



## Proposed Childcare Facility at Harbord Diggers Club, Freshwater

### **Background about us**

Explore & Develop are a franchise model that has been developed and refined over the last 10 years with the 24 centres open. We have a strong understanding of the Northern Beaches and have established 4 centres in the area.

### **Education and development programs**

Explore & Develop embraces the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standard in its everyday teachings and guidance for educators working with our children and families.

Our environments are designed to invite open-ended interactions, conversations, spontaneity, risk-taking, exploration, discovery and connection with peers, families and educators, the local and wider community and the world around us.

### **Key design considerations**

Our mission is to create a natural environment for children, reflective of home flowing from indoors to outdoors.

To achieve this, we would ideally have a large portion of the outdoor environment open to the sky to enable sunlight, breezes and rain, so that children can experience a true outdoor environment. These open “blue sky” spaces also enable us to landscape the area with a variety of trees and shrubs that will thrive in a true outdoor environment.

With the removal of the previously proposed awnings, we would still achieve around 50% of our outdoor space undercover that will enable us to have the flexibility of some covered outdoor spaces that will be useful in inclement weather.

There are no privacy or child protection concerns around providing open spaces for children to play in under the Education and Care Services National Regulations and we have no concerns about local community or seniors living residents being able to view sections of our Outdoor Learning Environments.

The only areas that will require privacy are toilets, bath / shower and nappy change facilities and these areas will be located within the indoor environment and not located within view of any external point.

Therefore we fully support the removal of the permanent awnings that were included in the original design to create a high quality outdoor learning environment for children.