**Sent:** 7/12/2020 12:19:01 PM

Subject: Attention Penny Wood: Can this proposed centre legally operate as

planned?? Your ACECQA enquiry [ref: 00D90eBZ6. 5002e3nhei:ref]

Attachments: School vandalism.jpg; School vandalism2.jpg;

Hi Penny,

I would like to add some relevant insight and research to my earlier objections to DA2020/1397

# Minimum staffing levels required by law appear to be greater than the maximum staffing levels stated in the DA

Please see the attached information form the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority.

I have highlighted the appropriate section which indicates that in NSW, at least 4 actual staff, not a maximum of 3 are required to comply with a 24 child centre to allow for breaks.

Of course, the roster may include a 4<sup>th</sup> person to relieve others during breaks, however, this is not the basis on which the impact assessment, traffic and parking, pick up and drop offs and noise have been submitted; these have all been provided on the basis of a maximum of 3 staff not a minimum of 3 +1 additional to cover breaks.

Since the parking proposal is already inventive (predicated on parents having small cars) and even then is non-compliant, and the noise levels are non-compliant despite the overbearing walls required, to adjust for an extra staff members' comings and goings in the roster is a significant variation to what has been a main design factor of the proposal.

If additional rostered staff over and above the maximum of 3 staff stated is a legal requirement, the Development Application is flawed and should not be approved.

# Fire Safety and Evacuation plans are missing, and it is challenging to envisage

Further to this, I have been looking at Fire legislation and I question how the site can comply with it. The egress on the North side is too narrow as shown by photo's in other objections that show the actual measurement of building to fence is well below 1m in width.

The egress on the South side will be narrowed for the noise barrier (only reference in the acoustic report, not shown on the plans), and the waste enclosure (referenced in the Environmental Statement, also not shown on the plans), but is anyway blocked by the "parked-in" staff car, calling into question viability as an escape route. The cars cannot be repositioned as they already use the full setback.

If the main door is used as the primary escape route, where could a 2<sup>nd</sup> exit route possibly be?

The absence of a fire evacuation plan in the Development Application is a major omission given there seem to be limited options on the site.

The DA should not be approved without a compliant fire evacuation plan being provided and assessed.

Crime statistics and actual crime are far higher in a non-dwelling such as proposed by the change of use

The crime rate in Northern Beaches for non-dwellings is significantly higher to that for residences in the same LGA. (http://crimetool.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/bocsar/)

By sanctioning greater Commercial use in a residential area Council would be increasing the opportunity for crime in the neighborhood.

The recent graffiti incidents at Seaforth School on Bangaroo Street, and at the shops on the corner of Bangaroo and French's Forrest Road are examples of local crime around unattended premises.

Pictures from 28<sup>th</sup> November Bangaroo Street graffitiing incident are attached.

There are no mitigations in the plans to offset this facet of a commercial site in amongst our homes.

### Conclusion

This Development Application fails scrutiny on so many levels and is far from in keeping with the neighborhood.

I strongly object to it as an affront to the local community, seeking to change the character of the street by property owners who do not live here.

We would hope that Council would maintain a high standard for planning controls and reject the application.

Regards,

David

Subject: Your ACECQA enquiry [ ref:\_00D90eBZ6.\_5002e3nhei:ref ]



Case number: 00236969

Dear David

Thank you for contacting ACECQA.

ACECQA's role is to guide the consistent implementation of the National Quality Framework (NQF) across education and care services in Australia.

#### **Ratios**

Ratios are calculated across the whole service for the ages of children in attendance at the time, rather than by room grouping. This is commonly referred to as 'under the roofline' although this is not defined in the National Regulations.

You can find the <u>educator to child ratio</u> for each age group of children for your state or territory on the ACECQA website.

The National Regulations require the educator to child ratio to be maintained at all times no matter what activity the children or the educators at the service are undertaking (r 123).

To be included in the ratios educators must:

- hold or be actively working towards an approved qualification (r10 and r126)
- and be working directly with children at the service (r122) meaning they are physically present with and directly engaged in providing education and care to the children (r13).

Some jurisdictions have specific requirements which override the ratio requirements prescribed in the National Law when educators are taking short breaks and are not working directly with children (Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania). Please contact your <u>regulatory authority</u> for more information.

The National Law and Regulations do not prescribe how services must roster staff or group children to ensure ratio requirements are met as this is the service's responsibility. Although the ratio requirements are minimum requirements, educator-to-child ratios alone do not constitute adequate supervision.

The <u>Guide to the National Quality Framework</u> (NQF) contains information on mixed ratios in centre-based services in Section 4 Operational Requirements - Quality Area 4 - Educator to child ratios.

#### Adequate supervision

Approved providers must ensure children are adequately supervised at all times. This means ensuring educators can respond immediately, particularly when a child is distressed or in a hazardous situation.

Additional educators may need to be rostered to ensure ratios as well as adequate supervision is maintained at all times. For more information on adequate supervision, you may find Section 4 Operational Requirements - Quality Area 2 - Adequate Supervision in the <u>Guide to the NQF</u> useful.

## Service ratio

If the ratio is 1:10 staff to children and a service has 24 children in attendance, three educators would be required to cover this ratio. However depending on your state's jurisdiction a fourth educator may be required to cover the breaks of the educators as some jurisdictions require ratios to be maintained at all times including during break periods.

The Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations set out ratio requirements but do not set a minimum number of staff required in service areas to meet child protection reasons. A regulatory authority in your state or territory may be able to assist in determining any staffing requirements based on child protection in your state or territory.

#### Regulatory authority

The regulatory authority in your state or territory is responsible for investigating complaints, ensuring service compliance, and the assessment and rating process. You may wish to contact them about your specific enquiry.

There is a full list of regulatory authority contact details on the ACECQA website.

I trust you find this information helpful.

Kind regards Julianna

I would value your feedback. Please complete a quick survey about the service you

received from me and ACECQA.

## The ACECQA Team

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