

Social Impact Assessment for 67-73 Lords Road Leichhardt

Commissioned by Lord Sixty Seven Pty Ltd





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Social Impact Assessment for 67-73 Lords Road Leichhardt

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

This is a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) prepared by Cred Community Planning on behalf of Lord Sixty Seven Pty Ltd, owners of the property located at 67-73 Lords Road, Leichhardt. Specifically the SIA is in relation to the capacity of the child care and school in the area and the potential social impacts of the proposed rezoning and development of the Lords Road site facilities and services.

Identified impacts and mitigation measures

Due to the inclusion of a 60-place child care centre on site, and the small forecast number of school age children who might live within the development, the proposed development is considered to have minimal social impacts on local child care and school facilities and services as detailed in Table 1 overpage.

Table 1 Identified impacts and mitigation measures

	Identified Social Impact	Impact Type	Mitigation or enhancement measures
1.	Increased demand for an additional 25 child care places within the suburb of Leichhardt, currently experiencing an undersupply of places. However, a 60-place centre will be provided on site which will address this demand.	Positive	- Provision of 60-place child care centre on site which will address demand from families living on site and provide an additional 35 places to address the existing and forecast gap in supply in the suburb of Leichhardt. - In accordance with Leichhardt Council's <i>2013 Review of Early Education and Care Service Delivery for Children under school age</i>, provide at least 39% of places for under 2s.
2.	Increased demand for around 9 After School Care places, around 3 Before School Care places, and around 6 Vacation Care places within the suburb of Leichhardt.	Neutral	None required. The current OSHC and Vacation Care services in Leichhardt have capacity to address additional demand from increased child population.
3.	Increased demand for an additional 29 public primary school places (four places across each school year K to 6)	Neutral	None required. According to media reports and interviews with the Minister, local public schools, such as Kegworth, have some capacity to address additional demand from increased child population.
4.	Increased demand for an additional 15 public high school places (2.4 places across each school year 7 to 12)	Neutral	None required. Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus has some capacity to address additional demand from increased youth population. Proposed boundary changes will ensure that local children are guaranteed access to the school.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This Social Impact Assessment has been prepared by Cred Community Planning on behalf of Lord Sixty Seven Pty Ltd, owners of the property located at 67-73 Lords Road, Leichhardt (the site).

1.2 WHAT IS SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

The process of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) involves analysing, monitoring, and managing the social consequences – positive, negative and neutral – of a proposal and any social changes it may cause in the short term, long term or cumulatively.

1.3 PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to provide an SIA in relation to the proposed rezoning of the site at 67-73 Lords Road, Leichhardt. Specifically the SIA is in relation to the potential impacts of the proposed rezoning and development of the Lords Road site on the following services and facilities in the area:

- Child care – children aged 0 to 5 years;
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) and Vacation Care – 5 to 11 years;
- Primary school – 5 to 11 years; and
- High school – 12 to 17 years.

There has been a high growth in the number of children in the Leichhardt area over the past 5 to 10 years. This growth, along with other factors, has impacted on local access to child related services and facilities.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The following research was completed for this study:

- Desktop review of Leichhardt Council's *2013 Review of Early Education and Care Service Delivery for Children under school age* to identify total places currently available, planned places, and current and forecast place gaps for childcare in the suburb of Leichhardt and the Leichhardt LGA;
- Desktop review of the *Leichhardt Community and Cultural Plan 2011 to 2021* in terms of identified needs for services for children and young people;
- Review of media articles about demand for schools and child care in the local area;
- Site visit;
- Consideration of the forecast population for the Lord Roads Site including: total population, household make up, age groups (0 to 4 years, 5 to 11 years, and 12 to 17 years), family type, and incomes;
- Audit and mapping of child care services, OSHC services, and primary and secondary school services located within 800 metres of the site or servicing Leichhardt suburb;
- Telephone interviews with local public and private primary schools, and public secondary schools, within the local catchment to determine current enrolments, maximum capacity, and ability to enrol the increased population of 5 to 17 year olds;
- Telephone interview with OSHC and Vacation Care services servicing the area (at private and public schools within the local catchment);
- Review the social impacts of the proposal in relation to school capacity in the area and in relation to child care and OHSC/Vacation Care; and
- Prepare mitigation measures to address impacts.

2 DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 THE SITE

The site is located at 67-73 Lords Road, Leichhardt, and has an area of approximately one hectare (10,691m²)¹. The site is an isolated industrial zone of Leichhardt Municipal Council area, and is surrounded by residential uses and open space.

According to the site's Vision Statement, the site is in close proximity to:

- Public transport including the Marion light rail station (currently under construction) as well as numerous bus stops;
- Regional road connections to Parramatta and Sydney CBD;
- Leichhardt Marketplace, schools, and community facilities; and
- Open space including Lambert Park adjacent to the site, Richard Murden Reserve, and the Hawthorne Canal Reserve linking to Iron Cove, Sydney Harbour and cycleways.

2.2 PROPOSED DWELLINGS

It is anticipated that there will be 320 units proposed for the site. It is anticipated that the mix will comply with Council's requirements of:

- 60% studio/1 bedroom;
- 30% x 2 bedrooms; and
- 10% x 3 plus bedrooms.

Based on Leichhardt suburb's current average household size of 2.28 persons per household, this would indicate a maximum of 730 residents (the number is likely to be lower due to the high proportion of studios in the proposed dwelling mix).

Based on the current proportion of children in the Leichhardt South area of the

Leichhardt LGA, the proposed development would contribute approximately an additional maximum 128 children to the local area (see Table 2).

Table 2 Current children of child care/ school age in Leichhardt South

Age Group	Leichhardt South	Population of Proposed Development
0 to 4 years	8.4%	61
5 to 11 years	6.0%	44
12 to 17 years	3.2%	23
Total proposed children		128

2.3 PLANNED COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Vision Statement for 67-73 Lords Road, Leichhardt (Mecone Planning) identifies the opportunity to "provide a childcare facility co-located with local schools". The proposed child care centre would be approximately 450m² and accommodate around 60 children.

¹ Vision Statement for 67-73 Lords Road Leichhardt (Mecone Planning, August 2013)

3 COMMUNITY CHILD AND FAMILY PROFILE

3.1 LEICHHARDT LGA

The Leichhardt Local Government Area (LGA) is experiencing a boom in the child population (see Table 3). Between 2006 and 2011, Leichhardt LGA has seen a 25.3% increase in 0 to 4 year olds and a 35.8% increase in 5 to 11 year olds. Leichhardt LGA has a higher proportion of 0 to 4 year olds (8.2% or 4298 children) compared to the SSROC region (6.4%), and a lower proportion of 5 to 11 year olds (6.7% or 3510 children) compared to the SSROC region (7.3%).

There was a decrease in the proportion of 12 to 17 year olds between 2006 and 2011 (-4.8%), and in 2011, Leichhardt LGA had a smaller proportion (3.6%) compared to the SSROC region (5.9%) for this age group.

Table 3 Leichhardt LGA children 2006 to 2011

	2011			2006			Change 2006 to 2011	
	No.	%	SSROC region %	No.	%	SSROC region %	No.	% increase
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	4,298	8.2	6.4	3,429	7.0	6.0	+869	25.3%
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	3,510	6.7	7.3	2,584	5.3	7.4	+926	35.8%
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	1,884	3.6	5.9	1,979	4.1	6.4	-95	-4.8%

Between 2006 and 2011, there was an increase in couples with children (+21.0% or +982 households) and one-parent families (+4.5% or +71 households).

Table 4 Leichhardt LGA households 2006 to 2011

Household type	2011			2006			Change 2006 to 2011	
	No.	%	SSROC	No.	%	SSROC	No.	% increase
Couples with children	5,660	25.0	29.0	4,678	21.3	28.0	+982	21.0%
One parent families	1,654	7.3	9.2	1,583	7.2	9.0	+71	4.5%

3.2 LEICHHARDT SUBURB

Leichhardt suburb has demonstrated very similar trends to Leichhardt LGA.

There have also been large increases in children in the suburb of Leichhardt (see Table 5). Between 2006 and 2011, Leichhardt suburb has seen a 27.9% increase in 0 to 4 year olds and a 34.9% increase in 5 to 11 year olds. In 2011, Leichhardt suburb had a higher proportion of 0 to 4 year olds (8.9% or 1,200 children) compared to the SSROC region (6.4%), and a lower proportion of 5 to 11 year olds (6.4% or 864 children) compared to the SSROC region (7.3%).

There was a decrease in the proportion of 12 to 17 year olds between 2006 and 2011 (-2.0%), and in 2011 Leichhardt suburb had a smaller proportion (3.2%) compared to the SSROC region (5.9%) for this age group.

Table 5 Leichhardt suburb children 2006 to 2011

	2011			2006			Change 2006 to 2011	
	No.	%	SSROC %	No.	%	SSROC %	No.	% increase
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	1,200	8.9	6.4	938	7.5	6.0	+262	27.9%
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	864	6.4	7.3	641	5.1	7.4	+224	34.9%
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	430	3.2	5.9	438	3.5	6.4	-9	-2.0%

Between 2006 and 2011, there was an increase in couples with children (+17.6% or +215 households) and one-parent families (+14.8% or +66 households).

Table 6 Leichhardt suburb households 2006 to 2011

Household type	2011			2006			Change 2006 to 2011	
	No.	%	SSROC	No.	%	SSROC	No.	% increase
Couples with children	1,439	25.1	29.0	1,224	22.2	28.0	+215	17.6%
One parent families	514	9.0	9.2	448	8.1	9.0	+66	14.8%

4 AUDIT AND SUPPLY OF CHILD CARE AND SCHOOL SERVICES/FACILITIES

4.1 OVERVIEW

In Leichhardt suburb, there are:

- Four primary schools with four OSHC/ After School Care programs;
- Eleven child care centres; and
- One public high school.

Two of the primary schools/OSHC and two of the child care centres are located within 800 metres walking distance of the site.

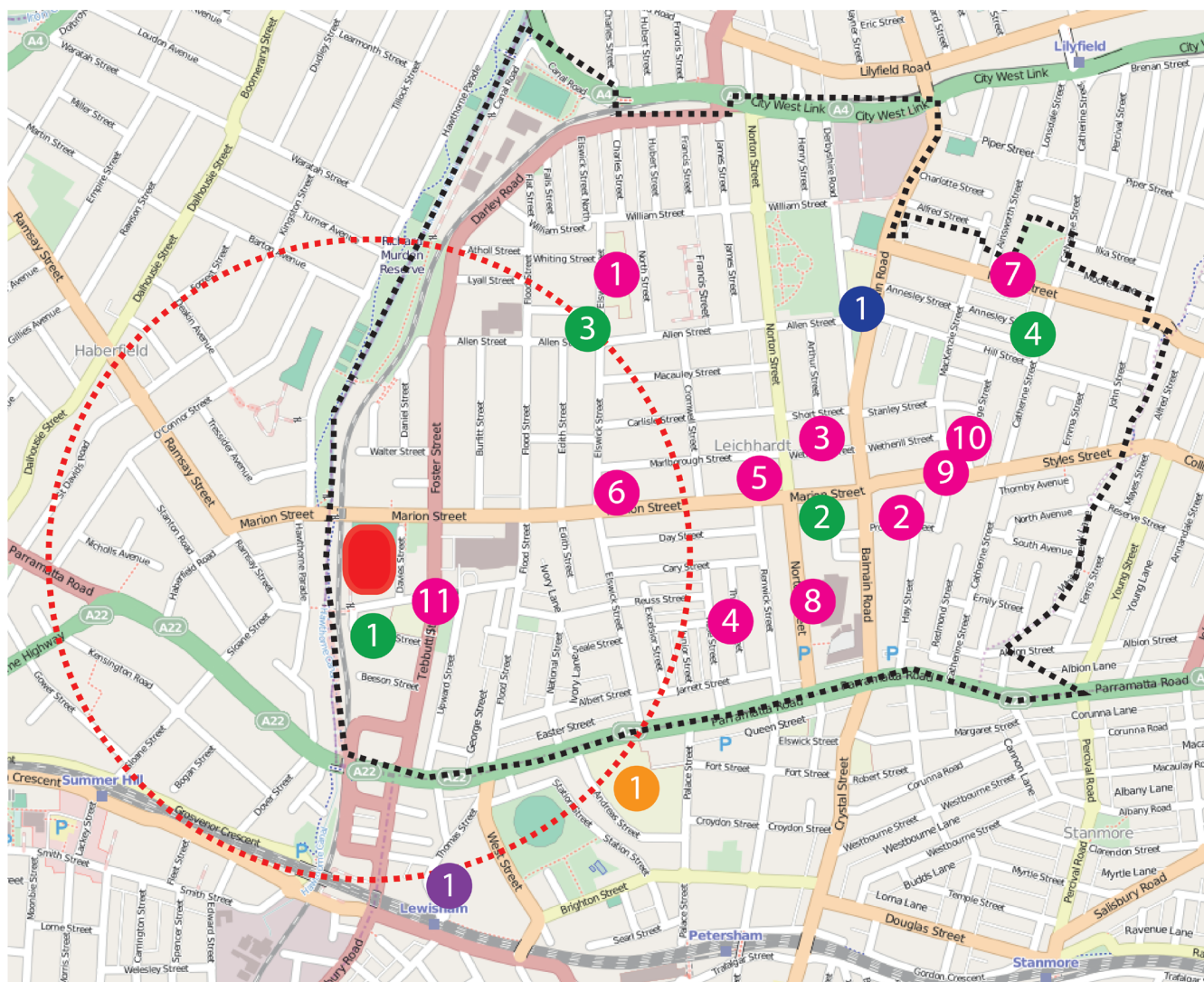
The others are located just outside the 800 metre radius.

Just outside of the suburb of Leichhardt, there is also one public fully selective high school, and one private high school for boys.

Map 1 overpage illustrates the schools and child care located within the Leichhardt suburb, and within 800 meters of the site. 800 meters is considered walking distance for local facilities.

Map 1 Leichhardt suburb schools and child care

Leichhardt Suburb Schools and Child Care Map



800m radius from site

site

Leichhardt suburb boundary

Public high schools
1 – Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus

Public fully selective high schools
1 – Fort Street High School*

Private high schools (for boys)
1 – Trinity Grammar School*

Primary schools & OOSH
1 – Kegworth Public School & OOSH
2 – Leichhardt Public School & OOSH
3 – St Columba's Catholic Primary School & OOSH
4 – St Fiacre's School & After School Care

Child care
1 – Early Achievers
2 – Leichhardt Children's Centre
3 – Leichhardt Little Stars
4 – Little Ark Kindergarten
5 – Little Learning School Leichhardt
6 – Marion Street Day Care Centre
7 – My Stepping Stones
8 – Only About Children Leichhardt
9 – Styles Street Children's Community LDC
10 – Rose Cottage Child Care
11 – Tiny Tots Cottage

* High schools are regional, so two have been included on the map that are outside of the Leichhardt suburb boundary

4.2 CHILD CARE PROVISION AND GAPS – LEICHHARDT LGA

Within the Leichhardt LGA, there are currently 36 Early Education and Care centres. There are a total of 1,649 approved places across all service types across the LGA (not including family day care services operated by Council). However, the number of children enrolled is almost double the approved places at 3,060 with the majority of children in the LGA enrolled in care part-time (2 or 3 days per week). There are long waiting lists for all service types with between 100 and 290 on waiting lists. Waiting lists are particularly long at Long Day Care centres, Family Day Care and for children aged under 2 years.

The *2013 Review of Early Education and Care Service Delivery for Children under school age*, recently approved by Leichhardt Council, encourages the supply of an additional 443 approved Long Day Care places by 2021. At least 39% of places should be for children aged under 2 years.

Leichhardt Council has committed to investing \$10 million in three new child care centres over the next 10 years.

4.3 CHILD CARE PROVISION AND GAPS – LEICHHARDT SUBURB

Based on future growth trends, current undersupply and identified demand, and engagement with parents, the *2013 Review of Early Education and Care Service Delivery for Children under school age* identified that Leichhardt is one of the suburbs within the LGA anticipated to have the highest demand for more places. Leichhardt the suburb has the highest number of approved places (542), but this only accounts for 39% of the 1,377 children aged 0 to 5 years in the area. Leichhardt suburb has 1,112 children enrolled in child care. Enrolment numbers in child care centres are high (see Table 7), and enrolment numbers are higher

than capacity because most children are enrolled part-time.

Table 7 Leichhardt suburb child care capacity and enrolment (source: 2013 Review of Early Education and Care Service Delivery for Children under school age)

School	Capacity	Enrolment
Early Achievers	75	150
Leichhardt Children's Centre	45	77
Leichhardt Little Stars	29	60
Little Ark Kindergarten	37	80
Little Learning School Leichhardt	44	90
Marion Street Day Care Centre	5	14
My Stepping Stones	54	110
Only About Children Leichhardt	64	100
Styles Street Children's Community Long Day Care	60	105
Rose Cottage Child Care	39	60
Tiny Tots Cottage	25	50

Leichhardt suburb will have high ongoing demand as there is more employment in the area, it is easily accessible by other areas of the Inner West, and it has a large population.

4.4 OSHC AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Increasing numbers of children has meant that local OSHC and Vacation Care Programs in the suburb of Leichhardt are nearing capacity (see Table 8). However, unlike in suburbs such as Rozelle, there is still some capacity in these services. At Kegworth Out of School Hours service there is capacity for an additional 50 Before School Care (BSC) places and 30 After School Care (ASC) places. At Leichhardt Out of School Hours service there is capacity for an additional 30 BSC and 30 ASC and 10 Vacation Care (VC) places.

Table 8 Leichhardt suburb OSHC/Vacation Care approved places and attendance [source: Leichhardt Council internal research 2013]

OSHC Service	Approved Places			Average Attendance		
	BSC	ASC	VC	BSC	ASC	VC
Kegworth Out of School Hours Inc	55	105	0	47	75	0
Leichhardt Out of School Hours Inc (LOOSH)	120	180	90	90	150	80
St Columba's North Leichhardt OSHC Inc	5	30	0	5	30	0
St Fiacre's After School Care	0	45	0	0	40	0

According to Leichhardt Council² families are facing genuine challenges in accessing OSHC services. This is largely due to changing demographics in the Leichhardt LGA, and more young families moving into and/or staying in the area. This is placing pressure on existing services. Forums hosted by Council have highlighted a number of key issues that are impacting OSHC services such as limited space, long waiting lists and increasing demand (see Appendix 1).

4.5 PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION AND GAPS

The recent growth in children means the demand for primary school facilities is increasing and some local schools are reaching capacity. According to an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (19 September 2013) eight out of 13 schools in the Balmain electorate have filled their permanent classroom space already: Education Minister Mr Piccoli said, "schools tried to keep families together but there was still capacity at other schools in the region such as Glebe Public School, which was only 46 per cent full this year. Kegworth was about 73 per cent full" (See Appendix 2 for a copy of the article).

For this study, all local public primary schools in the suburb of Leichhardt were contacted regarding their capacity. However, some school administrators were unable to provide details of their capacity.

Under NSW policy, children within the catchment of a public school cannot be denied a place at that school. NSW Government is currently reviewing boundaries to force parents to send their children to the school within their catchment rather than school shopping for what parents perceive to be the 'best'

² <http://www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/Community/Children/Out-of-School-Hours-Care--OOSH-/Out-of-School-Hours-Care-OOSH>

public schools. These boundary changes will open up, for local people, places that may have been taken by students outside the area a number of years ago when school enrolments were down.

Table 9 Leichhardt suburb primary school enrolments (source: My School website, media articles at Appendix 2 and 3, and research completed for this SIA)

School	Type	Enrolment	Capacity
Kegworth Public School	primary school & OSHC	286	75% capacity (according to article at Appendix 2)
Leichhardt Public School	primary school & OSHC	610	Near capacity. Would need to review local enrolments
St Columba's Catholic Primary School	primary school & OSHC	Catholic (selective)	Has capacity
St Fiacre's School	primary school & OSHC	124	Has capacity

4.6 SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION AND GAPS

Although the population of children of secondary school aged 12 to 17 year olds has remained relatively stable (see Table 5), there is still high demand for secondary schools in the area. According to the *Leichhardt Community and Cultural Plan 2011 to 2021*, with increasing mortgage rates, more local families are choosing to send their children to local public high schools, whereas in the past private schools would have been the preference for the majority of local residents. Leichhardt suburb has one public high school – Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus. There is also one fully selective high school and one private school just outside of Leichhardt suburb boundaries. Table 10 shows the high schools nearby the site and their capacity for growth.

Table 10 High schools in and near Leichhardt suburb (source, My School website and research completed for this SIA)

School	Type	Enrolment	Capacity
Fort Street High School	public fully selective high school	928 (fully selective)	This is a selective school and students coming from across Sydney.
Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus	public high school	718	Almost at capacity but has students from outside the catchment. Boundary changes will mean local children will be guaranteed access.
Trinity Grammar School	private high school (for boys)	private	Has capacity for increased enrolments.

Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus is almost at capacity. Boundary changes were recently announced for the College³ and the school's website states that: "there are limited opportunities for enrolments in Years other than 7".⁴ Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus is one of many Inner Sydney public high schools experiencing extremely high demand. *Sydney Morning Herald* articles (28 September 2013) reported: "Rapid urban consolidation and young families choosing to live close to the city are putting pressure on schools"⁵ and "siblings were being prevented from enrolling in the same public school as their older brothers and sisters as the number of children in inner Sydney swelled, squeezing classroom space and forcing public school boundaries to tighten".⁶

However, Leichhardt and Balmain Secondary College are the feeder high schools for young people coming as far as Darlinghurst, Surry Hills, Drummoyne, Ultimo. The proposed boundary change will guarantee a place for young people living within the catchment (according to the NSW Department of Education Policy). Young people living in the suburb of Leichhardt would therefore be guaranteed a place at Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt.

3 Tovey, Josephine and Needham, Kirsty. "Enrol in less popular schools: minister" *Sydney Morning Herald* 29 September 2013.

4 <http://www.leichhardt-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/enrolment>

5 Tovey, Josephine. "Compassion needed to keep siblings together" *Sydney Morning Herald* 29 September 2013.

6 Tovey, Josephine and Needham, Kirsty. "Enrol in less popular schools: minister"

Sydney Morning Herald 29 September 2013.

5 IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL IMPACTS

5.1 OVERVIEW

This section identifies and assesses the social impacts, or changes, of the development in relation to services for children aged 0 to 17 years.

5.2 IDENTIFIED SOCIAL IMPACTS

Child Care

Leichhardt suburb has high forecast demand for child care. Increased demand can be attributed to high forecast growth in numbers of young children, more employment in the area, and the suburb's accessibility by other areas of the Inner West. Therefore, the impact of the children contributed by the proposed development would cause a small social impact on child care provision in the local area, which is already experiencing an undersupply of places.

A maximum of around 61 children of child care age are forecast for the proposed development. Applying the demand formula from the *2013 Review of Early Education and Care Service Delivery for Children under school age* (p.38), this would indicate demand for an additional 25 places (61 children x 80% of all children requiring a place x 2.5 days per week) created by the development.

The proposed child care centre on site would accommodate around 60 children which should provide for all increased places required from the proposed development and a further 35 places for children outside of the development decreasing demand in the area.

Therefore, the proposed development through the provision of a new child care centre, would have a positive impact on child care access in the suburb of Leichhardt through increased child care

places.

Out of School Hours and Vacation Care

OSHC and Vacation Care services in Leichhardt suburb are highly utilised but have capacity to take additional children. The main area within the LGA where there is a major gap is Rozelle Public School. The approximately 44 children in the 5 to 11 year old age group contributed by the proposed development could further increase demand (see Table 11).

Table 11 Increased demand from proposed development (source: research for this SIA)

	Before School Care	After School Care	Vacation Care
Formula⁸	1 place for every 17 children	1 place for every 5 children	1 place for every 7 children
Forecast demand from development	2.6 places	8.8	6.2 places
Current capacity (public schools only Kegworth and Leichhardt combined)	38	60	10

There is considered to be minimal social impact on local OSHC and Vacation Care services which have capacity for more children.

⁷ Formula used by Leichhardt Council and City of Sydney to assess demand for OSHC and Vacation Care services

Primary School

The proposed development would contribute approximately 44 children in the 5 to 11 year old age group to the local area. The three non-selective primary schools contacted for this SIA did not indicate that they were at capacity. However, newspaper articles indicate that Leichhardt Public School is nearing capacity.

Kegworth Public School (according to Minister Piccoli's comments in the *Sydney Morning Herald*) has capacity for an additional 75 primary school children. Currently around 66% of NSW students are enrolled in public schools indicating that the proposed development would create a cumulative impact on local public schools through demand for an additional 29 primary school places (or four additional children across each school year K to 6).

Secondary School

The proposed development will contribute approximately 23 young people in the 12 to 17 year age group. There is very significant demand for secondary schools in Leichhardt suburb with the only public high school currently near capacity. Based on around 66% of NSW secondary school students attending public schools, this would mean an additional 15 students requiring access to Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt (2.4 students across each school year 7 to 12). Given that boundary changes are planned, and that currently out of area students are enrolled at the school, the impact of an additional 15 students from in-area is considered to be neutral.

6 MONITORING AND MITIGATION MEASURES

6.1 OVERVIEW

This section considers measures for managing impacts to mitigate or prevent negative social impacts, build community resilience, and enhance positive impacts. The mitigation measures will attempt to reduce risks and unwanted effects while enhancing potential benefits.

6.2 HOW WILL NEGATIVE IMPACTS BE MITIGATED AND POSITIVE IMPACTS ENHANCED?

Table 11 overpage provides recommendations to mitigate any negative social impacts and enhance positive impacts of the proposed development.

Table 12 Monitoring and mitigation measures and actions

	Identified Social Impact	Impact Type	Mitigation or enhancement measures
1.	Increased demand for an additional 25 child care places within the suburb of Leichhardt, currently experiencing an undersupply of places. However, a 60-place centre will be provided on site which will address demand.	Positive (only if 60 place child care centre provided)	- Provision of 60-place child care centre on site which will address demand from families living on site and provide an additional 35 places to address the existing and forecast gap in supply in the suburb of Leichhardt. - In accordance with Leichhardt Council's <i>2013 Review of Early Education and Care Service Delivery for Children under school age</i>, provide at least 39% of places for under 2s.
2.	Increased demand for around nine After School Care places, around three Before School Care places, and around six Vacation Care places within the suburb.	Neutral	The current OHSC and Vacation Care services in Leichhardt have capacity to address additional demand from increased child population.
3.	Increased demand for an additional 29 public primary school places (four places across each school year K to 6)	Neutral	Local public schools, in particular Kegworth, have some capacity to address additional demand from increased child population.
4.	Increased demand for an additional 15 public high school places (2.4 places across each school year 7 to 12)	Neutral	Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus has capacity to address additional demand from increased youth population. Boundary changes will address the need for local children to access local public high school.

APPENDIX 1 LEICHHARDT COUNCIL OSHC AND CHILD CARE FORUMS



Leichhardt Outside of School Hours Care Forum

6:30pm Wednesday 26 June 2013

Level 2, Leichhardt Municipal Council Citizen Service Centre
7-15 Wetherill Street, Leichhardt

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Name	Organisation	Contact Details
Mayor Darcy Byrne	Leichhardt Council	E: dbryne@lmc.nsw.gov.au
Deputy Mayor Linda Kelly	Leichhardt Council	E: lkelly@lmc.nsw.gov.au
Erla Ronan	Leichhardt Council	E: erlar@lmc.nsw.gov.au
Tara Day-Williams	Leichhardt Council	E: tarad@lmc.nsw.gov.au
Matthew Balane	Leichhardt Council	E: matthewb@lmc.nsw.gov.au
Swee Goh	Department of Education and Communities	E: swee.goh@det.nsw.edu.au
Liam O'Donnell	Annandale After School Care	T: 9519 8180 E: aasc@bigpond.com
Lisa Simpson Michelle Moar Kelsey Bourrelly Samantha Thebridge	Annandale North OOSCHA	T: 9660 7024 E: info@anooshca.com.au
Elizabeth Shields	Balmain East After Care	E: besc@bescaftercare.com.au
Ramona S Ling	Communicare	E: rling@communicare.org.au
Katie Tsagarakis David Nelson	Leichhardt OOSH	T: 9569 8005 E: loosh@hotmail.net.au
Ian Cranwell	Annandale Public School P&C	T: 0419 483 588 E: ianc@theplanet.net.au
Mike Bancks	Rozelle Public School	T: 0425 271 570 E: michael.bancks@det.nsw.edu.au
Shirley Prideaux Donna Aplin	Kegworth OOSHC	T: 9568 2168 E: kegwort@bigpond.net.au
Stuart Waldon	Rozelle P&C	T: 0498 092 157 E: sjaiwaldon@bigpond.com
Josh Maxwell	Leichhardt OOSH	T: 0488 001 999 E: joshandrosemawell@bigpond.com
Juliet Roberts	St Fiacres	T: 0426 508 669 E: graceb246@gmail.com

2. Apologies

Adrian Piccoli	-	State Minister for Education
Peter Garret	-	Federal Minister for Education
Danielle McDonald	-	Communicare
Jan Heyworth	-	St Fiacre's Primary School
Susan Rigg	-	Rozelle OOSH

3. Welcome and acknowledgment of Country by Mayor Darcy Byrne, followed by introductions

4. Presentations

- **Leichhardt Council presentation on the Evidence base:**

- Demographics: Leichhardt LGA, growth in child population including a 62% increase in 0-4 year olds and a 40% increase in 5-9 year olds between 2001 and 2011. Demand for OOSH Services will increase further in coming years.
- Existing Service Provision – 12 OOSH Services

- **Summary and discussion of service pressures and gaps**

- Increasing numbers of children in the 0-4 age group
- Increasing numbers of children in the 5-9 age group
- OOSH Services are at capacity and not enough space to accommodate more children (growth in demand)
- Loss dedicated space – recent improved assistance from school
- All centres highlighted that changes in Commonwealth regulations have created more pressure for OOSH coordinators (i.e. staffing issues, quality of care, reporting)
- Specific challenges for OOSH centres that accommodate vacation care
- Families with multiple siblings, no relief as older siblings leave

- **Presentation from Department of Education and Communities, on behalf of NSW Minister for Education**

Ms Swee Goh – State Operations Manager, Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate.

Swee highlighted and clarified the following:

- All OOSH Services in Leichhardt have applied for approval under the National Quality Framework
- Provided further information on National Quality Framework in regards to approvals process for service operation
- The Department of Education and Communities will regulate an increased number of services for children aged 0-13 years, from 3,500 – 5,000 across NSW.
- Noted that both long day care and family day care can provide care for school aged children.

- A part of the role of the Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate is to investigate incidents, complaints etc.
- Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate has no role in planning for or managing the increased demand for places.
- Network for Community Services are strong advocates for services.

5. Summary and discussion of service pressures and gaps

Attendees highlighted the challenges impacting their services:

- Little/poor support with the Department of Education – no planning role
- Lack of cohesion and collaboration or a formal relationship between OOSH services and primary schools
- Increase in enrolments from Schools and OOSH centres, demand is already exceeding supply
- Continual changes in the regulations, however no funding from the Department to assist services to meet the regulations
- Children are being left at home alone and parents are unable to return to work.
- Scope for exemptions to meet demand and not turn away existing families being serviced.
- Teachers need classroom spaces outside of school hours.
- Demand for OOSH Services will increase further in coming years.

6. Discussion of opportunities to address challenges

The following opportunities were suggested at the forum:

- Swee Goh to advise the Department of Education and Communities that the main issues are the lack of space for OOSH Services and the location of space. There are also challenges in meeting the reporting requirements of the regulations. The demand for OOSH Services in Leichhardt will continue to increase in the future, consideration of exemptions is required.
- Council to investigate potential location/s in the Leichhardt LGA that could accommodate centralised OOSH facility supported by bus services. Council to work with State and Federal governments to realise a centralised OOSH facility.
- Council to investigate potential centralised support for the management and operation of OOSH services including legal, workplace health and safety, regulations, insurance etc.

7. Actions

- Mayor Darcy Byrne will write to Minister Picolli to request that a Ministerial Taskforce on Outside of School Hours Care in Leichhardt be established. That the Taskforce would comprise the Minister, Leichhardt Council, OOSH Services, Schools and school community representatives; and convene twice yearly (in January/February and July/Aug).
- Minutes and presentation from this Forum and other information to support the Leichhardt OOSH Network be placed on Leichhardt Council's website.



Childcare, Schools & Out of Hours Care Forum

6:30pm
Monday 21 October 2013

Balmain Town Hall
370 Darling Street, Balmain

MINUTES

1. Welcome to Country

Robert Webb performed a Welcome to Country

2. Mayor of Leichhardt – Councillor Darcy Byrne

Councillor Darcy Byrne chaired the forum and highlighted the importance of addressing these challenges.

3. Deputy Mayor – Councillor Linda Kelly

Councillor Linda Kelly provided an overview of Council programs and services for families with children. To date Council advocacy on the childcare, schools and OSHC challenges has included the following:

- Council Advocacy – Child care
 - 23 October 2012 – Council Resolution
 - 3 May 2013 – Letters to State and Federal Ministers on child care shortage
- Council Advocacy - Schools
 - 17 Sept 2013 – Letter to Minister Piccoli on Siblings Policy
- Council Advocacy – OSHC
 - 23 October 2012 – Council Resolution
 - 18 December 2012 – Leichhardt OSHC Network Meeting
 - 20 March 2013 – Forum on OSCH and schools
 - 26 June 2013 – Forum on OSHC
 - 27 Aug 2013 - Council Resolution
 - 13 Aug 2013 - Letter to Minister Piccoli on OSHC – Taskforce, exemptions, centralised OSHC.
 - 16 Sept 2013 – Letter to Minister Piccoli on OSCH – MOU with Regional Director for Education and school Principals

4. Guest Speakers

Lisa Bryant – consultant to Community Childcare

- Significant increase in 0-5 age group in Leichhardt – 72%.
- By 2021 a population 5,191 children 0-5 years is forecast in the Leichhardt area which will add more pressure.
- Research suggests parents look for structured care 2-3 days of the week.
- Main purpose parents enrol their children in childcare is for early learning and workforce participation.
- Challenges in establishing childcare centres due to high land prices in Leichhardt and the inner city.
- Possible solutions - expansion of current services, encouragement to start new services or lobby state/federal government for funding support.

Jennifer Barker – NSW P&C Federation

- NSW P&C Federation was formally established in 1922 and incorporated by an Act of NSW Parliament in 1976.
- NSW P&C Federation can support individual P&C Associations groups.
- Possible solutions – P&C Associations work together on the issue. Power in numbers and collective action.

Robyn Monro-Miller – Network of Community Activities

- With an increasing school population there will be more need for OSHC places.
- Quality of service important and part of children's' education.
- Schools are obligated to release more space if OSHC enrolments increase.
- Priority needs to be given to OSHC Services for use of school facilities (sharing of school space).
- State is responsible for the Out of School regulations whilst Federal Government looks after childcare benefits and rebate
- Network of Community Activities have funding and capacity to send a community coordinator to liaise with local government, schools and parents to address the challenges.
- Investigate opportunities for transition programs where older children (year 5-6) are introduced to youth services programs in the LGA.

5. Questions and Discussion

- Good examples of parents and schools working collaboratively. Parents negotiate with principals for space.
- Investigate spaces for a centralised venue to alleviate the pressure.
- Open new demountable was suggested as a solution. However, these are purpose built to use as an emergency classroom.
- Family day care – in the LGA there is only one family day care space. Lisa highlighted a lack of interest in the area due to low wages, small size of dwellings and high number of professionals, not considered an option by many.
- Opportunity to find additional space off site for administrative duties.

6. Ways forward

The following actions were suggested at the forum:

- Council engage a demographer to provide projections of the numbers of children 0-4, 5-11 and 12-17 years (for 2016, 2021 and 2026); and apply the future child numbers to estimate demand for school and OSHC places. Consider families (siblings) and qualitative data.
- Council to ask Fed government to clarify professional care, CCB avail for nanny services.
- Holistic analysis and lobbying approach (to consider family, environmental, economic and other factors)
- Council and collective P&C Associations advocacy on lack of capacity of public education facilities in region (secondary in particular). Assessment of parents' preferences. Qualitative data from parents, OSHC and P & Cs.
- Council provide clear and accurate information on enrolment process, services, how to, etc.
- Council to engage with Asset Management Unit of Department of Education and Communities (tender process)
- Parent led campaign to raise profile of children's service's needs – including through media coverage.
- Council to develop and provide an information kit to P&Cs, OSCH services and child care services.
- Council investigate a transition program for older children attending OSHC into youth programs.
- Council work with the Community Coordinator, employed by Network of Community Activities (Federal funding), and OSHC Services to form a taskforce to address needs.

7. Close

APPENDIX 2 SYDNEY MORNING HERALD ARTICLE

Enrol in less popular schools: minister

Date September 29, 2013

Sydney Morning Herald



“Yes, there is a capacity problem in some schools”: Adrian Piccoli. Photo: Kate Geraghty

Education Minister Adrian Piccoli has rejected claims of a school enrolment “crisis” in inner Sydney or that new schools are urgently needed, arguing families may have to travel longer distances to schools that still have room.

Fairfax Media reported last week that siblings were being prevented from enrolling in the same public school as their older brothers or sisters as the number of children in inner Sydney swelled, squeezing classroom space and forcing public school boundaries to tighten.

Schools including Ultimo and Annandale North are already full and a boundary change has been announced for Sydney Secondary College, which is almost full.

Eight out of 13 schools in the Balmain electorate have filled their permanent classroom space already, as have five of the eight primary schools in the Sydney electorate. But booming birth rates mean the number of children needing to start kindergarten each year will only grow.

Mr Piccoli said schools tried to keep families together but there was still capacity at other schools in the region such as Glebe Public School, which was only 46 per cent full this year. Kegworth was about 73 per cent full.

“Yes, there is a capacity problem in some schools,” he said. “But we can’t build schools on every second street corner just because some are more popular than others.

“Ultimo is a 17-minute walk to Glebe, which has several spare classrooms in it ... I’d only ask the question - why don’t people send their kids to Glebe?”

Bill d’Anthes, president of the Ultimo Public School Parents and Citizens Association, said while Google Maps might show a 17-minute walk from Ultimo to Glebe, it would take much longer for small children and would involve crossing busy roads.

“Places like Pyrmont [which is also within the Ultimo catchment] are considerably further,” he said.

Greens MP Jamie Parker has called for a statewide policy protecting siblings from being divided when a school changes its boundaries. Research conducted for the Greens has found every other state and territory gives priority enrolment to students who have a sibling at the school.

“What we have in my electorate is a complete failure to plan for growth,” Mr Parker said. “We need to ensure that brothers and sisters can attend the same school as part of a broader plan to support working parents.”

APPENDIX 3 SYDNEY MORNING HERALD ARTICLE – LEICHHARDT PUBLIC SCHOOL

School out of bounds for siblings

Date September 22, 2013



Siblings are being prevented from enrolling in the same school as their older brothers or sisters as the number of children in Sydney's inner city swells, squeezing classroom space and forcing public school boundaries to tighten.

As catchment areas for schools constantly change, parents are being faced with having to trek across different suburbs to drop off their children at multiple schools and juggle competing obligations for canteen duty, reading help and fund-raising.

Parents at Annandale North Public School and Leichhardt Public School have been warned the schools cannot guarantee siblings will be enrolled in future years.

Greens MP Jamie Parker, the member for Balmain, said the policy was "cruel" and unfriendly to families, and he wants siblings taken into account when the education department plans for school caps.

"It assumes there is a parent at home who can do more than one school drop off. This is 1950s thinking," he said, pointing out that Balmain has the highest proportion of working women in NSW.

An increase of 900 primary school children has been projected for the electorate over the next five years, but there are only 16 spaces in schools, including music and art rooms, that can be turned into more classrooms. Another 39 classrooms are needed and more siblings face being turned away as schools reach capacity.

Mr Parker said the department has told him it has no data on the siblings of enrolled pupils, and he is seeking an urgent review of the sibling policies used by other states.

"The state government must act urgently to address boundary issues and create a more family-friendly sibling policy. It is cruel to tell kids that their brother or sister can't attend the same school because the government has failed to plan for growth."

Anaesthetist Catherine Sengupta lives on the same street as Annandale North Public School, which her daughter, Lily, 6, attends. But she has been told a boundary change in May means her youngest daughter Eva, 4, is not guaranteed a place in kindergarten

next year. Instead, the Education Department wants Eva to go to school in Orange Grove, several kilometres away across the busy City West Link, because it has more space. "When Lily enrolled there was no talk of it at all," she says.

Mr Parker said the issue was biting across the inner west, and he blamed bad planning by the previous Labor government.

More than 900 people have signed an online petition calling for a change to the policy that Ms Sengupta intends to present to the NSW Parliament. But she is understanding of her local school's dilemma.

Annandale North does not even have room to turn its small playground into a demountable classroom, and has no room for growth, after enrolments leapt from 353 in 2008 to 440 this year.

The school has tried to conduct its own research on future enrolment demand, letterboxing thousands of homes asking about siblings and whether families planned to use the local school - and whether they intend to hold four-year-olds back a year.

An Education Department spokesman said the intake area for Annandale North had been reduced for next year based on the advice of the department's demographers.

"Siblings of in-area students have enrolment rights. The boundary change has resulted in some out-of-area siblings being placed on a waiting list," he said.

The school principal was monitoring the situation closely, he said.