

OFFICERS REPORT**ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUP FACILITATOR**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Klisaris and Cr James

MOTION

That Council support the increase of 1.00 FTE for an additional Playgroup Facilitator which will allow the creation of a second Child and Family Centre to be located in Glen Waverley.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The Playgroup Facilitator position requires a Bachelor of Education qualification as a minimum. This ensures the highest quality education/play program and also the skills to effectively communicate with all parents/grandparents and volunteers. It is expected that this position will commence in January 2019 when the kindergarten building is available.

Total cost for six (6) months January to 30 June: \$46,000.

Total cost per annum recurrent: \$92,000.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

This position is a new position to the organisation and will require Coordinator time for supervision and support. The planned facility for the additional playgroup is currently and will continue to function as a kindergarten and will not require additional resources.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The provision of community based, Child and Family Hub is an action from the "Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 – 2021", particularly two of the three pillars - Active & Healthy along with Engaged, Confident & Connected. Competent, confident parents support strong resilient children who are then able to build a strong community. The vision of the Children, Youth and Families Unit adopted in 2016 for the Children, Young People and Families Strategy is "For all children and young people in the City of Monash to have the best opportunities to grow, learn and thrive in strong and supportive communities where they are nurtured by capable, confident families from the time they are born until they enter adulthood." Supported playgroups are a foundation to this vision.

By embedding the *Playing Fair* program into the creation of a second Child and Family Centre, it aligns to Council's *Gender Equity Strategy 2015-2020* by Council's Early Years department further integrating gender equity into the day to day activities, processes and practice in Monash.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

This motion supports an extension of the playgroup model offered from the Cabena Child and Family Centre in Oakleigh at present. The demand for the Oakleigh service is too high to be met by one venue and one playgroup facilitator.

Council has recently been successful in securing \$90,000 for the *Playing Fair* project. This consists of developing and trialling a new, innovative model for promoting gender equity through the Playgroups setting within the City of Monash until November 2019. *Playing Fair* is unique by working in the Playgroup setting by building the capacity of playgroup facilitator's to embed gender equity in their practice to support children, parents and grandparents in their learning and development. The program will be implemented in five playgroup locations across the City of Monash. With the additional Playgroup Facilitator to create a second Child and Family Centre, it would improve the reach, success and sustainability of the *Playing Fair* project in achieving gender equality.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There are no further considerations related to the Motion.