



Ewin Early Learning Centre Inc
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11/04/18

To Dear Jennifer

The Ewin ELC is an Education and Care service providing long day care to children aged 0-6 years, from Monday to Friday. The centre is licensed for 84 children per day, and currently is at approximately 90% occupancy due to staffing limitations. Our waiting lists remained consistent from 2009-2014 at approximately 50-60 children, however this increased in 2015 and has consistently remained between 80-100 children to date. The highest demand is for 0-3 year olds, and the current wait for a place for a 0-2 year old is 15 months from the date they join the list.

The centre receives daily inquiries about availability of places, and as a result of these inquiries the centre can confirm that the long wait period is a serious barrier when people are considering relocating to Kununurra.

The Ewin ELC follows the Australian Governments Priority of Access policy for prioritising care for children. This includes giving priority to children at risk and children of working families. There are currently 114 families who access the service on a weekly basis who all meet Priority 1 & 2, with a total of 130 children who attend across the week.

The Ewin ELC prides itself on providing a high quality Education and Care program for the Kununurra community. The service has been rated as 'Exceeding' the National Quality Standards since 2013.

The facility was purpose built in 2007, and current operations have outgrown the building over the past 3 years.

The Ewin ELC Board of Directors, together with our Management team have been strategic planning for more than 5 years to consider options for expanding the service into the future. Through engagement of a Child Care Consultant in late 2015 a report was developed that indicated expansion on the current site would allow to service the current community need and some future growth. By way of contrast, finding an alternative site to re-locate the centre and expand would require a 5-10 year period to realise, and this would not address the current needs of the community in the short term.

We have engaged an architect to explore a number of options for maximising the potential of the current site to provide additional licensed child care places. It is proposed to expand the building on it's current site and construct additional car parking in the large road reserve on Coolibah Drive in order to maximise the available space on site for essential childcare facilities. The development of the site requires the expansion of indoor and outdoor play spaces as well as the ancillary areas such as offices, ablutions and kitchen facilities; in order to maximise the additional licensed child care places that can be made available. This proposed additional car park site has previously received in-principle support from the Shire Council (refer Assessment No.A2529 dated 18 July 2017).

In summary, the Kununurra community is in serious need of an expanded childcare service to ensure that we can attract and retain young families to the town into the future. We believe the most economical and expedient way for the Ewin ELC to expand the number of childcare places it can provide is to request that the council make a concession for the use of the Coolibah Road Reserve for additional parking for this facility. We look forward to the ongoing support of the Council in bringing this important project to fruition.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janelle Atwell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Janelle Atwell

General Manager

On behalf of the Management & Board of Directors
Ewin ELC



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11th April 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

The Ewin Early Learning Centre (EELC) is currently experiencing unprecedented demand for its essential early education and care service, which clearly highlights the need for additional capacity to be developed to meet the needs of a growing community. The EELC is exploring options to meet this demand and is contributing significant time, energy and funds to undertake this work. These contributions will increase substantially should the Centre's Development Application be approved.

Given that the proposed expansion is driven by a not-for-profit organisation to fulfil an essential community service, the EELC requests that SWEK consider waiving the application fees for the current Development Application. The proposed development being an extension of a SWEK-owned asset on SWEK-owned land further supports this request.

Early education and care is an economic and social building block of communities and it is very clear that the Kununurra community has a gross undersupply of this essential service at present. It is expected this issue will only be exacerbated going forward. There is a current willingness and drive within the EELC to assist in overcoming this issue, and we look forward to SWEK's support in seeing this achieved.

Yours Sincerely

Janelle Atwell

General Manager, EELC