

30 August 2024

Dear Parents

### **An Open Letter from the City of Nedlands to our PRCC Families**

The City of Nedlands acknowledges the sentiment and sadness being felt by the families affected by the pending closure of the Point Resolution Childcare Centre (PRCC).

As the City communicated, personally, to each family earlier this week, Council's decision was difficult.

We are fortunate, in the City of Nedlands, to live in a region rated among the Top 5 in WA for accessibility to childcare services. This offers all of us confidence the centre's children, aged 0-5 years, can be relocated, conveniently, by the October 9 closure date. The City will be making every effort to facilitate the relocation of the children to alternative daycare facilities. There are up to 10 other childcare facilities in the City of Nedlands.

The aging PRCC building, and the service it aims to offer, cannot meet the high regulatory, legislative and compliance standards set, federally, for Australia's childcare services. The welfare of the children comes first.

The industry is governed by rigorous state and national regulations and standards, and childcare is not a Local Government responsibility. Our Council has recognised childcare is an increasingly specialised and high-investment service.

The National Quality Framework (NQF) is Australia's system for regulating, assessing and improving early childhood education and care. This approach is administered through the States and Territories by the independent national authority - the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA).

Together, these systems require legal adherence and industry accreditation to deliver services to Australia's most vulnerable and youngest community members, including safety, building standards, governance, and health such as kitchen hygiene, toilets, bedding, allergy, medication and nutritional standards.

In the case of PRCC, an audit has revealed serious constraints and deficiencies in the aging building, and infrastructure and operation, which prevents the delivery of state and nationally-accredited compliant child care.

The Council determined in last Tuesday's meeting, the risk for the children in today's age is simply too higher undertaking for a Local Government.



Expressions of Interest (EOI) will be sought for a suitable daycare provider to invest in and upgrade of the premises. A report on the EOI process will be provided to the Council before the end of the year.

If you would like to discuss the matter further with the City's CEO Keri Shannon, please call Samantha Mapleton on 9273 3500 to arrange a suitable time.

Yours sincerely

Keri Shannon  
**Chief Executive Officer**