

## Memo

Community, Arts and Culture

**To:** Quinton Lloyd - Project Officer - Building Assets  
Gina Hay - Principal Planner

**From:** Leanne Martin - Community Safety Co-ordinator

**Date:** 9 September 2019

**Subject:** Safety Inspection - Manly Community Services Hub

**Record Number:** 2019/512353

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Report on Safety Inspection at the proposed Raglan Street Community Services Hub, Raglan Street, Manly. Also known as the Soldiers Club, Rugby Club or Fishoes.

The upper floor of the building is currently being used as office space by Council's Property Section. The lower floor is vacant and plans are underway to turn this 500sq/m space into the northern beaches first Community Services Hub. A Safety Report has been requested to indicate if the introduction of such a service could have a detrimental effect on the safety of the surrounding area.

On 29 August 2019, a site inspection was undertaken with Council's Community Safety Coordinator, planning and facilities staff and the Northern Beaches Police Crime Prevention Officer.

Community Northern Beaches (CNB) are currently located in Wentworth Street, Manly, between Manly Village Primary School and the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme. After over 40 years at this site, they will be displaced from this location in late 2019 and have been promised space as a key tenant at the new Raglan Street Hub. As such, it is likely that a lot of the current work being done, and the current clientele, will relocate to the new premises.

Their services provide assistance for some of the more vulnerable people in our community, including;

- Client Drop-in
- Information and Advice
- Welfare Assistance
- Domestic and Family Violence Support
- Support Groups
- Homeless Outreach Services
- Multicultural and Migrant support
- Family and Child Support
- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Volunteering
- Legal Advice (Civil and Family Law)
- Tenancy Advice
- Counselling (including Drug and Alcohol)

- Justice of the Peace Services
- Youth Accommodation Services
- Oz Harvest Food Distribution

Council's Community Development staff and NB Police are very familiar with the operations undertaken by CNB and work closely together on case managing some of these issues and clients. This work is critical in ensuring that an individual's short term and long term needs are addressed. When these issues are not managed and the person cannot be engaged in the caring manner that CNB can offer, the individual is more likely to deteriorate. This subsequently poses a higher the risk to both themselves and the public.

The proposed new location for a community services hub appears suitable for this purpose. There is easy access to all transport, central parking in Manly CBD and other services and facilities nearby. Services located in close proximity include;

- Council's Property office - located on the top floor of the same building
- Manly Police Station - 300 metres away
- Council's Community Services -350 metres away, at Manly Town Hall
- Council's Youth and Family Counselling Service - 50 metres away
- Sydney Drug Education and Counselling Centre (SDECC) - 400 metres away
- Northern Beaches Hospital – 10.5km away.

From a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) perspective the increased activation of the location will reduce the likelihood of problems. It is believed the centre will be open and used mainly in office hours, with some weekend and later night use, on occasions. This type of active supervision of the site will help to ameliorate any anticipated problems.

The location has a long history with community and health service providers working in this immediate vicinity. The Kangaroo Street Youth Centre provided Youth Services and Adolescent Counselling for many years (now moved to other premises nearby), and still provides childcare and community rooms (currently under renovation), and SDECC is just up the road. There is no reason to believe that there will be significant negative impacts brought to the vicinity of the new Hub.

NB Police have analysed the data for Wentworth Street, Manly from 1st Jan 2019 to 31st August 2019. This strongly indicates that there is no repeat of indications of a crime pattern relating to the current CNB site in Wentworth St. Less than 5% of all the incidents recorded in that street over that period related to the community centre. Those incidents were all in response to calls from the centre and related to AVOs and breach of bail situations. This also would indicate an appropriate and professional response from staff to individual safety and does not indicate any crime in the area associated with the activities of the centre. It is also important to note that CNB has happily co-existed next to a primary school and a children's health facility for decades without concern. The Corso remains the hotspot location for police attention compared to the surrounding streets.

This would indicate that minimal crime or safety issues are attracted to this operation and there is no reason to imagine that this will change at the new site.

In order to further mitigate any concerns in this location, it is recommended that:

1. An additional CCTV camera be placed at the Kangaroo Lane side of the building.
2. The access door onto Kangaroo Lane operate as an emergency access door.
3. Duress alarms are fitted in appropriate locations within the service.

4. A shutter door be installed at the front entrance to be pulled down after closing.
5. Once fit out has been completed another CPTED inspection can be undertaken to review the completed site.