communities about most appropriate location for early year's services.
	Mid term 2018 - 2023	Continue existing maintenance program Funds allocated for facility/facilities to service Nyora, Poowong & Loch district
Loch	Short term 2013 - 2018	Consult with service providers and Nyora, Poowong & Loch communities about most appropriate location for early year's services.
	Mid term 2018 - 2023	Continue existing maintenance program. Funds allocated for facility/facilities to service Nyora, Poowong & Loch district.
Mirboo North	Short term 2013 - 2018	Make provision for upgrade and extension to create children's' services precinct at existing locations.
Tarwin Lower	Short term 2013 - 2018	Undertake investigation into demand for and viability of a kindergarten service.
	Mid term 2018 - 2023	If service viable, funds allocated towards suitable facilities.
Leongatha	Mid – long term	Monitor population. Continue existing maintenance program Extension to Allora if required
Meeniyah	Mid – long term	Monitor population. Continue existing maintenance program
Fish Creek	Mid-long term	Continue existing maintenance program
Foster	Mid-long term	Continue existing maintenance program

KEY

	Now
	5 – 10 years
	10 – 20 years

11. Summary

The existing SGSC asset management plan is maintaining early year's facilities to a standard that meets the functional needs of services, except for the Birralee Childcare Centre in Korumburra. This building is too small to meet demands for service. The Korumburra Integrated Children's Centre Project will address this issue.

Upgrades are required at Mirboo North and Poowong. Birth notifications in Nyora and Tarwin Lower indicate investigations into the possibility of the provision of early education and care services in these locations. Conversely, birth notifications in Toora and Welshpool indicate insufficient demand to retain the ongoing maintenance of two separate facilities.

Early childhood policy and service delivery requirements require:

- Integrated, inclusive and collaborative early year's services
- Improved access to services for children of vulnerable and/or disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Capacity to provide 15 hours of high quality kindergarten to all eligible children.
- Establishment of more services on or near school sites.

There is great opportunity for Council to work with early years providers across the Shire to plan for integration of services when new and improved infrastructure is being considered. There is also an important opportunity to challenge early years' service providers in the Shire to deliver best practice service and demonstrate greater collaboration which will result in optimising use of facilities and provide best outcomes for children and families.

Increased service delivery requirements in 2013 have delayed meaningful strategic planning with early years' service providers. This has been to Council's advantage as future planning will reflect service requirements rather than past practices.

The remainder of the year should be used to work with service providers and local communities using the criteria for the provision of early year's facilities as a framework for collaborative strategic planning.

12. Recommendations

- The Framework informs Council's Building Asset Management Plan;
- Any new or significantly upgraded early year's facility is multi-purpose.
- The recommended criteria for the provision of early year's services be used as a service planning tool;
- Investigate all Commonwealth and State Capital Funding sources to assist in the provision of upgraded, extended or new facilities;
- An annual information meeting with lessees be held to maintain awareness of their lease and responsibilities;
- Implement procedures to audit the spending of the maintenance grant;
- Invite service providers to participate in an annual planning and co-ordination session to ensure:
 - A review of service delivery
 - Compliance with national standards
 - Ongoing service viability,
 - Optimal use of buildings,
 - The identification of renovations, extensions and/or new facilities necessary;
- Work with the Leongatha Children's Centre, Allora and Hassett Street kindergartens to undertake collaborative service planning and delivery to ensure these facilities are used to their fullest potential; and
- Facilitate discussion with early years' service providers to explore the establishment of an integrated web-based enrolment system.

13. APPENDICES

Population Projections: Children 0 – 5 years 2012 – 2031

1. Nyora, Poowong & Loch
2. Korumburra
3. Leongatha
4. Mirboo North
5. Fish Creek, Foster, Tarwin Lower, Toora & Welshpool

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Appendix 1. Nyora, Poowong and Loch Area: Population Projections Children 0-5 years 2012 - 2031

Preliminary Childcare Statistics 0-2 Yrs.						Preliminary Childcare Statistics 3Yrs					Preliminary Childcare Statistics 4-5Yrs				
Year	Number	Increase or decrease	24 % using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required	Number	Increase or decrease	50% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required	Number	Increase or decrease	26.2% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required
2012	97		23	14.1	3.5	39		19.5	11.7	1.0	82		21.6	12.9	1.1
2013	101	4	24	14.7	3.6	29	-10	14.5	8.7	0.7	79	-4	20.6	12.3	1.1
2014	102	1	24	14.9	3.7	33	4	16.5	9.9	0.9	70	-9	18.3	11.	1.0
2015	103	1	25.	15.1	3.7	35	2	17.5	10.5	0.9	67	-3	17.5	10.5	0.9
2016	107	4	26.	15.7	3.9	36	1	18.0	10.8	0.9	74	7	19.3	11.6	1.0
2017	110	2	26.	16.0	4.0	37	1	18.5	11.1	1.0	78	4	20.3	12.2	1.1
2018	113	3	27	16.5	4.1	39	2	19.5	11.7	1.0	81	3	21.	12.7	1.1
2019	116	3	28	17.0	4.2	41	2	20.5	12.3	1.1	85	4	22.1	13.3	1.2
2020	121	4	29	17.6	4.4	41	0	20.5	12.3	1.1	88	3	23.0	13.8	1.2
2021	124	4	30	18.1	4.5	42	1	21.0	12.6	1.1	90	2	23.5	14.1	1.2
2022	127	3	30.	18.5	4.6	44	2	22.0	13.2	1.2	91	2	23.9	14.3	1.3
2023	129	2	31.	18.8	4.7	44	0	22.0	13.2	1.2	94	2	24.5	14.7	1.3
2024	132	3	32.	19.2	4.8	46	2	23.0	13.8	1.2	97	3	25.3	15.1	1.3
2025	134	2	32.	19.5	4.8	47	1	23.5	14.1	1.2	99	2	25.9	15.5	1.
2026	136	2	33	19.	4.9	47	0	23.5	14.1	1.2	101	2	26.4	15.8	1.4
2027	138	3	33	20.2	5.0	48	1	24.0	14.4	1.3	103	2	27.0	16.2	1.4
2028	141	2	34	20.6	5.1	49	1	24.5	14.7	1.3	105	2	27.4	16.4	1.5
2029	144	3	35	21.0	5.2	50	1	25.0	15	1.3	107	2	27.9	16.7	1.5
2030	146	3	35	21.4	5.3	51	1	25.5	15.3	1.3	109	2	28.4	17.0	1.5
2031	149	3	36	21.8	5.4	52	1	26.0	15.6	1.4	110	2	28.9	17.3	1.5
		52	12.4				13	6.5			28		7.3		

Families may also use Korumburra, Lang Lang, Pakenham and Dandenong. Unable to obtain long term projections for individual towns.

Appendix 2. Korumburra Area Population Projections Children 0-5 years 2012 - 2031

Preliminary Childcare Statistics 0-2 Yrs.						Preliminary Childcare Statistics 3Yrs					Preliminary Childcare Statistics 4-5Yrs				
Year	Number	Increase or decrease	24.4% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required	Number	Increase or decrease	50% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required	Number	Increase or decrease	26% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required
2012	138		33.6	20.2	5.0	47		23.	14.1	1.28	116		30.5	18.2	1.6
2013	143	5	34.8	20.9	5.2	49	2	24.50	14.7	1.34	108	-8	28.5	17.0	1.5
2014	154	11	37.5	22.5	5.6	48	-1	24.0	14.4	1.31	107	-1	28.1	16.8	1.5
2015	156	2	38.0	22.8	5.7	56	8	28.0	16.8	1.53	108	1	28.3	17.0	1.5
2016	160	4	39.0	23.4	5.8	56	0	28.0	16.8	1.53	115	6	30.0	18.0	1.6
2017	161	1	39.3	23.5	5.8	57	1	28.5	17.1	1.55	120	6	31.5	18.9	1.7
2018	167	6	40.7	24.4	6.1	59	2	29.5	17.7	1.61	123	3	32.2	19.3	1.7
2019	171	4	41.7	25.0	6.2	61	2	30.5	18.3	1.66	127	4	33.	20.0	1.8
2020	174	3	42.4	25.4	6.3	63	2	31.5	18.9	1.72	132	4	34.4	20.6	1.8
2021	177	3	43.2	25.9	6.4	65	2	32.5	19.5	1.77	136	4	35.5	21.3	1.9
2022	180	3	43.9	26.3	6.5	66	1	33.0	19.8	1.80	139	4	36.5	21.9	1.9
2023	182	2	44.4	26.6	6.6	67	1	33.5	20.1	1.83	142	3	37.2	22.3	2.0
2024	184	2	44.9	26.9	6.7	68	1	34.0	20.4	1.85	144	2	37.7	22.6	2.0
2025	186	2	45.4	27.2	6.8	69	1	34.5	20.7	1.88	146	2	38.2	22.9	2.0
2026	189	3	46.1	27.6	6.9	70	1	35.0	21	1.91	148	2	38.3	23.2	2.1
2027	190	1	46.3	27.8	6.9	70	0	35.0	21	1.91	150	2	39.2	23.5	2.1
2028	193	3	47.1	28.2	7.0	71	1	35.5	21.3	1.94	152	2	39.74	23.8	2.1
2029	196	3	47.8	28.7	7.1	72	1	36.0	21.6	1.96	153	2	40.2	24.1	2.1
2030	198	2	48.3	28.9	7.2	73	1	36.5	21.9	1.99	155	2	40.7	24.4	2.2
2031	201	3	49.0	29.4	7.3	74	1	37.0	22.2	2.02	158	2	41.3	24.7	2.2
		63	15.4				27	13.0				42	10.9		

Appendix 3. Leongatha Area Population Projections Children 0-5 years 2012 – 2031

Preliminary Childcare Statistics 0-2 Yrs.						Preliminary Childcare Statistics 3Yrs					Preliminary Childcare Statistics 4-5Yrs				
Year	Number	Increase or decrease	24% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required	Number	Increase or decrease	50% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required	Number	Increase or decrease	26 % using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required
2012	217		52.8	31.7	7.9	73		36.5	21.9	1.99	167		43.8	26.3	2.39
2013	222	5	54.1	32.4	8.1	75	2	37.5	22.5	2.05	160	-7	42.0	25.2	2.29
2014	230	8	56.1	33.6	8.4	75	0	37.	22.5	2.05	156	-5	40.	24.4	2.22
2015	236	6	57.4	34.4	8.6	80	5	40.0	24	2.18	158	3	41.49	24.8	2.26
2016	240	4	58.5	35.1	8.7	82	2	41.0	24.6	2.24	164	5	42.8	25.7	2.34
2017	241	1	58.7	35.2	8.8	84	2	42.0	25.2	2.29	170	7	44.5	26.7	2.43
2018	242	1	59.1	35.4	8.8	85	1	42.5	25.5	2.32	174	4	45.6	27.3	2.49
2019	244	1	59.4	35.6	8.9	87	2	43.5	26.1	2.37	178	4	46.6	27.9	2.54
2020	247	3	60.1	36.1	9.0	87	0	43.5	26.1	2.37	181	3	47.5	28.5	2.59
2021	249	2	60.7	36.4	9.1	88	1	44.0	26.4	2.40	183	1	47.9	28.7	2.61
2022	252	3	61.5	36.9	9.2	89	1	44.5	26.7	2.43	185	2	48.4	29.0	2.64
2023	255	2	62.1	37.2	9.3	90	1	45.0	27	2.45	187	2	49.0	29.4	2.67
2024	257	3	62.7	37.6	9.4	91	1	45.5	27.3	2.48	189	2	49.6	29.7	2.71
2025	260	3	63.4	38.0	9.5	92	1	46.0	27.6	2.51	191	2	50.1	30.1	2.74
2026	263	3	64.1	38.5	9.6	93	1	46.5	27.9	2.54	194	2	50.7	30.4	2.77
2027	266	3	64.9	38.9	9.7	94	1	47.0	28.2	2.56	196	2	51.3	30.8	2.80
2028	269	3	65.7	39.4	9.8	95	1	47.5	28.5	2.59	198	2	51.9	31.1	2.83
2029	273	4	66.6	39.9	10.0	97	2	48.5	29.1	2.65	201	3	52.	31.5	2.87
2030	277	4	67.5	40.5	10.1	98	1	49.0	29.4	2.67	203	3	53.2	31.9	2.91
2031	281	4	68.5	41.1	10.2	99	1	49.5	29.7	2.70	206	3	53.9	32.3	2.94
		64	15.3				26	13				39	10.1		

There are a lot of people who travel to Leongatha for work from other areas in the shire or outside the shire. The childcare options in Leongatha are inviting for these people to bring their children to Leongatha for childcare and kindergarten while they are at work.

Long term increase in kindergarten enrolments could be addressed by co-ordinated planning to utilise all available places.

Appendix 4 Mirboo North Population Projections Children 0-5 years 2012 – 2031

Preliminary Childcare Statistics 0-2 Yrs.						Preliminary Childcare Statistics 3Yrs					Preliminary Childcare Statistics 4-5Yrs				
Year	Number	Increase or decrease	24% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required	Number	Increase or decrease	50% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required	Number	Increase or decrease	26 % using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required
2012	79		19.3	11.6	2.9	24		12.0	7.2	0.65	49		12.9	7.7	0.71
2013	74	-5	18.0	10.8	2.7	30	6	15.0	9	0.82	46	-3	12.1	7.2	0.66
2014	70	-4	17.0	10.2	2.5	30	0	15.0	9	0.82	58	12	15.1	9.1	0.83
2015	74	4	17.9	10.7	2.6	25	-5	12.5	7.5	0.68	64	6	16.8	10.1	0.92
2016	75	2	18.3	11.0	2.7	27	2	13.5	8.1	0.74	61	-4	15.9	9.5	0.87
2017	77	2	18.7	11.2	2.8	28	1	14.0	8.4	0.76	59	-2	15.4	9.2	0.84
2018	79	2	19.2	11.5	2.8	29	1	14.5	8.7	0.79	61	2	16.0	9.6	0.88
2019	80	1	19.5	11.7	2.9	29	0	14.5	8.7	0.79	63	1	16.4	9.8	0.90
2020	81	1	19.7	11.8	2.9	29	0	14.5	8.7	0.79	64	1	16.7	10.0	0.91
2021	82	1	20.0	12.0	3.0	30	1	15.0	9	0.82	64	0	16.8	10.0	0.92
2022	83	1	20.3	12.1	3.0	30	0	15.0	9	0.82	65	1	16.9	10.1	0.92
2023	84	1	20.5	12.3	3.0	30	0	15.	9	0.82	66	1	17.1	10.3	0.94
2024	85	1	20.7	12.4	3.1	31	1	15.5	9.3	0.85	66	1	17.3	10.4	0.95
2025	86	1	20.9	12.5	3.1	31	0	15.5	9.3	0.85	67	1	17.5	10.5	0.96
2026	87	1	21.1	12.6	3.1	31	0	15.5	9.3	0.85	68	1	17.7	10.6	0.97
2027	87	1	21.3	12.7	3.2	32	1	16.0	9.6	0.87	68	1	17.9	10.7	0.98
2028	88	1	21.5	12.9	3.2	32	0	16.0	9.6	0.87	69	1	18.1	10.8	0.99
2029	89	1	21.7	13.0	3.2	32	0	16.0	9.6	0.87	70	1	18.3	11.0	1.00
2030	90	1	21.9	13.1	3.3	33	1	16.5	9.9	0.90	71	1	18.5	11.1	1.01
2031	91	1	22.1	13.2	3.3	33	0	16.5	9.9	0.90	71	1	18.6	11.1	1.02
		12	2.8			9		4.5				22	5.7		

"A lot of families not using the childcare service. Are they using services in Leongatha or the Valley close to their workplace or are they staying at home? There is 5% unemployment in Mirboo North which is average to that of Victoria but much higher than South Gippsland at 3.5%." Provision of kindergarten within childcare in addition to existing kindergarten building would meet demand for kindergarten services.

Appendix 5 Fish Creek, Foster, Tarwin Lower, Toora & Welshpool Population Projections Children 0-5 years 2012 – 2031

Preliminary Childcare Statistics 0-2 Yrs.						Preliminary Childcare Statistics 3Yrs					Preliminary Childcare Statistics 4-5Yrs				
Year	Number	Increase or decrease	24% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required	Number	Increase or decrease	50% using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required	Number	Increase or decrease	26 % using Childcare =	Average of 17 hours required or 3 days	Staff required
2012	155		37.7	22.6	5.66	49		24.5	14.7	1.3	106		27.8	16.7	1.5
2013	151	-4	36.8	22.0	5.52	58	9	29.0	17.4	1.5	101	-5	26.5	15.9	1.4
2014	152	1	36.9	22.1	5.55	55	-3	27.5	16.5	1.5	113	11	29.4	17.6	1.6
2015	156	4	38.0	22.8	5.71	53	-2	26.5	15.9	1.4	118	5	30.8	18.4	1.6
2016	159	3	38.8	23.3	5.83	55	2	27.5	16.5	1.5	114	-3	29.9	17.9	1.6
2017	162	3	39.5	23.7	5.93	56	1	28.0	16.8	1.5	115	0	30.1	18.0	1.6
2018	165	3	40.1	24.1	6.02	58	2	29.0	17.4	1.5	118	3	30.9	18.5	1.6
2019	166	2	40.6	24.3	6.09	59	1	29.50	17.7	1.6	120	2	31.5	18.8	1.7
2020	168	1	40.9	24.5	6.14	59	0	29.5	17.7	1.6	122	2	32.0	19.2	1.7
2021	169	1	41.1	24.7	6.18	60	1	30.0	18	1.6	124	2	32.5	19.5	1.7
2022	169	0	41.3	24.7	6.20	61	1	30.5	18.3	1.6	125	1	32.8	19.7	1.8
2023	170	0	41.3	24.8	6.21	61	0	30.5	18.3	1.6	126	1	33.1	19.8	1.8
2024	170	0	41.4	24.8	6.22	61	0	30.5	18.3	1.6	127	1	33.3	20.0	1.8
2025	170	0	41.5	24.9	6.23	61	0	30.5	18.3	1.6	128	1	33.5	20.1	1.8
2026	171	1	41.6	25.0	6.25	62	1	31.0	18.6	1.6	129	1	33.7	20.2	1.8
2027	171	1	41.7	25.08	6.27	62	0	31.0	18.6	1.6	129	1	33.9	20.3	1.8
2028	172	1	41.9	25.1	6.29	62	0	31.0	18.6	1.6	130	1	34.0	20.4	1.8
2029	173	1	42.1	25.3	6.32	62	0	31.00	18.6	1.6	131	1	34.2	20.5	1.8
2030	174	1	42.4	25.4	6.36	63	1	31.5	18.9	1.7	132	1	34.4	20.6	1.8
2031	175	1	42.6	25.6	6.40	63	0	31.5	18.9	1.7	132	1	34.6	20.8	1.8
		20	4.8				14	7				26	6.7		

Data unable to provide individual town numbers. Suggest prep enrolment projections may assist planning.(If available from DEECD)
Existing capacity addresses demand for service via staffing and arrangement of hours.