EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Councillors will recall that an integrated children's and families facility, costing in the vicinity of $6.5m over a four-year period to fund both capital and operational costs, is proposed to be constructed in Brewarrina Town by 2013.

Director Corporate and Community Services, Lynn Moore attended the proposed meeting of Brewarrina Aboriginal Child and Family Centre Local Reference Group on 29th March. The meeting did not proceed, as planned, as a quorum was not present, however, Teena Bonham, Senior Regional Strategies Officer, Communities & Early Years, Western, representing NSW Department of Human Services (DHS), took the opportunity to update the attendees on the project’s progress so far.

Key issues raised:

- The impact of the recent NSW State election is being felt with funding a priority and the focus going forward on the sustainability of the program.
- The tender process is still to be signed off and successful and unsuccessful applicants notified.
- Housing NSW has visited the potential site – Railway land - and will be completing soil tests.
- Training skills audit is to be completed by an outside consultant to ascertain level of skills within the community to complete the program and also to identify training needs.

Council has assisted in the process thus far by attending some meetings and by facilitating contact between the DHS and State Rail to progress the acquisition of a suitable parcel of land.

Council management will continue to be involved in the process and will provide regular reports to the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:
Nil

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:
Nil
RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. Council receives the Brewarrina Local Reference Group - Aboriginal Child Care and Family Centre report for information.

_____________________
Glenda Tasker
General Manager
## Progress to date:
### Brewarrina: January 2011 – March 2011.

**Local Reference Group:**

In consultation with the Chairperson a decision was made that the Brewarrina Aboriginal Child & Family Centre Local Reference Group would not meet until the tender process for the Centre Management & Child Care Component had been finalised. However due to unforeseen delays this has taken longer than anticipated. There has still been a substantial amount of work occurring behind the scenes, the servicing mapping is in progress a template will be sent to all members to complete. Housing NSW have commenced work on the Design and Construct component. Communities & Early Years are in the process of recruiting to the position of Aboriginal Project Support Officer.

**Site Update:**

Housing NSW visited Brewarrina on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} March 2011; the Project Manager Christine Reddy met with Chairperson and a few other members of the LRG to discuss the proposed land options for Brewarrina. A number of Housing NSW staff accompanied the Project Manager this included: Senior Property Officer, a Planner and a Survey. The purpose of the visit was a fact finding mission in terms of available land, zoning and services etc. Housing NSW will attend a Local Reference Group meeting to discuss their role in the design & construct components in more detail.

**Tender and procurement process:**

The tender Applications for the Centre Manager and Child Care components were advertised on the 8\textsuperscript{th} November 2010 and closed on the 13\textsuperscript{th} January 2011. The Tender Panel met in Brewarrina on the 8\textsuperscript{th} February to review applications and make recommendations. The panel compromised of three Local Reference Group members, 2 senior staff within the Communities & Early Years Division, along with an independent scrutineer from Public Works. A recommendation has been made and is now waiting to be signed off by the Chief Executive Officer. It is hoped that the successful applicant will be announced shortly.

**Other issues/information:**

**Actions to happen:**

Have discussions around:

- Future Governance
- Communication Strategies
- Community Workshop around childcare, integration & Building design.
- Community Engagement.
- Employment & Training Strategy

---

**Prepared by:** Teena Bonham  
**Date:** 15-03-2011