

Item 12.4

Notices of Motion

Before and After School Care for Woolloomooloo

By Councillor Scully

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City of Sydney offers six after school and vacation care programs for primary school aged children in the local area, as part of the City's Outside School Hours Care services, supported by the NSW Government's Before and After School Care commitment;
- (ii) the City of Sydney currently offers an after school and vacation care program for primary school aged children at Juanita Nielsen Community Centre in Woolloomooloo, primarily for nearby Plunkett Street Public School, which does not currently have on-site facilities for an external before/after school care;
- (iii) prior to 2017, the City of Sydney's program in Woolloomooloo was a free service for vulnerable families who met income and vulnerability thresholds;
- (iv) in 2017, the City of Sydney expanded its contribution to include a fee-based service for families who did not meet the criterion. However, this fee is not supported by any childcare subsidies and as a result is more expensive than other similar services in our local government area;
- (v) the City does not currently offer before school care as part of Woolloomooloo's Children's Program at Juanita Nielsen Community Centre;
- (vi) the Juanita Nielsen Community Centre offers 45 places in its after school service. It is currently under capacity with 15 to 20 children per day. Over 90 per cent of the attendees receive free care;
- (vii) all other schools in the surrounding City of Sydney area have access to before/after school care that is eligible for childcare subsidies. Working families in the Woolloomooloo community are financially disadvantaged as the cost difference that they incur over the year is considerable;
- (viii) the NSW Government has previously committed to spending \$120 million to expand access to before and after school care (BASC) for all parents with children at NSW public primary schools; and
- (ix) parents of Plunkett Street are requesting that the City of Sydney utilise the NSW Government before and after school care commitment so that the centre can be better supported, and that this is enabled by ensuring that the centre is first approved as a child care subsidy eligible provider. It is currently limited as the government states that a centre cannot offer both a free service and a subsidised service for low income families;

- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate obstacles that may be preventing Woolloomooloo Children's Program, and other services like this, from receiving subsidies through the Child Care Subsidy Scheme while offering a fully subsidised care service, with the goal of offering both services; and
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate how the City of Sydney might offer before school care as part of Woolloomooloo Children's Program at Juanita Nielsen Community Centre as soon as possible.

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