

## **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.