



CUMBERLAND  
CITY COUNCIL

6 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUSPEND CHILD CARE SERVICES**

Further to the correspondence sent to all parents on 17 March 2020, regrettably, this notification serves as the provision of 14 days' notice of the intent on Council's part to suspend the provision of all child care services.

You would be aware from recent media announcements that the Federal Government has provided funding to secure free child care for all families for six months, until September 2020 (to be reviewed after 30 days). The receipt of such funding by the child care providers is, however, contingent on the service being eligible to receive the Job Keeper payments. Local Government, whilst being a provider of child care services, is not eligible to receive the Job Keeper payments. Should Council continue to provide care, because of this announcement, we are not legally able to continue to charge parents any fee for child care. Effectively, this means that Council, if it were to continue operating these services, would be restricted to receiving only 50% of our revenue, whilst having to meet 100% of our costs (including wages and other operational expenses).

This anomaly in the way the child care relief package has been designed leaves Council, and all Local Government providers of child care services, in a position where it is no longer viable to provide child care services without incurring significant loss.

In view of this, Council has been left with no option but to suspend the provision of all child care services effective from Monday 20 April 2020 (meaning the last day of care provided will be Friday 17 April 2020). Whilst these circumstances are unfortunate, we have and will continue to explore every possible avenue to continue providing child care services to our families.

Council has written to various Ministers at all levels of government to express our concerns and outline our position and the effect that these decisions have had on our ability to continue offering these services. Should there be measures introduced that facilitate the continuation of these services in a manner that allows Council to operate them viably, this suspension may be reversed and the delivery of these services could then resume. Should this eventuate, all parents will be advised, however, this notice was required to ensure that families were aware of the suspension and had as much notice as possible to make alternative arrangements.

Please be advised that for the duration of the suspension of our child care services, no fees will be payable and any direct debit arrangements will be suspended. All families with children in Long Day Care or Before and/or After School Care will reserve their enrolments, meaning no existing families will lose their child care places as a result of this suspension.

16 Memorial Avenue, PO Box 42, Merrylands NSW 2160  
T 02 8757 9000 E [council@cumberland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cumberland.nsw.gov.au) W [cumberland.nsw.gov.au](http://cumberland.nsw.gov.au)  
ABN 22 798 563 329

*Welcome Belong Succeed*

Whilst I acknowledge that these are difficult circumstances, due to the significant loss implications for Council of continuing this service under the current arrangements, this was the only viable option for this service.

I would like to thank all our families for your patience whilst we work with the relevant bodies to rectify this situation and, hopefully, be in a position to resume our services in the near future.

Please contact Melissa Attia, Acting Director Community Development via email at [melissa.attia@cumberland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:melissa.attia@cumberland.nsw.gov.au) should you require any further information.

Yours faithfully



Hamish McNulty  
**GENERAL MANAGER**