

BREWARRINA SHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Submission for Ordinary Meeting held on 30 June 2011

TITLE:	Brewarrina Child Care Opening Hours	DOC REF: Item 29 E1-5
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REPORT BY:	Director Corporate and Community Services – Lynn Moore	DATE: 20/6/2011
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ATTACHMENTS:

Letter from Director of Child Care

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Change to Child Care centre hours of Operation.

The Gainmara Birilee pre-school hours of attendance will change on 18th July and this will impact on our Childcare facility. Up to 15 children will no longer need to attend the centre full time. There will still be a small gap which the council can offer services and it is proposed that the centre offer a 'After Pre-school Care' (as opposed to after school care) at a similar rate of \$20 per session. This will assist those parents who still may need some form of child care until they have finished work (3pm to 5-15pm).

The hours of opening, while having been recently changed, have also been looked at because of the change to the pre-school hours. It will be in the Council's best interest to make a small change to the current opening hours. The proposed opening hours will be from 8-00am to 5-15 pm Monday to Friday.

These changes will have a big impact on the rostering capabilities of the centre and therefore a financial impact. There has been significant thought put into the change and we have canvassed those families which may have been most effected. The Director of child care has spoken to each family and then has given all a chance to privately voice any concerns in this change.

Should there be no significant objections noted to the change to opening hours received by the Child Care Director by 27th June then the recommendation will be to change the opening hours. Any objection received will be tabled to council under separate cover.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

- 1. The hours of opening for the Brewarrina Child Care Centre be changed to 8-00am to 5-15pm Monday to Friday.**
- 2. A fee be established for 'After Pre-School Care' at \$20-00 per session.**

Glenda Tasker



Brewarrina Child Care Centre

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The General Manager
Brewarrina Shire Council

Dear Glenda,

I'm writing to inform you of my proposal to reduce the opening hours of the Child Care Centre from July 1st 2011. During my time at the Centre, it has been evident that the first and last 15 minutes of the current daily opening hours (7:45am - 5:30pm), are very poorly utilised. Early last month I spoke with our Director of Corporate & Community Services, Lynn Moore, about this issue and she recommended keeping a tally of arrivals before 8am and departures after 5:15pm during the month of May. The results of this survey are attached.

I have spoken with all of the families who used care before 8am and after 5:15pm during May and have been assured that the proposed reduction in hours would be of minimal inconvenience to them. I've also floated the proposal to all of our client families through a Newsletter and have asked for any objections to be lodged by Monday 27th June.

The reduced hours would have no impact on our obligations to either our State or Federal funding bodies, as we will still be open for 45 minutes more than the minimum required hours daily. The change will not only save money in wages (with a minimum of 2 workers required on the premises at all times during opening hours) but will also enable our staff roster to operate more effectively across the day, reducing the need to rely on relief staff and ensuring that when parents come to pick up their children in the afternoon, they are likely to have access to staff members who have worked with their children during most of the day and can communicate effectively with them about their children's day.

We are also currently confronting changes in the way the Centre operates because of changes to the Gainmara Birilee Preschool session times from the beginning of Term 3, 18th July 2011. With the Preschool moving from separate half-day sessions for 3 and 4 year olds to full-day sessions, its likely that our Centre will lose about 15 full-day attendances each week from our Preschoolers Room. In order to minimise the impact of these changes on the families who use both services as well as on our income, a meeting of stakeholders comprising Lynn Moore, Barbara Brown from Community Services, the Gainmara Birilee Director and me on June 7th, resolved to investigate the possibility of Child Care offering After Preschool Care between 3pm and 5:15pm at a cost of



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\$20 per session (similar to what we are charging for the one child still using After School Care).

If these two proposals meet with your approval I'd appreciate if they could be put to Council at its meeting on June 30th.

Sincerely,

Karen Letsch (Director of Child Care)

General Manager