

Background

Randwick City Council advised in its 3 February 2014 submission to the 2014 Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning on 3 February 2014 that additional information would be submitted on completion of consultations with local parents.

The key findings of this consultation are presented below.

Outcomes of Community Consultation with Local Parents

Randwick City Council conducted an on-line survey and received a total of 163 survey responses. 90% of those who respondents use paid childcare. The main findings are summarised below:

- Local parents confirmed that affordability of childcare services is important to their ability to access such services.
- Childcare fees charged by services are not considered to be affordable, placing some families under financial strain and/or preventing them from accessing more childcare.
 - Over a quarter (27%) of the survey respondents indicated that they either struggle or go into debt to pay the childcare fees.
 - Almost half (47%) of the parents indicated that they would use more childcare, but cannot afford it.
 - 65% of survey respondents indicated that affordability was important when selecting childcare.
- Parents within the Local Government Area confirmed there is still a strong demand for childcare, particularly for children aged 0 to 2 years.
 - Twice the number of survey respondents seeking childcare wanted childcare for their child aged 0 to 2 years when compared for a child aged 3 to 5 years.
 - Approximately half (47%) of families had their child on a waiting list for more than 12 months before getting a place.
- Over half (57%) of parents indicated they do not have enough childcare hours to meet the needs of their family.
- The quality of childcare was an important consideration.
 - By far the 3 most important considerations for parents when making decisions about a childcare centre are: reputation of the centre, affordability, and convenience of location.

- Approximately half (47%) of all unsolicited comments provided by parents in the survey talked about the need for good staff and quality of the childcare.
- 71% of the respondents were either mostly satisfied, or very satisfied with the standard of childcare they receive.