



# Children's Services Strategy



**August 8, 2005**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Background**

The number of children aged 0-11 years in the Woollahra Local Government Area (LGA) has increased by 2.6% a year between 1996 and 2001. This has placed pressures on existing child care, family support, and early childhood health services, programs, and facilities and raised the issue of the role of Woollahra Municipal Council (Council) to plan for these services.

This is a Children's Services Strategy that was developed between August 2004 and January 2005 to identify issues, needs, and service gaps in the Woollahra LGA in relation to families and children 11 years and under. Detailed demographic analysis by suburb and ward, literature reviews and extensive community consultation were completed in order to identify priority community needs and Council's role in addressing these needs.

Council is currently a strong direct service provider of children and family services through Woollahra Kindergarten in Double Bay, Children's Library Services, and family support services at Holdsworth Street Community Centre. Council has also been supporting children's services for many years through subsidised accommodation, community grants, promotion and administrative assistance.

### **Demographic Analysis**

Demographic analysis identified that across the Woollahra LGA, the current population of children aged 11 years and under is 5,451, with 2,265 aged 0-4 and 3,186 children aged 5-11 years. Vaucluse Ward has the highest number of children (1708), followed by Cooper Ward (1204), and Bellevue Hill Ward (1,058). Bellevue Hill is the suburb with the most children (1236) and Double Bay is the fastest growing child population with a 45% increase in 0-9 year olds over the period 1996 to 2001.

### **Provision of Services**

Whilst the number of children has increased, the number of child care places has not. Currently, there are only 83 Long Day Care Places for 1430 children aged 0-2 years of age (or 6% of this population), and 58% of both parents in the LGA working. In addition, there are only 290 Pre-School places for a total of 1287 children aged 3-5 years of age (or 23% of this population) in a community where 76% of parents rated Pre-School as a highly important service. Although the need for child care is evident, land and development opportunities are not readily available and Council must consider all options for provision to increase child care places, including services such as Family Day Care.

In addition to child care, family support services and early childhood health services are also highlighted as priority areas. Many parents are having children later in life and do not have established support networks, others who have moved here recently do not have family in the area. They are experiencing social isolation and need services such as mothers groups, parenting classes, and playgroups.

### **Vision**

Woollahra Council's vision for families and children 0-11 years of age is:

*To support and provide a diverse range of quality and accessible services and facilities for the families and children of the Woollahra LGA.*

### **Objectives**

Based on consultation with service providers, residents, and Council staff; demographic analysis; and consideration of relevant reports, priority needs were identified and objectives developed to meet the needs of children aged 0-11 over the next 10 years. Council can meet these objectives through a number of roles: as a direct service provider, funder, planner, advocate, information provider or collaborator through community partnerships. These objectives are:

- Increase Pre-School places for children 3-5 years.
- Increase Long Day Care Places for children 0-2 years.
- More equitable distribution of children's services across the LGA – particularly in areas with high or increasing populations of children (such as Vacluse, Bellevue Hill and Double Bay).
- Improve services for socially isolated new mothers.
- Improve family support services and access to facilities to deliver programs.
- Improve access to early intervention and assessment services to identify, and provide services for, children with special needs.
- Improve public domain facilities for parents.

### **Strategies**

Strategies have been developed for Council to meet these objectives in a number of roles: as a direct service provider, funder, planner, advocate, information provider or collaborator through community partnerships. The following key strategies have been identified:

- Investigate and implement development controls to encourage an increase in child care places.
- Conduct a feasibility study to increase child care places at existing community facilities.
- Work with Waverley Council's Family Day Care Service to promote increased providers of Family Day Care within the LGA.
- Evaluate family support funding provided by Council to ensure that priority issues are being addressed such as support of child care centres, provision of assessment services, and attraction of funding.

- Advocate for Supplementary Services (SUPS) funding for children with special needs.
- Investigate the use of non-Council owned venues in the community for family support services and children's services program delivery space.

## **1 PURPOSE**

Over the past five years, the number of children aged 0-11 years in the Woollahra Local Government Area (LGA) has increased. Many parents are choosing to have children later in life, and families are staying in the area as their children get older. This has raised issues in relation to the adequate provision of local child care services, family support services, and child health services and the role of Woollahra Municipal Council (Council) to plan for these services.

This Children's Services Strategy provides a 10-year framework for the provision of Children and Family Services in the Woollahra LGA (LGA). Issues, needs and strategies identified in this Paper were identified as part of a Social Needs Study completed by Council between August 2004 and December 2004.

The purpose of the Social Needs Study was to undertake a Needs Assessment for services and facilities for families and children aged 11 years and under. Every community has a diversity of community "needs" and "wants" required by different groups within the community. Consultation with a diverse range of service providers and community members can identify which community "wants" are the priority "needs" that will benefit the community as a whole.

The Children's Services Strategy includes:

- Detailed demographic analysis of the children in Woollahra based on 2001 ABS data.
- The outcomes and recommendations from a number of completed planning and management studies.
- Outcomes of Community and Household Surveys.
- The views, constraints and opportunities identified by staff from the community service providers, neighbouring Councils, state government agencies, and Woollahra Council.
- The considered assessment of all of the information gathered during the project period.
- An evaluation of the appropriate role of Council in addressing these needs.
- A detailed strategic plan for addressing the needs of children and families within Woollahra.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

The following methodology was used to identify community issues, priority needs, and practical strategies in relation to the provision of children's services in the Woollahra LGA. Research was undertaken during the period August 2004 to December 2004.

1. Demographic analysis including 1996 and 2001 ABS comparisons and Regional and NSW averages.
2. Literature review of existing Woollahra Council (Council), neighbouring Council's and State and Federal Government plans, strategies and policies.
3. Micromex Community Study Household Survey of 1200 residents.
4. Micromex Community Study – targeted household survey of 150 families with children 11 years and under.
5. Written Surveys to Community Service Providers servicing the Woollahra Local Government Area (LGA).
6. Face-to-face interviews with Children's Service Providers servicing the LGA.
7. Face-to-face interviews with Woollahra Council Strategic Planning, Properties, Customer Services, Communications, and Community Services Staff.
8. Face-to-face interviews with City of Sydney and Waverley Council Community Services staff.
9. Attendance at Woollahra Kindergarten Parents Committee.
10. Three workshops to confirm issues and develop strategies:
  - Workshop 1 - Community Service Providers;
  - Workshop 2 - Council Community Services Staff; and
  - Workshop 3 - Council Manager's Meeting.

Following this consultation issues and needs were analysed to determine priority needs and the appropriate role of Council in the provision of children's services over the next 10 years. This has resulted in the development of clear strategies that are realistic and achievable. These strategies clearly outline Council's contribution and role in improving the provision and support of services for children aged 0-11 years and their families, according to demonstrated community need and service gaps.

### **3 RESPONSIBILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The NSW Department of Community Services (DoCS) is the leading NSW Government agency responsible for community services. DoCS aims to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and to build stronger families and communities. It administers the *Community Welfare Act 1987*, and the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*, and *Children's Services Regulation 2004*.

DoCS supports children, young people and families across a continuum of care. Their core work focuses on child protection, starting with early intervention strategies to help build stronger families and communities. DoCS works to protect children and young people from risk of harm and aims to provide care for children and young people who are not able to live with their families.

Many services are provided through community partners such as non-government organisations and government agencies. DoCS core activities are to:

- help protect and care for children and young people and support their families,
- provide and fund accommodation and support services for children and young people who need to live away from their families,
- regulate child care by licensing and monitoring compliance,
- fund and regulate adoption services,
- fund support services to assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness,
- help people separated from their families to trace their records, and
- coordinate services to meet the basic welfare and recovery needs of people affected by natural and other disasters.

Licensed child care services in NSW are regulated and monitored by DoCS to make sure children are provided a safe and appropriate environment for care and education. For example, services must employ qualified teachers if they look after certain numbers of children and provide age appropriate development activities.

DoCS also provides funding to community organisations through the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) for programs such as family support, youth services, and neighbourhood centres.

## 4 COUNCIL'S ROLE

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, Local Government's charter involves providing directly or on behalf of other levels of government:

- adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community, and
- ensuring that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively (Section 8, *Local Government Act 1993* as amended).

The charter makes it clear that local government is a sphere of government with a role in providing a wide variety of services that local residents need. Local government can choose to involve itself in the provision, management, or operation of the following "community service" functions:

- services for children, families, young people, people with a disability and older people,
- public health,
- cultural, educational, and information services,
- public transport,
- sport, recreation, and entertainment, and
- housing.

Historically, local government has been a significant provider of children's and family services in NSW. Many Councils are active in the provision of children's and family services in the context of a:

- lack of other providers of particular types of services in the marketplace,
- complementary approach to the provision of services by a mix of providers, and a
- commitment to a mix of community based, private, and Council services to ensure a range of service types and choice for families (p. 31).

In consideration of the above, to best service the residents of the Woollahra Local Government Area (LGA), Woollahra Council has a variety of roles. Woollahra Council is currently:

- a direct service provider through the 60 place per day Woollahra Kindergarten in Double Bay, and children's library services and cultural activities;
- a supporter of health services through accommodation to Early Childhood Health Centres and for Playgroups;
- a direct service provider through Holdsworth Street Family Support Services, children's programs;
- a funder and supporter of community service providers through Council's Community Grants Program, subsidised accommodation, promotion, and administrative assistance;

- an advocate to other levels of government for funding and service provision required to meet the needs of the Woollahra Community; and
- a collector of Section 94 developer contributions from developers for playgrounds.

The strategies in this document identify an appropriate role for Council. These roles have been recommended based on a number of factors, including:

- legislative requirements,
- current role of Council,
- opportunities afforded only to Local Government, as the level of government closest to the community,
- opportunities afforded to Woollahra Council, as a custodian of community assets,
- ability of other agencies and organisations to adequately provide accessible services and support,
- level of demonstrated need in the community based on consultation undertaken for this Study,
- ability to access resources from non-Council sources, for example, grants, sponsorship, volunteering, and
- anticipated future Council resources, based on historical expenditure.

Based on the above criteria it is clear that Council has the following roles:

- **Advocacy** – Council is in a unique position to advocate to State and Federal Ministers and Departments for increased funding and changes to legislation in relation to services for children and families.
- **Planning** – The *Local Government (General) Regulation 1999* requires all councils in NSW to develop a social/community plan and the Social Planning Guidelines recommend that councils plan and prioritise services for all sections of their community. In its capacity as a social planner, Council therefore has a responsibility to provide a leadership role in the provision and facilitation of services and facilities to meet family and children’s needs. As a land use planner, Council also has the ability to encourage and regulate new property developments of certain types, such as child care services, through its land use planning controls.
- **Collaboration/ Partnerships** – Council has the ability to access and collaborate with adjoining Councils and community organisations to provide quality services at a reduced cost. Council has an obligation as the custodian of community facilities, to ensure these are accessible to all members of the community. In this role Council could support the use of these facilities by other organisations to provide services and activities. Due to high property values this contribution by Council is often the only way that a charitable group or community organisation can provide the services in Woollahra, without which these services would not be available to Woollahra residents. Council also has the ability to facilitate regional forums, provide venues, coordinate partnerships and provide expertise to assist other organisations to provide appropriate services to the community.
- **Direct Service Provision** – Council currently supports and provides child care services through the Woollahra Kindergarten. As this service attracts government funding which would not transfer to a private

operator this is the most appropriate way to ensure an affordable, quality service is offered to Woollahra residents. As Woollahra is not a high priority area for additional State and Federal funding should Council cease to provide these services private operators and other community organisations are not in the position to provide them at the same level.

- **Funder** – in areas where seed or matching funding is required to attract additional funding from other sources or there are no other opportunities for funding from State and Federal governments.
- **Information Provision/ Promotion** – at a minimal cost Council can assist other organisations through the established information dissemination points and expertise of Council, for example, Council’s webpage, libraries, customer service centre, rates notice, and weekly notices.

Through the roles detailed above, Council can have a significant impact on the quality of life of children and families residing in the Woollahra LGA, through improved services, activities and facilities. The role of Council in addressing the priority issues identified in this Strategy will be in accordance with the above.

## **5 PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

### **5.1 Changes to Children's Services**

The development of children's services in NSW has had a long history, commencing with the establishment of voluntary service providers the Kindergarten Union of NSW in 1895 and the Sydney Day Nursery and Nursery School in 1905.

In the 1970s, both State and Commonwealth governments began major commitments to the establishment and funding of children's services and developing child care policies. The report of the Australian Pre-Schools Committee, "Care and Education of Young Children" in 1973 set the scene for the development of Children's Services under the *Child Care Act (1972)* recommending capital grants for the establishment of Pre-Schools, Long Day Care centres, and Family Day Care centres. This included recurrent assistance grants to cover salary costs for trained staff, and establishing joint State-Federal consultation committees to advise on forward planning and priorities of need.

In 1977, the Fraser Government designated Pre-Schools as educational and therefore a State Government responsibility, whilst accepting responsibility for Long Day Care to allow women's participation in the workforce. Except in NSW, all States provided capital funds for Pre-Schools since the Commonwealth ceased doing so in 1978.

Between 1983-85, a new planning approach to determine the location and type of service was put into place, with Planning Committees established in each state. States and local governments assisted, contributing land and buildings worth \$14m nationally. However, the 1985 mini-budget brought massive cuts, including the complete withdrawal of \$33 million Pre-School block grants and a reduction of \$30 from recurrent child care subsidies.

Between 1982-84 the provision of Long Day Care in NSW increased by 25%. At this time, Local Government was asked to assist with the establishment of new centres with funding from the Children's Capital Works Program, by a variety of means such as sponsoring centres directly, holding public meetings to form community based management committees, or setting up 530A committees to manage centres. Areas that did not participate at this time lost out on opportunities for building new child care services and attracting subsidies.

Until 1997, the Commonwealth Government provided Local Government and not-for-profit Long Day Care centres with an operational grant. This was withdrawn, resulting in a cut of \$821 million from the Children's Services Budget in the financial years 1996/97 and 1997/98. Operational funding for Out of School Hours

(OOSH) care was withdrawn in 1998. The impact on community based and local government services was significant, resulting in fee increases and reduction in use.<sup>1</sup>

In September 2003, the Commonwealth announced the Review of the Child Care Support Broadband with the aim of focussing “child care support funding on the outcomes for the needs of children”. In 2004, the Commonwealth introduced a Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004-2008: Choice and Flexibility in Child Care. The Commonwealth’s “New Child Care Support Program” was also introduced in June 2004, with funding arrangements for day care services and quality elements such as the Professional Support Program, Inclusion Support Program. Funding for subsidies (to parents) for OOSH places, for example, afterschool care also increased. The Inclusion Support Subsidy will replace existing subsidies such as SNSS and DSUPS, that is, existing “Special Needs” subsidies.

The development of children’s services in Woollahra LGA has been affected by all of these turns in child care policy and funding arrangements. Woollahra benefited by the early establishment of services such as Sydney Day Nursery in Paddington and Kindergarten Union Pre-Schools, and its own Woollahra Kindergarten which was established in the 1950s. But the provision of child care services in Woollahra LGA has been limited. Firstly, by the lack of establishment of new services by community groups, and lack of active support of local government in the 1970s and 1980s when funding became available from Commonwealth and State governments. Secondly, provision has been limited by the needs-based funding formulae which did not rank Woollahra as a priority. Child care services did develop in adjacent municipalities and Woollahra parents accessed these services extensively. The capacity of parents to pay for private services such as nannies, alleviated some of the pressure on Council to provide services.

There has been a considerable growth in small private provision in Woollahra that has assisted the supply of places. Recent changes to the Child Care Benefit, including a proposal to introduce a 30 percent tax rebate on parents child care costs, will ease the way for private providers to develop new services. This can only occur where Council approves the development of new private centres in the municipality.

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<sup>1</sup> Policy Framework for Children and Family Services for Local Government in New South Wales. NSW LGCSA, LG&SA of NSW, p.7

## **5.2 Council's Support of Children's Services**

Council has been supporting the direct provision of children's services for many years, with the provision of community facilities for the operation of early childhood health, Pre-School and OOSH services and grant funding. Council currently provides a 60 place Pre-School in Double Bay.

Since 1974, Council has provided children's services through the Holdsworth Street Community Centre (HSCC) which began as an out of school hours program. This support was in the form of the construction and maintenance of a children's playground and grant funding. Council continues to operate services through HSCC for family support services.

Council also provides and maintains a small cottage in Rose Bay for the use of playgroups, the Gunyah building leased to the Scouts Association and two facilities for early childhood health services. No rental fee is charged for the use of these facilities, which equates to a substantial subsidy in the form of rent-free accommodation. The Cooper Park Community Hall is another facility provided and maintained by Council and hired to residents for children's parties and family events.

Council recognised the growing need in the area of children's and family services in 2002, with the employment of a Family & Community Development Coordinator in addition to the staff managing Woollahra Kindergarten. Council also provides an extensive children's library section in the Double Bay, Paddington and Watsons Bay libraries, with specialist staff and children's programs conducted year round.

Council has a Small Community Grants Program that allocates funds on a yearly basis for projects by community organisations. Over the years, a number of these grants have been awarded to local kindergartens and child care centres for capital improvements.

A summary of Council's estimated contribution to children's services in 2004/05 is shown overpage:

**Table 1 Council's Estimated contribution to Children's Services 2004/5**

<b>Type of Support</b>	<b>Value of Contribution</b>	<b>Grants from State depts</b>	<b>Fees/ other income</b>	<b>Total</b>
Grant funding to HSCC for family support services	<b>\$58,265</b>	\$10,175	\$42,000	\$112,440
Family & Community Development – Management & Planning, (not incl. Youth Services, Community Safety, Community Development activities)	<b>\$155,725</b>	-	-	\$155,725
Woollahra Kindergarten	<b>\$6,509</b>	\$123,000	\$483,800	\$613,309
Small Community Grants Program (annual estimate)	<b>\$15,000</b>	-	-	\$15,000
Children's Library services, events & resources - operational expenses	<b>\$375,133</b>	\$11,250	-	\$386,383
Maintenance of subsidised accommodation and community facilities (based on 2003/04 expenditure) - Woollahra Kindergarten, Early Childhood Health Services (Double Bay & Paddington), Rose Bay Cottage, Gunyah Cottage (less income from Hire fees)	<b>\$24,853</b>	-	-	\$24,853
<b>Total Estimated Value of Council's contribution</b>	<b>\$640,194</b>	<b>\$144,425</b>	<b>\$525,800</b>	<b>\$1,307,110</b>

It must be noted that the above does not include indirect costs and overheads incurred by Council in supporting these activities.

It can be seen from the table that Council's contribution has been leveraged to attract grant funding from Department of Community Services, the State Library, fees and other income. This has a multiplying effect on the level of funding, resulting in a total of \$1,307,110 expended on children's services supported by Council.

## 6 DEMOGRAPHICS

The following demographics are based on 2001 ABS data including adjustments made for the decrease in population numbers when Bondi Junction was transferred to Waverley Council on 13 February 2003. They are a summary of demographics relating to children aged 0-11 in Woollahra LGA. More detailed demographic information can be found in *Appendix 1 Detailed Demographics*.

Making adjustments for the loss of Bondi Junction, on Census Night 2001 Woollahra LGA had a total population of 49,911 people, an increase of about 425 people since 1996 or 0.2%. In relation to children aged 0-11, Woollahra LGA had:

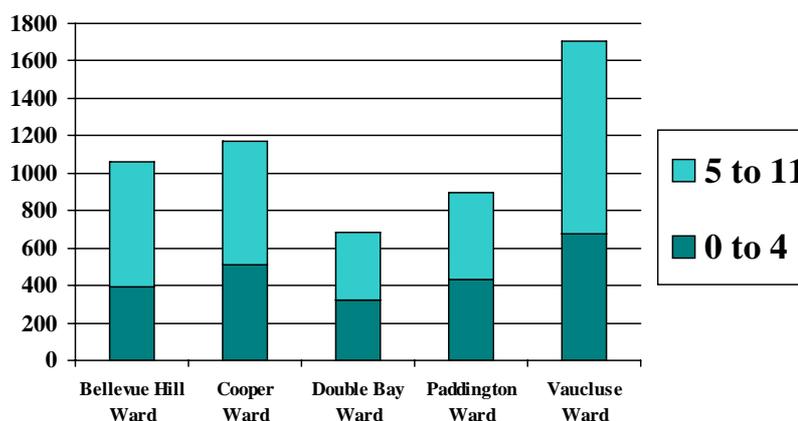
- 5,451 children aged 11 years and under, up by 665 or 12.5% since 1996
- 2,265 (aged 0-4), up 10% since 1996, and
- 3,186 children of primary school age (5 -11) up 14.5% since 1996.

### 6.1 Number of Children by Ward

**Figure 1** below shows where children aged 0-11 years live by ward. By far, Vaucluse Ward has the highest number of children with 1,708 children. This is followed by Cooper Ward with 1,204 children, Bellevue Hill Ward with 1,058 children, Paddington Ward with 898 children, and Double Bay Ward with 687 children.

By suburb, the two suburbs with the highest number of children aged 0-11 are Bellevue Hill (1236) and Vaucluse (1056). The two suburbs with the least children are Point Piper (150) and Watsons Bay (76).

**Figure 1. 0—11 years by Ward**



## **6.2 Percentage Change by Post Code**

The Department of Community Services (DoCS) Metro Central Region, South East Sydney Network Profile has collated detailed data on each Council within the South East Network. Outcomes of this Study show that the suburb of Double Bay (Post Code 2028) has had consistently high increases in 0-9 year olds (between 1996 and 2001). The number of 0-4 year olds has increased by 44.6% and 5-9 year olds by 35.7% since 1996. By comparison, DoCS data shows that in Woollahra (Post Code 2025) 0-4 year olds have increased by 34%, in Point Piper, Edgecliff and Darling Point (Post Code 2027) 0-4 year olds has increased by 20.2% and 5-9 year olds by 23.5%. In Vacluse and Watsons Bay (Post Code 2030) 0-4 year olds have increased by 17.8% and 5-9 year olds by 6.9%<sup>2</sup>.

## **6.3 Education**

29% of primary students (aged 5-11) attended public schools. This proportion was much lower than Sydney's average of 68%. Attendance at Catholic schools by 12% of primary aged students was at a lower rate than Sydney's average of 21%. Non-Catholic private schools attracted 59% of primary students, much higher than Sydney's rate of 16%. Approximately 66% of Pre-School aged children (3-4) attended Pre-Schools, higher than the Sydney average of 56%.

## **6.4 Children with a Disability**

Conclusive data on the number of children with a disability aged 0-11 in the Woollahra area is not available. However, according to a *Report on the findings of the Early Childhood Intervention Services Survey*<sup>3</sup> approximately 4% of children aged 0 –5 in South East Sydney have a disability.

The Woollahra Household Disability Survey 1998 identified that 5% of children aged 0-4 had some form of disability (253 Physical and 28 intellectual), and 7% of children 5-11 had some form or disability (368 physical and 40 intellectual).

## **6.5 Families**

In 2001 ABS data showed that 57% of Woollahra's 19,700 households were family households. Most commonly (44%) people lived as part of a couple. There were 1,347 lone parents (12% of all families). Single parents in Woollahra were overwhelmingly female, with 6.6 single mothers for every single father. As a proportion of the

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<sup>2</sup> Barbara Beard (WESTIR Ltd) for the Department of Community Services Metro Central Region, South East Sydney Network Profile, August 2004, p.24

population, single parents were common in Watson's Bay (4.2%), Double Bay (3.6%), and Rose Bay (3.6%). 72% of single parents are working either full-time or part-time.

## **6.6 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse**

The majority of people in Woollahra were born in Australia and spoke English at home (26,597 persons). Another 11,514 were born overseas but spoke English at home and 1,574 were born in Australia but spoke another language.

### **6.6.1 Religious Diversity**

The largest religions in Woollahra in 2001 were Anglican (21%) Catholic (20%) Judaism (13%) Orthodox Christian (3%) and Presbyterian (3%). Compared to Sydney, the religions that were more common in Woollahra were Judaism, Orthodox Christian and Lutheran.

## **6.7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander**

In 2001, Woollahra had an indigenous population of 89 people or 0.18% of the total population of 49,911. No data is available on the ages of indigenous children aged 0-11 in Woollahra LGA.

## **6.8 Mature Age Mothers**

In 2001, females aged 35 years or older accounted for 2,348 births in the South East Sydney Network. This was equivalent to 24.3% of all births. Waverley LGA had the highest percentage of births by mothers 35 years or older in the South East Sydney Network with 29.2%, and Woollahra was next at 26.1%.

## 6.9 Key Priorities & Council's Role

Based on the demographics for children aged 0-11 years and their families, the following priority needs have been identified. Council can address these priority needs in a number of ways – as a Direct Provider, a Funder, a Planner, an Advocate, an Information Provider, and a Collaborator through community partnerships.

**Table 2 Demographics – Key Priorities and Council's Role and Opportunities**

Key Priorities	Council's Role and Opportunities
Increase provision of children's services to address the needs of an increasing population of children aged 0-5.	<p>As a land use planner, through development controls Council can encourage the development of child care centres within the LGA.</p> <p>As a social planner Council can investigate the feasibility of increasing child care places through use of existing facilities.</p>
A diverse range of family support services for families from a diversity of cultural backgrounds are needed, some of which do not have family support in Australia.	Council can collaborate with community service providers to deliver family support services for a diverse range of cultures.
Social support and parenting classes for an increasing proportion of mature aged mothers.	<p>As a direct provider, Council can provide venues for playgroups, mothers groups, and other family service programs.</p> <p>As a community leader, Council can advocate to State Government for funding for family and children's services in the LGA.</p>
Equitable distribution of children's services in wards and suburbs with highest child populations.	Council owns a number of community facilities, and as a direct provider, can provide accessible community facilities for provision of family and children's programs and activities.

## 7 SUMMARY OF RELEVANT REPORTS

### 7.1 Woollahra Council Social Plan 2002 - 2007

In relation to Children's Services for children aged 0-11 the Woollahra Council Social Plan 2002- 2007 identified the following key indicators<sup>4</sup>:

- An increase in demand at Early Child Health Centres in Paddington, but a slight decline in the Double Bay Clinic.
- There are waiting lists at child care services particularly for 0-2 year olds. Some child care centres are receiving one to four requests *per day* for care for babies and toddlers under three years of age.
- Anecdotal reports from child care services that demand for places is coming from higher numbers of older women (40+) having their first child, and an influx of high income earning younger couples (30+).
- There are large numbers of families with small children living in units, so access to playgrounds and outdoor playgroups is very important.
- Links between children's services and primary schools in relation to transition-to-school programs could be improved.
- There are six centres providing Before and After School Care and Vacation Care. Supply is adequate although there is some concern over the movement of children to and from before and after school centres.
- Providers of children's services comment that there is no significant problem regarding children with different cultural backgrounds, as most have at least one English-speaking parent and are speaking English. Child care centres respect and celebrate diverse cultures as part of their regular program.

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<sup>4</sup> Woollahra Council Social Plan 2002, p. 17

## 7.2 Families First South East Sydney 2003-2006 Strategic Directions

Families First is the NSW Government's prevention and early intervention strategy for families and children. Families First aims to connect parents to each other for support and to build communities and services that support families with children 0-8 years of age.

Families First is delivered jointly by five government agencies – Area Health Services, Community Services, Education and Training, Housing and Disability, Ageing and Home Care in partnership with parents, community organisations and local government.

In relation to South East Sydney, through consultation with services providers, Families First has identified the following key issues relating to families and children<sup>5</sup>:

- Families are isolated due to lack of family support and lack of connection with information on community supports such as neighbours, sporting activities, and social activities. The lack of family support may be due to family arrangements such as parenting alone or having a partner who is working long hours, lack of proximity of extended family and the quality of the relationships with them.
- Communities are intolerant of diversity and this makes it difficult for families and children from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds to establish community connections.
- There is a growing pressure to have the “ideal” family and to be the perfect “text book” parent.
- In inner Eastern Sydney there is the perception of advantage, and the issue that some stresses on families are not eased by income. It is important to maintain the focus of services on early intervention and prevention for all families, not just for at-risk families.
- A local approach is needed in dealing with families because of the diverse range of people living in the region.
- There is a need to establish access across public and private service systems, for example if people are in the private system, they often do not know about publicly available services.
- Services considered that they were isolated from each other across the region.

Unfortunately, Families First data collection and planning for Eastern Sydney region indicates that municipalities other than Woollahra have much higher levels of disadvantage and socio-economic need, and are likely to be ranked higher for allocation of funding for programs.

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<sup>5</sup> Families First South East Sydney 2003-2006 Strategic Directions, NSW Government

### 7.3 Early Childhood Intervention Services Survey

The Early Childhood Intervention Services Survey was conducted in March 2002<sup>6</sup>, targeting services across South Eastern Sydney. The survey aimed to determine the range of services operating in South East Sydney (SES), the types of services that children receive from different agencies, the proportion of children receiving multiple services, numbers of children waiting for services and the prevalence of disability types in South East Sydney.

The data from the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers 1998 conducted by the ABS showed that about 14.8% of residents in SES suffered from disability of some form. The prevalence rate of disabilities was low among children under 5. Workers consider that children with long-term developmental problems are not always detected in ABS data. The ABS criteria which identifies only children with severe disabilities - identified that approximately 4% of children aged 0-5 years have a severe disability.

The survey substantiated what was known anecdotally, that large numbers of families are waiting for services and that waiting lists are too long. There were at least 1000 children identified as waiting for some form of early childhood intervention service in March 2002. According to the Report, this is a need that should be addressed urgently. Long waiting times for assessment and developmental assistance reduce outcomes for these children significantly.

Recommendations from the survey included:

- Improved access to information on local services for both families and professionals.
- Improved inter-agency cooperation on setting eligibility criteria and sharing of information.
- Training for professional staff on the early identification of developmental delay and referral processes.
- Joint planning and collaboration with the Families First subcommittees in SES, to ensure children with developmental problems are included in planning decisions and reduce duplications.
- Conducting a parent survey, seeking qualitative information on waiting lists (for example, acceptable waiting times, implications and pressures for families while waiting for services).

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<sup>6</sup> A Report on the Findings of the Early Childhood Intervention Survey November 2003, South East Sydney Health Clinical Services and Policy Unit

## 7.4 Key Priorities & Council's Role

Based on assessment of relevant reports, the following priority needs have been identified. Council can address these priority needs in a number of ways – as a Direct Provider, a Funder, a Planner, an Advocate, an Information Provider, and a Collaborator through community partnerships.

**Table 3 Relevant Reports – Key Priorities and Council's Role and Opportunities**

Key Priorities	Council's Role and Opportunities
Increased early intervention and assessment services for children with a disability are needed in the South East Sydney region and special needs services for children in Pre-School and Long Day Care in the Woollahra LGA.	Advocate for increased services within the LGA and also to obtain SUPS (Supplementary Services) funding for children with special needs in child care centres and Pre-Schools in the LGA.
Increased support from State and Commonwealth for family support services.	Advocate to State and Commonwealth funding bodies for funding for services and programs to address needs such as social isolation of new parents. Many families in the area are isolated due to lack of family support and lack of information on community support such as neighbours and social activities.

## **8 SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN WOOLLAHRA**

The following is a Summary of Children's Services located within the Woollahra LGA. A more detailed description of all Services can be found in *Appendix 2 Children's Services in Woollahra LGA*.

### **8.1 Child Care**

#### **8.1.1 All Child Care Centres within LGA**

A list of all child care centres including: Pre-Schools, Long Day Care, Occasional Care, Family Day Care and Home-Based Child Care can be found in **Appendix 2**. In summary Woollahra LGA has:

- 10 Long Day Care Centres – 310 places per day - 83 places for 0-2, and 227 places for 2-6 year olds.
- 8 Pre-Schools – 290 places per day for 2/3-5 year olds.
- 2 Family Day Care Providers – 10 places per day.
- 0 Home Based Care Providers – 0 places.

#### **8.1.2 Types of Child Care Services**

There are a number of different types of child care services:

- Long Day Care Centres are for 0-6 year olds and generally open 10 hours per day 5 days per week.
- Pre-School is for 3 to 5 year olds, but some centres accept 2 year olds. Open from 9am-3pm Monday to Friday.
- Occasional Care is for 0 to school age with variable hours up to five days per week to allow parents to have short breaks.
- Family Day Care is for any age, including babies and children before and after school. A limit of five children if the children have not started school. The carer provides the service in their own home and is not required to have formal training. Waverley Council Family Day Care regulates the Scheme.
- Home-Based Care is for any age, including babies and children before and after school. One staff member for up to seven children, under 12 years, including their own children, or a limit of five if the children have not started school. The carer provides the service in their own home – regulated by DoCS.

#### **8.1.3 Council Centres**

Council owns and operates one child care service in the Woollahra LGA. The Woollahra Kindergarten is a 60 place per day Pre-School in New South Head Road, Double Bay. It caters for up to 120 families each week.

#### **8.1.4 Community Centres**

Many of the child care centres in Woollahra are privately owned and operated. However, the following four centres are community owned and operated, three are located in Paddington.

- Paddington Church of Christ Pre-School Paddington
- Peter Pan Pre-School Paddington (Kindergarten Union)
- Sir Phillip Baxter Long Day Care Centre Woollahra (Benevolent Society)
- Sydney Day Nursery Paddington – Long Day Care

### 8.1.5 Privately Owned and Operated

In addition to the above Council and community child care services, there are 15 privately owned and operated child care centres in Woollahra. Specifically, there are 8 Long Day Care Centres, 5 Pre-Schools, and 2 Family Day Care providers.

## 8.2 Family Support Services

### 8.2.1 Council Services

Council supports family support services within the Woollahra LG through grants and subsidised accommodation to local community service providers, facilities for local residents for birthday parties and children's activities.

- Through **Holdsworth Street Community Centre** Council provides family support services and a daily Playgroup. Council also supports the following playgroups:
  - St Brigid's Library Double Bay
  - Rose Bay Playgroup at Rose Bay Cottage
  - Dover Heights Playgroup

### 8.2.2 Other Services

- **The Benevolent Society** provides child protection services in the South Eastern Sydney region and Volunteer Home Visiting Services for isolated families in South East Sydney.
- **Bondi Beach Cottage** (in Bondi) provides intensive counselling, support for families experiencing domestic violence, post-natal depression, and is accessed by Woollahra residents.

### 8.2.3 Private Services

There are a number of private services in the area offering childhood development services, such as Leap into Learning Health and Development and BabyBliss parent support services. There is also a high rate of usage of private nannies, employed by parents.

### **8.3 Out of School Hours Services (OOSH)**

#### **8.3.1 Council Services**

Council provides up until February 2005, Vacation Care programs for children with a disability through Holdsworth Street Community Centre. This service has not been amalgamated with Woollahra Primary School.

#### **8.3.2 Other Services**

All primary schools within the LGA have OOSH After-school care Programs. Some have Vacation Care Programs.

### **8.4 Early Childhood Health Centres**

#### **8.4.1 Council Services**

Council supports two Early Childhood Health Centres by providing accommodation to these services operated by South East Sydney Area Health Service in Oxford Street Paddington and Cross Street Double Bay. These two Centres are highly used by new mothers.

### **8.5 Recreation and Culture**

#### **8.5.1 Council Services**

Council supports recreation and culture for children and families through provision of 23 playgrounds, parks and outdoor pools and beaches.

Council's Libraries at Double Bay and Paddington also provide children's activities and special events.

#### **8.5.2 Other Services**

There are a number of private providers of children's health and recreation services located within the LGA.

### **8.6 Education**

There are seven public primary schools in the LGA and nine private primary schools.

## 8.7 Key Priorities & Council's Role

Based on assessment of existing services, the following priority needs have been identified. Council can address these priority needs in a number of ways – as a Direct Provider, a Funder, a Planner, an Advocate, an Information Provider, and a Collaborator through community partnerships.

**Table 4 Children and Family Services – Key Priorities and Council's Role and Opportunities**

<b>Key Priorities</b>	<b>Council's Role and Opportunities</b>
Children's services (particularly child care centres) are inequitably distributed across the LGA particularly in areas of high child populations.	As a land use planner, through planning controls Council can plan for the development of new child care centres in areas of highest need (such as Double Bay and Bellevue Hill) and provide access to community facilities for delivery of family and children's programs in areas of highest need.

## 9 CHILD CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### 9.1 Background

The provision of child care services within a community does not always match the needs of parents. In Woollahra LGA and other innercity Council areas, the high cost and unavailability of development sites may deter providers from establishing services, even though there is a high demand. Consequently, local families are experiencing a lack of affordable, accessible child care. This is the case in Woollahra LGA.

### 9.2 Supply/Demand Analysis

Table 5 below shows the number of child care places by suburb and the large gap in places, particularly for 0-2 year olds. This gap needs to be addressed to ensure that local child care needs are being met.

**Table 5 Child Care Places by Suburb**

Suburb	No. of Children 2001			Annual Change 1996-2001		Long Day Care		Pre-School	Family Day Care	Total Places
	0-2	3-5	Total	0-2	3-5	0-2	2/3-5	2/3-5	0-5	
<b>Bellevue Hill</b>	252	293	545	↓1%	0%	-	43	-	-	<b>43</b>
<b>Darling Point</b>	86	61	147	↑4%	↑9%	-	-	40	-	<b>40</b>
<b>Double Bay</b>	97	96	193	↑6%	↑2%	-	-	60	-	<b>60</b>
<b>Edgecliff</b>	45	30	75	↓3%	↓9%	16	-	-	-	<b>16</b>
<b>Paddington</b>	270	154	424	↑2%	0%	25	48	70	5	<b>148</b>
<b>Point Piper</b>	35	35	70	↑12%	↓2%	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Rose Bay</b>	195	164	359	↑4%	↑2%	7	57	50	-	<b>114</b>
<b>Vaucluse</b>	221	255	476	↑6%	↑3%	-	24	40	-	<b>64</b>
<b>Watsons Bay</b>	20	12	32	↓4%	↓15%	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Woollahra</b>	213	187	400	↑8%	↑9%	35	55	30	5	<b>125</b>
<b>Total LGA</b>	<b>1430</b>	<b>1287</b>	<b>2717</b>			<b>83</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>610</b>

The following tables show the number of child care places (Long Day Care and Pre-School shown separately) in each ward; the percentage of places per total number of children; the demand for child care, as shown in the Micromex Community Study of 150 households with families 11 years and under; and, the gap in provision of places.

**Table 6 Supply/Demand Analysis by Ward – Long Day Care**

Ward	No. of Child. 0-5 2001	LDC Places child. 0-5	% LDC places per total child.	No. of child.3-5 2001	Pre-school places child. 3-5	% Pre-school places total child. 3-5	% using child care by ward	% parents both working full-time or one full-time/one part-time
<b>Bellevue Hill</b>	545	43	8%	293	-	0%	50%	54%
<b>Vaucluse</b>	867	88	10%	431	90	21%	46%	52%
<b>Cooper</b>	475	111	23%	217	30	14%	58%	74%
<b>Double Bay</b>	410	-	0%	192	100	52%	10%	41%
<b>Paddington</b>	420	78	18%	154	70	45%	47%	72%
<b>Total LGA</b>	<b>2717</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>1287</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>42.2% average</b>	<b>61% average</b>

According to the Community Study for Families with Children 11 Years and under undertaken by Micromex Research approximately 76% of households with families with **children aged 0-5** years of age use a child care or Pre-School service. Some households have more than one child under 5 using a service. 50% of the services used are located within the LGA.

A further total of 41% of families with **children aged 0-2** identified that they are on a wait list for services and 19% of families with **children aged 3-5** are on a wait list for services. Double Bay (30%) and Paddington (32%) wards had the highest percentage of children on waiting lists for child care services.

Current combined child care provision (Long Day Care and Pre-School) is provided for approximately 35% of the total population of children aged 0-5 years, although 61% of both parents work full-time or part-time.

Maps in *Appendix 3 Child Care Needs Assessment* show the number of Long Day Care places, number of Pre-School places, number of children, and percentage of child care places provided by suburb across the LGA.

### 9.3 Child Care Needs

Based on the number of child care places provided within the LGA, the number of children aged 0-2 and 3-5, and the percentage of working parents in each Ward, the following assumptions can be made in relation to Long Day Care and Pre-School needs in the Woollahra LGA.

1. There are only 83 Long Day Care places for a total of 1420 children aged 0-2 years across the LGA and 58% of both parents working. This represents Long Day Care places only 6% of the 0-2 year population with a total of 58% of families with both parents working. This is a significant gap in service provision for this age group.
2. In particular the suburbs of Bellevue Hill (252 children aged 0-2) and Vaucluse (221 children aged 0-2 years) have no child care places for 0-2 year olds, but the largest number of children in the LGA.
3. There are a total of 1297 children aged 3-5 years and only 290 Pre-School places. This represents places for 23% of children in this age group in the LGA. ABS data identified that 66% of children from Woollahra LGA access Pre-School services, and Micromex Community Study identified that 76% of families identified Pre-School Services as highly important. Therefore it can be assumed there is a large gap in provision of Pre-School places in the LGA.
4. Double Bay has no Long Day Care and the largest increase in children 0-4 and 5-9 in the LGA. There is a high proportion of full-time home carers caring for their children at home in Double Bay suggesting that Occasional Care Services may be more appropriate than Long Day Care for this area.
5. There are only two Family Day Care providers in the LGA. Over 70% of respondents to the Micromex Community Study rated Family Day Care as highly important, indicating a need for more Family Day Care providers for provision of long day care for 0-5 year olds in the LGA.

#### 9.4 Key Priorities & Council's Role

The following key priority areas, and Council's role in addressing them, have been identified for the provision of child care in the Woollahra LGA.

**Table 7 Child Care – Key Priorities and Council's Role and Opportunities**

Key Priorities	Council's Role and Opportunities
Address the under supply of Long Day Care for 0-2 year olds.	<p>As a land use planner, Council can plan to encourage development of appropriate and quality child care in the LGA with provision for an equitable number of 0-2 and 3-5 places provided before development consent will be approved.</p> <p>As a collaborator and social planner, Council can work with Waverley Family Day Care to encourage Family Day Care providers to be established within the LGA.</p>
Address the under supply of Pre-School places for children aged 2/3-5.	As a custodian of public assets, Council can assess the redevelopment opportunities of community facilities to enable increased Pre-School places.
Address the child care needs of priority suburbs in the LGA.	As a land use planner, Council can provide planning guidelines for development of new child care centres encouraging new services to open in suburbs with priority need.

## **10 CONSULTATION**

The following is a summary of the Community Consultation completed for this Children's Services Strategy. Detailed outcomes of consultation are attached *Appendix 4 Community Consultation Families and Children*.

### **10.1 Community Study**

Council commissioned Micromex Research to undertake a Community-Based Study to assess attitudes towards current provision of services and facilities by Council, and to identify the needs of the Community and the values placed on them. 1200 randomly selected households throughout Woollahra Council LGA were interviewed providing a maximum sampling error or plus or minus 2.8% at 95% confidence.

Of the 1200 people interviewed, all respondents with children 11 years and under were asked a series of questions relating specifically to their family demographic. The total number of families with children 11 years and under interviewed was 150. A sample size of 150 residents provides a maximum sampling error or plus or minus 7.8% at 95% confidence.

A copy of the questions asked to Families with Children 11 years and under is attached **Appendix 4**. The following information is a summary of the outcomes of these Studies.

#### **10.1.1 Community Study – 1200 Residents**

In relation to the questions asked in the overall Community Study, it is important to note that although only 11% of the households interviewed as part of the Community Study were families with children 11 years and under, 70% of residents surveyed rated child care as highly important.

Specifically, 72% of residents rated child care as highly important, 13% as of medium importance and only 14% rated child care as of low importance. This was consistent across the wards.

Child Care Services rated 20<sup>th</sup> in the top 22 highest priority services in the next 10 years.

#### **10.1.2 Targeted Survey Families 11 Years and Under**

The outcomes of these Surveys was that:

- 93% of families had either one or two children.
- Pre-School and Family Day Care were the most important issues that needed to be addressed in the LGA.
- 76% respondents with children 0-5 used a child care or Pre-School service
- The major issues in accessing children's services were that nothing was available/lack of service

- 18% respondents with children 0-5 were on waiting lists. 41% of respondents with children 0-2 were on waiting lists.
- Waiting lists for Pre-School, Long Day Care is between 10 and 22 months.
- The average number of lists the respondents were on is 4.3 months for an average period of 16 months
- 7% of households were single parents.
- Five services achieved significantly low levels of dissatisfaction:
  - Occasional Care – 36% Low
  - Long Day Care – 36% Low
  - Pre-School – 30% Low
  - Family Day Care - 28% Low
  - Home Based Care – 27% Low
  - Recreation and Cultural Programs - 22% Low
- The three services with the highest level of satisfaction were
  - Home child care through Grandparent - 55% High
  - Early Child Health Centres - 65% High
  - Playgroups – 55% High

**Appendix 4** details how residents, by ward, rated the importance of specific services for children.

## 10.2 Written Surveys

As part of the Social Needs Study 2004, surveys were sent to children's service providers servicing the Woollahra LGA. Many private child care centres did not respond to the survey, however, 31 surveys from children's services organisations were returned including from Long Day Care, family support services and pre-schools in the area. A copy of the Survey sent to service providers, a list of respondents, and the outcomes of the surveys is attached **Appendix 4**.

A list of services who responded and outcomes of the Written Surveys are detailed in **Appendix 4**.

### 10.2.1 Issues

The following issues were raised by respondents in responses to the written surveys.

- There are not enough Long Day Care places for 0-2 year olds, with long wait lists at all centres.
- There are not enough Pre-School places for 3-5 year olds and a high demand for high quality Pre-School opportunities and focus on educational programs.
- There is a lack of Family Day Care.
- Early assessment and referral of children with developmental delay is needed.
- Free eye checks, hearing tests, speech tests to identify development problems early would be beneficial.
- There is a high demand for locally targeted programs such as family support services and workshops.
- There is adequate supply in the provision of After-School Programs as is evidenced by Holdsworth Street and Woollahra Primary amalgamating in 2005 due to reduced numbers at both programs.
- Re-licensing is difficult for established day care providers – particularly Home-Based Care.
- Children with special needs need to be integrated into regular child care services.
- There is a lack of adequate special education training for child care and primary school teachers.
- Low cost support services for families with issues such as relationship breakdown are needed.
- Fees for child care within Woollahra are high and there is a need for fee relief for high needs families.
- Accessing trained staff in the area is difficult.

### **10.3 Interviews with Service Providers**

From September 2004 to November 2004 12 children's service providers were interviewed to identify issues, needs and service gaps:

- Woollahra Kindergarten
- Sir Phillip Baxter Child Care Centre
- Early Child Health Centres
- Double Bay – 1 Cross Street, Double Bay
- Paddington – The Gate House Cottage, 188 Oxford Street
- Bondi Beach Cottage Family Centre
- Child and Family Health Team, War Memorial Hospital
- The Benevolent Society & The Eastern Sydney Scarba Service
- Tumbatin Clinic, Sydney Children's Hospital
- The Third Bear Child Care Centre
- Eastern Respite and Recreation
- Jewish Care
- Holdsworth Street Community Centre

In addition, a workshop was held with Children's Service Providers on Thursday 11 November to confirm the issues and to identify potential strategies.

Issues identified through Consultation with Children's Service Providers are:

- There are long waiting lists at Long Day Care centres and Pre-Schools servicing the Woollahra area.
- There is high demand for Pre-School services providing social and educational support for children and preparing them for school.
- There is potentially a need for Vacation Care services for under 5s as more parents are using Pre-Schools and do not have care during school holidays.
- Occasional Child Care is often requested by new mothers in the Double Bay area.
- Playgroups are popular within the Woollahra area.
- In December 2002 – December 2003, there were 471 new babies registered at the Double Bay Early Childhood Health Centre, placing pressure on nursing services.
- There is a lack of awareness amongst service providers of existing family support services.
- Land prices are too high and private operators find it difficult to operate here.
- Sir Phillip Baxter Child Care Centre does not get many referrals for children with special needs anymore.

- Mothers in Woollahra LGA use the Benevolent Society Volunteer Home Visiting service for new mums and babies.
- Currently there are 80 families from the Woollahra area accessing Sydney Children's Hospital Tumbatin Developmental Clinic.
- Support for isolated mothers is very important, with many overseas born parents, who have limited social networks, and whose partners work long hours. Networking and social support programs are needed.
- There is a need for more community building activities.
- Facilities for prams, baby change rooms and places for mothers groups are needed.

#### **10.4 Interviews with Playgroups**

The Rose Bay Cottage and Holdsworth Street Playgroups were attended and parents attending the playgroups were interviewed in relation to services for children in the Woollahra Community. Approximately 95% of the carers at playgroup were women, with 25% of those nannies. Main issues identified were:

- About 40% of the carers were nannies.
- Mothers were predominantly in their mid to late 30s or early 40s.
- It is difficult to access pre-school and long day care services.
- Some mothers believed that like North Sydney Council, Woollahra Council should work with child care services and give preferential treatment to local use of local centres.
- Thought that some playgrounds could be improved.
- One mother from London, recently moved, was finding it very difficult to get care for her children and was paying \$180 a day for her two children at Bondi Junction. She was also finding it very difficult to get social support and to meet people and would most likely leave the area.

## **10.5 Interview with Woollahra Kindergarten Parents Committee**

Outcomes of meeting with the Woollahra Kindergarten Parents Committee:

- More Family Day Care providers in the Woollahra area would be welcomed by local parents
- There is a need for more 0 – 2 baby places in Woollahra.
- Parents in this community are concerned about parenting in the best way possible, and seek support through Early Child Health Centres and other networks
- It is difficult to access mothers groups, and more mothers groups would be greatly appreciated, particularly for those older mothers who have left careers and are looking for social support in the community.

## **10.6 Interviews with Council Staff**

Council staff were interviewed as follows in relation to Children's Services issues including:

- Director, Community Services
- Coordinator Family and Community Development
- Director Woollahra Kindergarten
- Manager, Library Services
- Coordinator Aged and Disability Services
- Manager Strategic Planning
- Director Planning and Development
- Manager, Public Open Space
- Manger, Property and Projects

Issues identified by Council staff included:

- Opposition from local residents, high cost of land, lack of undeveloped land, and ability to access appropriate drop-off and pick-up and parking make it difficult to open new child care centres.
- There are not enough Family Day Care providers within the LGA.
- Because of the high incidence of private child care providers, some children are missing out on community early intervention assessment services that children in some community and government centres receive.
- There area is well serviced with OOSH Care Services.
- There is a need for more Pre-School places, as there is a high emphasis on education and socialisation prior to children attending school.
- Older people are moving into hostels and more young families are moving into the area into units and homes.
- There is potentially a need for some Vacation Care for 0-5s during school holidays from Pre-Schools.

- Playgroups for children with a disability would be beneficial, or provision of specialist services at existing playgroups.
- No Occasional Care is provided within the LGA.

### **10.7 Interviews with Other Government Agencies**

Manager Community Services, Waverley Council; and Manager Children's Services; and Social Planning Coordinator City of Sydney Councils, were interviewed in relation to regional children's services issues:

- Child care centres are closing because of DoCS requirements regarding upgrading and many cannot afford to open baby places in their centres.
- Westfield Bondi Junction has just opened a new purpose built Long Day Care and Pre-School facility with 63 places. The cost is \$70 - \$90 per day. Already all baby places are full with up to one-year waiting list.
- Waverley Council now runs Family Day Care for City of Sydney, Woollahra, and Waverley LGAs.
- Home Based Care is not part of Family Day Care. Waverley requires all people wanting to start a Home Based Carer business to lodge a DCP to ensure that the building environment is appropriate.
- City of Sydney is conducting a child care needs analysis and is finalising a Development Control Plan for child care centres.

## 10.8 Key Priorities & Council's Role

Based on the demographics for children aged 0-11 years and their families, the following priority needs have been identified. Council can address these priority needs in a number of ways – as a Direct Provider, a Funder, a Planner, an Advocate, an Information Provider, and a Collaborator through community partnerships.

**Table 8 Consultation – Key Priorities and Council's Role and Opportunities**

Key Priorities	Council's Role and Opportunities
Address the child care needs of an increasing number of children 0-5 in the LGA.	As a social planner, land use planner, and custodian of public assets, Council can investigate opportunities for increased child care places through planning controls and existing facilities.
Increased parenting advice and access to Early Child Health Centres.	Council can advocate for increased resources at the Double Bay and Paddington Early Childhood Health Centres. In particular, Double Bay Early Childhood Health Centre is finding it difficult to adequately service the needs of new mothers in the LGA.
Support for families and children through Council's library services	Council can continue as a direct provider for services for family and children through its library services.
There is a need for targeted and improved promotion of family support services and mothers groups, and affordable and appropriate facilities to deliver services/programs.	As an information provider, Council can coordinate information and promotion of family support services and provide access to community facilities to deliver programs.  As a funder, Council can evaluate family support funding to ensure that priority issues are being addressed.
There is limited access to early intervention and assessment services to identify physical or intellectual disabilities, and high use of private services disconnecting residents from community networks.	Council can advocate for increased intervention and assessment services for children with a disability.
The public domain needs to be family friendly through provision of baby rooms in toilets and pram accessible community facilities	As a land use planner, Council can plan for all new developments to include baby change facilities.

## 11 STRATEGIC PLAN

### 11.1 Vision

Woollahra Council's vision for families and children 0-11 years of age is:

*To support and provide a diverse range of quality and accessible services and facilities for the families and children of the Woollahra LGA.*

### 11.2 Objectives

Objectives have been developed in relation to the priority needs identified through this Children's Services Strategy as follows:

1. Increase Pre-School places for 0-2 year olds.
2. Increase Long Day Care Places for 0-2 year olds.
3. Provide and facilitate an equitable distribution of children's services across the LGA – particularly in areas with increasing populations of children.
4. Improve services for socially isolated new mothers.
5. Target family support services and access to facilities to deliver programs.
6. Improve access to early intervention and assessment services.
7. Improve public domain facilities for parents and children.

### 11.3 Strategies

Strategies to address these Objectives and Council's role are detailed in the Strategic Plan overpage in **Table 9**.

The following symbols have been used to signify the time period for implementation of the Strategy;

- ST - Short Term 1 - 2 years  
MT - Medium Term 3 - 5 years  
LT - Long Term 6 - 10 years

The role of Council in addressing each Objective has been defined using the following symbols:

- D - Direct Service Provider – where Council manages the service directly through staff and funding.  
P - Planning Role – as a social planner, land use planner and development controls.  
A - Advocate – to government departments, organisations, businesses and other stakeholders.  
F - Funder – through the allocation of grant or subsidy funding to another organisation.  
C - Collaboration/Partnership – working with other organisations.  
I - Information Provision/Promotion – information dissemination and promotional campaigns.

## 11.4 Objectives and Strategies

The following table is a 10 year framework providing strategies to address the objectives resulting from this Study.

**Table 9 Children’s Service Strategic Plan 10 Year Framework**

OBJECTIVE	EVIDENCE	STRATEGY	TIME FRAME	COUNCIL’S ROLE
<b>Objective 1</b>  <b>Increase Long Day Care places for 0-2 year olds and Pre-School places 3-5 year olds.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing 0-5 year olds across LGA - 1430 0-2, up 2.8% a year since 1996 and 850 3-5, up 1.1% a year since 1996</li> <li>Only 83 child care places for 0-2 year olds (equal to only 6% of the 0-2 population with 58% both parents working).</li> <li>All Centres have long wait lists</li> <li>No Occasional Care services in LGA</li> <li>Only 2 Family Day Care Providers</li> <li>No Home-based child care</li> <li>Pre School, Family Day Care and Long Day Care Services rated as the most important issues to be addressed by Council in the Household Community Survey for Families with Children 0-11.</li> <li>The Study showed that 75% of families with children 0-5 use child care or Pre-School and 18% are on a wait list. All of those on a wait list are for children 0-2 years of age. On average, in 58% of families, both parents work full-time or one full-time, one part-time.</li> <li>Child care Services rated an importance rating of 4 out of 5 in the Community Study of 1200 residents conducted by Micromex Research.</li> </ul>	<b>Strategy 1.1</b> Investigate and implement the development of planning controls, if appropriate, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage an increase in the number of child care places particularly for 0-2 year olds</li> <li>Encourage child care across the municipality.</li> </ul>	ST	Land Use Planner
		<b>Strategy 1.2</b> Conduct a Feasibility Study of existing facilities to identify the potential to increase Pre-School places for 3-5 year olds and Long Day Care for 0-2 year olds.	MT	Direct Provider
		<b>Strategy 1.3</b> Conduct a Feasibility Study to adapt Rose Bay Cottage to a multipurpose community centre with potential for part-time Occasional Care	MT-LT	Direct Provider, Funder
		<b>Strategy 1.5</b> Work with Waverley Council’s Family Day Care Service to promote opening of Family Day Care centres by local residents in particular in Bellevue Hill, Vacluse, and Double Bay.	ST-LT	Collaborator
		<b>Strategy 1.6</b> Investigate the development of a grant/subsidy scheme for existing child care centres to set up baby rooms for high needs families.	MT	Social Planner Funder
		<b>Strategy 1.7</b> Include child care facilities as priority community facilities in the Section 94 Plan, with particular emphasis on Double Bay and Bellevue Hill.	LT	Land Use Planner Funder

OBJECTIVE	EVIDENCE	STRATEGY	TIME FRAME	COUNCIL'S ROLE
<p><b>Objective 2</b></p> <p><b>More Equitable Distribution of Children's Services Across the LGA – Particularly in Areas with Increasing Populations of Children.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The suburb of Bellevue Hill has only 43 child care places (LDC &amp; Preschool combined) and 545 children 0-5. The suburb of Vaucluse has 466 children aged 0-5 and only 63 child care places.</li> <li>• Rose Bay has 359 children aged 0-5 and 114 child care places. There are currently two applications to Council for increased child care places in centres in Rose Bay.</li> <li>• Double Bay has 193 children 0-5 but an annual increase in babies 0-2 of 6%. There is no long day care in Double Bay.</li> <li>• Most child care centres and Pre-Schools are in Woollahra, Paddington and Rose Bay. These suburbs have growing child populations - Woollahra is up by 6.7% a year since 1996 and Double Bay up by 5%. Rose Bay is the next highest.</li> <li>• No child care in Watson Bay or Point Piper but less than 60 children 0-5.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy 2.2</b> Support private development of child care centres in priority suburbs through appropriate planning controls.</p>	Ongoing	Land Use Planner
<p><b>Objective 3</b></p> <p><b>Improved Services for Socially Isolated New Mothers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% of mothers of 0-5 year olds are over 35 years of age, 30% 25-34.</li> <li>• Many of the mothers at the Double Bay ECHC are new immigrants from South Africa and Russia and do not have community connections or family support.</li> <li>• Double Bay Early Child Health Centre experience a lot of mothers with post-natal depression/maternal mental illness.</li> <li>• 7% of parents are single parents, highest in Double Bay.</li> <li>• Many new mothers have come from a corporate background, their partners work long hours, and they do not have community support networks.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy 3.1</b> Work with Early Childhood Health Centres, Holdsworth Street Community Centre and Benevolent Society to develop programs to support new mothers.</p> <p><b>Strategy 3.2</b> In partnership with the Benevolent Society, promote the Volunteer Home Visiting Service for participation by community members.</p> <p><b>Strategy 3.3</b> Promote existing services for new mothers.</p> <p><b>Strategy 3.4</b> Advocate for increased resources at the Double Bay Early Childhood Health Centre</p>	<p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>MT</p>	<p>Collaborator</p> <p>Collaborator, Information Provider</p> <p>Information Provider</p> <p>Advocate</p>

OBJECTIVE	EVIDENCE	STRATEGY	TIME FRAME	COUNCIL'S ROLE
<p><b>Objective 4</b></p> <p><b>Targeted Family Support Services and Access to Facilities to Deliver Programs.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Early Child Health Centres in Double Bay and Paddington do not have program delivery space and spaces for mothers groups to discuss parenting issues and meet other mothers.</li> <li>• Mothers interviewed in playgroups expressed need to learn about parenting and child development, particularly in first 5 years.</li> <li>• Mothers interviewed at Woollahra Kindergarten Parents Committee expressed need for support and advice on parenting, and places to attend programs.</li> <li>• 95% of child care services in LGA are private and do not have community assessment services that community centres receive (for example, Speech pathology, developmental checks)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy 4.1</b> Investigate use of non-Council owned venues in the community such as Vaucluse Bowling Club, for use by community groups as program space.</p> <p><b>Strategy 4.2</b> Include parenting resources in library and include on Council Website.</p> <p><b>Strategy 4.3</b> Evaluate family support funding provided by Council to ensure that priority issues are being addressed, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support child care centres</li> <li>• attend playgroups and provide assessment services,</li> <li>• support establishment of networks for isolated mothers,</li> <li>• provide up-to-date resources to parents,</li> <li>• support for special needs children, and</li> <li>• provide information to families.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy 4.4</b> Target and support existing family services and provide opportunities for interagency links, for example, with Jewish Care and Benevolent Society, and HSCC.</p> <p><b>Strategy 4.5</b> Promote family support services.</p> <p><b>Strategy 4.6</b> Develop outreach services from Council's Children's Library, and use the library space at HSCC for community programs.</p> <p><b>Strategy 4.7</b> Continue to develop activities and collection in the children's library service targeted to specific age groups from 0-11 years.</p>	<p>ST</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Collaborator</p> <p>Direct Provider</p> <p>Direct Provider</p> <p>Collaborator</p> <p>Information Provider</p> <p>Direct Provider</p> <p>Direct Provider</p>

OBJECTIVE	EVIDENCE	STRATEGY	TIME FRAME	COUNCIL'S ROLE
<p><b>Objective 5</b></p> <p><b>Improved Access to Early Intervention and Assessment Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most local private Long Day Care Centres &amp; Pre-Schools do not have special needs places or staff trained to identify early developmental delays.</li> <li>• SUPS funding is going out of area. Waverley "SUPS" is a service offering referral, consultation and advice and training to child care services and families in Waverley.</li> <li>• There are only 7 on the team at Tumbatin (Sydney Children's Hospital Assessment Service for children) and a 4-6 month wait for services. 80 Woollahra families accessing service and many on wait list. Referred to private Doctors meaning the child does not gain access to services in the public system and ongoing community support.</li> <li>• In South East Sydney region 4% of children have some sort of disability.</li> <li>• Over 1000 children in South East Sydney region are waiting for assessment services.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy 5.1</b> Council to work with DoCS to ensure that any future licensing of child care centres in the Woollahra LGA allows for places for children with special needs.</p> <p><b>Strategy 5.2</b> Advocate for adequate SUPS funding and services for the Woollahra LGA and assist to assist parents of children with special needs.</p> <p><b>Strategy 5.3</b> Engage childhood development professionals to attend local playgroups and talk to parents about issues and services.</p> <p><b>Strategy 5.4</b> Work regionally with SSROC to increase public health services in the region for early intervention and assessment services.</p> <p><b>Strategy 5.5</b> Advocate for Families First funding for Early Assessment services.</p>	<p>ST &amp; Ongoing</p> <p>ST &amp; Ongoing</p> <p>MT</p> <p>ST &amp; Ongoing</p> <p>ST</p>	<p>Advocate</p> <p>Advocate</p> <p>Direct Provider</p> <p>Collaborator</p> <p>Advocate</p>
<p><b>Objective 6</b></p> <p><b>Improved Public Domain Facilities for Parents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with Early Child Health Workers and local parents identified that there is a lack of facilities for parents in the urban domain such as pram parking, baby change rooms, public toilets.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy 6.5</b> Include requirements for parent facilities and pram access in all new developments including in conditions of consent.</p>	<p>MT</p>	<p>Land Use Planner</p>

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## Appendix 1 Detailed Demographics

### 1 DEMOGRAPHICS

The following demographics are based on 2001 ABS data including adjustments made for the decrease in population numbers when Bondi Junction was transferred to Waverley Council on 13 February 2003. Making adjustments for the loss of Bondi Junction, on Census Night 2001 Woollahra LGA had a total population of 49,911 people an increase of about 425 people since 1996, or 0.2%.

In relation to children aged 0-11, Woollahra LGA had 5,451 children aged 11 years and under, up by 665 or 12.5% since 1996. In 2001, there were 2,265 (aged 0-4), up 10% since 1996, and 3,186 children of primary school age (5 -11) up 14.5% since 1996.

#### 1.1 Age Structure – 2001 Figures

The age structure of children 11 years and under in Woollahra is shown in **Table 1** below. The number of 0-11 year olds in Woollahra is less than the Sydney and NSW averages. However, for children aged 0-4, their share of the Woollahra population rose by 0.4% since 1996, and for children aged 5-11, their share of the Woollahra population rose by 0.8% (Sydney down 0.3% and 0.1% respectively). This shows an increase in children in the Woollahra area, as compared with Sydney as a whole.

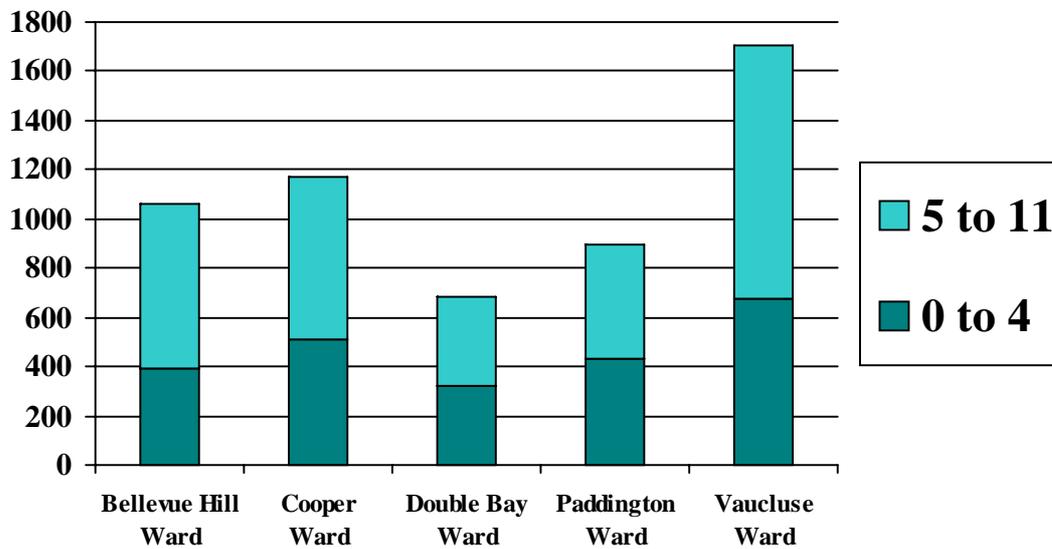
**Table 1 Total Children 0-11 compared to Sydney & NSW**

	0-2	3-4	5-11	Total Children under 12
<b>Woollahra LGA Total</b>	<b>1427</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>3,186</b>	<b>5461</b>
Woollahra LGA %	2.8%	1.7%	6.4%	10.9%
Sydney %	3.9%	2.7%	9.4%	16.1%
NSW %	3.9%	2.7%	9.8%	16.5%

#### 1.2 Number of Children by Ward

**Figure 1** overpage shows where children aged 0-11 years live by ward. By far, Vacluse ward has the highest number of children with 1,708 children. This is followed by Cooper ward with 1,204 children, Bellevue Hill ward with 1,058 children, Paddington ward with 898 children, and Double Bay ward with 687 children.

**Figure 1 0—11 years by Ward**



### 1.3 Percentage Change by Post Code

The Department of Community Services (DoCS) Metro Central Region, South East Sydney Network Profile has collated detailed data on each Council within the South East Network. For Woollahra, this data is based on 2001 ABS figures that do not account for the loss of residents to Bondi Junction in 2003.

DoCS data is provided in 0-4 year and 5-9 year cohorts and by postcode. Outcomes of this data shows that the suburb of Double Bay (Post Code 2028) has consistently high increases in 0-9 year olds. The number of 0-4 year olds has increased by 44.6%, 5-9 year olds by 35.7% since 1996. By comparison, DOCS data shows that in Woollahra (Post Code 2025) 0-4 year olds have increased by 34%, in Point Piper, Edgecliff and Darling Point (Post Code 2027) 0-4 year olds has increased by 20.2% and 5-9 year olds by 23.5% and in Vaucluse and Watsons Bay (Post Code 2030) 0-4 year olds have increased by 17.8% and 5-9 year olds by 6.9%<sup>1</sup>.

**Figure 2** overpage shows the percentage change for 0-9 years olds between 1996 and 2001 by postcode.

<sup>1</sup> Barbara Beard (WESTIR Ltd) for the Department of Community Services Metro Central Region, South East Sydney Network Profile, August 2004, p.24

**Figure 2 Percentage Change 1996-2001, 0-9 year olds<sup>2</sup>**

Suburb	0-4	5-9
2021 - Paddington	-10.0%	-3.7%
2023 - Bellevue Hill	-7.3%	7.3%
2025 - Woollahra	34.1%	-4.1%
2027 - Edgecliff, Darling Point, and Point Piper	20.2%	23.5%
2028 - Double Bay	44.6%	35.7%
2029 - Rose Bay	10.5%	24.3%
2030 - Vaucluse & Watsons Bay	17.8%	6.9%

## 1.4 Education

In Woollahra in 2001, 29% of primary students (aged 5-11) attended public schools. This proportion was much lower than Sydney's of 68%. Attendance at Catholic schools by 12% of primary aged students was at a lower rate than Sydney's 21%. Non-catholic private schools attracted 59% of primary students, much higher than Sydney's rates of 10% and 16%. Approximately 66% of Pre-School aged children (3-4) attended Pre-Schools, higher than the Sydney average of 56%. Five year olds have been included in the demographics for primary school attendance as this is the age children start primary school in NSW. However, many children turn five whilst still at Pre-School, so the actual number of children attending Pre-School is probably higher than the **Table 2** below.

**Table 2 Attendance at Schooling by Ward**

Ward	%3-4s at Pre-School	%5-11s at Primary
Bellevue Hill	70%	89%
Cooper	55%	76%
Double Bay	51%	81%
Paddington	58%	74%
Vaucluse	66%	85%
<b>Woollahra Total</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>82%</b>
Sydney	56%	91%
NSW	58%	92%

<sup>2</sup> Barbara Beard (WESTIR Ltd) for the Department of Community Services Metro Central Region, South East Sydney Network Profile, August 2004, p.24

## 1.5 Children with a Disability

Conclusive data on the number of children with a disability aged 0-11 in the Woollahra area is not available. However, according to a *Report on the findings of the Early Childhood Intervention Services Survey*<sup>3</sup> approximately 4% of children aged 0 –5 in South East Sydney have a disability.

The Woollahra Household Disability Survey 1998 identified that 5% of children aged 0-4 had some form of disability (253 Physical and 28 intellectual), and 7% of children 5-11 had some form or disability (368 physical and 40 intellectual).

## 1.6 Families

In 2001 ABS data showed that Woollahra had some 19,700 households, of which the majority (57%) were family households, including about 91 with more than one family. The average family household had 2.9 people.

Most commonly people lived as part of a couple, with 44% of people living this way in Woollahra. About 19% of couples were not married in 2001, much higher than Sydney's rate of 11%. As well, there were 1,347 lone parent (6% of the population and 12% of all families). Single parents in Woollahra were overwhelmingly female, with 6.6 single mothers for every single father. As a proportion of the population, single parents were common in Watson's Bay (4.2%), Double Bay (3.6%), and Rose Bay (3.6%). 72% of single parents are working either full-time or part-time.

Living with the couple and single parents, were some 11,000 children and young people, most commonly a child under 15 years. These represented 24% of the people compared with 25% of Sydney.

## 1.7 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

The majority of people in Woollahra were born in Australia and spoke English at home (26,597 persons). Another 11,514 were born overseas but spoke English at home and 1,574 were born in Australia but spoke another language.

Across Woollahra, 58% of the population was born in Australia, and 32% were born overseas (the rest are unknown). The overseas born population was similar to Sydney's rate of 31% but not in relation to linguistically

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<sup>3</sup> Report on the findings of the Early Childhood Intervention Services Survey<sup>3</sup> November 2003 SEH Clinical Services and Policy Unit on behalf of the South Eastern Sydney ECICP Area Committee

diverse population. The greatest variations were in Woollahra's relatively larger communities from South Africa, France, United States, and Poland.

The most common foreign birthplaces in Woollahra were United Kingdom (7.9%) New Zealand (3.7%), South Africa (3.4%) United States (1.4%) and Germany (1.0%).

According to DoCS research, the vast majority of people in Woollahra were born in Australia and spoke English at home. There were 701 Greek language speakers in Woollahra and of these 439 were born in Australia and 198 in Southern and Eastern Europe. This group included 98 children aged 0-18 years who made up 14% of all Greek speakers. Similar patterns were found among Italian speakers. There were a total of 541 Hungarian speakers in the LGA with 458 being born in Europe and only 56 in Australia. This may indicate older immigrants as only ten (1.8%) Hungarian speakers were aged 0-18 years.

Cantonese speakers were another large group in the LGA. Out of a total of 598 Cantonese speakers, 370 were born in North East Asia and 100 in South East Asia. Only 96 were born in Australia. This group also had a high proportion of children 0-18 years (127 children or 21.2%). There were 124 Indonesian speakers in Woollahra. There were 46 children (31.7%) in this group and only 24 of all Indonesian speakers were born in Australia. Thai speakers also had a high proportion of children (29 children or 30.5%) and fewer people born in Australia (9 out of a total of 95 persons).

## **1.8 Religious Diversity**

Across all ages, the largest religions in Woollahra in 2001 were Anglican (21%) Catholic (20%) Judaism (13%) Orthodox Christian (3%) and Presbyterian (3%). Compared to Sydney, the religions which were more common in Woollahra were Judaism, Orthodox Christian and Lutheran.

## **1.9 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander**

In 2001, Woollahra had an indigenous population of 89 people or 0.18% of the total population of 49,911. No data is available on the ages of indigenous children aged 0-11 in Woollahra LGA.

## **1.10 Mature Age Mothers**

In 2001, females aged 35 years or older accounted for 2,348 births in the South East Sydney Network. This was equivalent to 24.3% of all births. Waverley LGA had the highest percentage of births by mothers 35 years or older in the South East Sydney Network with 29.2%, and Woollahra was next at 26.1%.

## Appendix 2 Children's Services in Woollahra LGA

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### 2 CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### 2.1 Background

The provision of child care services within a community does not always match the needs of parents. In Woollahra LGA and other innercity Council areas, the high cost and unavailability of development sites may deter providers from establishing services, even though there is a high demand. Consequently, local families are experiencing a lack of affordable, accessible child care. This is the case in Woollahra LGA.

With the cost of establishing child care centres increasing, capital and operational funding having been withdrawn from local government and community child care centres by the Commonwealth in 1997, and increasingly strict DoCS standards for child care centres, it is also becoming increasingly difficult for small private providers to set up new Centres.

#### 2.2 All Child Care Centres within LGA

A list of all child care centres including: Pre-Schools, Long Day Care, Occasional Care, Family Day Care and Home-Based Child Care is attached below. In summary Woollahra LGA has:

- 10 Long Day Care Centres – 310 places per day - 96 places for 0-2, and 214 places for 2-6 year olds
- 8 Pre-Schools – 290 places per day for 2/3-5
- 2 Family Day Care Providers – 10 places per day
- 0 Home Based Care Providers – 0 places

**Table 3 Child Care Services Located within Woollahra LGA**

	Service	Suburb	Type	Places Available		Wait List	Age
				Total No.	Special Needs		
	<b>LONG DAY CARE CENTRES WITHIN LGA</b>						
1.	Ballykin at Rose Bay	Rose Bay	LDC	15 Application in to extend to 42 (2-5)	No	Yes for 2-3 not 4-5	2-3
2.	Kinderworld	Rose Bay	LDC	24		Yes – 1 year	2-5
3.	Sir Philip Baxter Child Care Centre	Woollahra	LDC	55 total 35 (0-2) 20 (3-5)	Yes.	Yes. 200 (0-2)	0-5
4.	St Stephen's Children's Centre	Bellevue Hill	LDC/PS	43 total	Depends on level of need	Yes 100	2-5
5.	Sydney Day Nursery, Paddington	Paddington	LDC	73 total 25 (0-2) 48 (3-5)	Yes	Yes 200 (0-2) 100 (3-5)	0-6
6.	The Third Bear Pre-School (Grosvenor Street)	Woollahra	LDC	22 Application to open new centre for 2-5		Yes	2-5
7.	The Third Bear Play School (Junction Street)	Woollahra	LDC	13		Yes	2-5
8.	Thumbelina Day Care Centre	Edgecliff	LDC	16 (0-2)	No	Yes 100	0-2
9.	Vaucluse Little School	Vaucluse	LDC	24		Yes 63 (58 W)	2-4
10.	Bo-Peep Kindergarten	Rose Bay	PS	25 0-2 (7) 3-5 (18)		Yes (8 Woollahra) 1 year wait.	3-6
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>0-2: 83</b> <b>2-6: 227</b> <b>310</b>			

	<b>PRE-SCHOOLS WITHIN WOOLLAHRA LGA</b>						
11.	Kinderworld	Rose Bay	PS	24		Yes (60 Woollahra res.) 6-12 month wait	2-5
12.	Kristin's Possum Pre-School	Rose Bay	PS	26		No	2-5
13.	Paddington Church of Christ Kindergarten	Paddington	PS	30			2-5
14.	Peter Pan Pre-School	Paddington	PS	40		Yes (150 Woollahra res.) up to 3 year wait.	3-5
15.	St Mark's Pre-School	Darling Point	PS	40		Yes 70 Woollahra res. 2 – 3 year wait	3-5
16.	St Michael's Pre-School	Vaucluse	PS	40		Yes (50+ Woollahra res.)	3-5
17.	Temple Emanuel Woollahra Kindergarten	Woollahra	PS	30			3-5
18.	Woollahra Kindergarten	Double Bay	PS	60	Yes	Yes (100)	3-6
	<b>TOTAL PRE-SCHOOL PLACES WOOLLAHRA LGA:</b>			<b>290</b>			
	<b>FAMILY DAY CARE</b>						
19.	Family Day Care Paddington	Paddington	FDC	5			
20.	Family Day Care Woollahra	Woollahra	FDC	5			
	<b>TOTAL FAMILY DAY CARE PLACES WOOLLAHRA: 10</b>			<b>10</b>			
	<b>TOTAL CHILD CARE PLACES 0-5</b>			<b>610</b>			

### **Council Centres**

Council owns and operates one child care service in the Woollahra LGA.

The Woollahra Kindergarten, is a 60 place per day Pre-School in New South Head Road, Double Bay.

### **Community Child Care Centres**

Many of the child care centres in Woollahra are privately owned and operated. However, the following four centres are community owned and operated, three are located in Paddington.

- Paddington Church of Christ Pre-School Paddington
- Peter Pan Pre-School Paddington (Kindergarten Union)
- Sir Phillip Baxter Long Day Care Centre Woollahra (Benevolent Society)
- Sydney Day Nursery Paddington – Long Day Care

### **Private Centres**

In addition to the above Council and community child care services, there are 15 privately owned and operated child care centres in Woollahra. Specifically, there are 8 Long Day Care Centres, 5 Pre-Schools, and 2 Family Day Care providers.

## **2.3 Family Support Services**

### **Council Services**

Council supports family support services within the Woollahra LG through grants and subsidised accommodation to local community service providers, facilities for local residents for birthday parties and children's activities, and funding to Holdsworth Street Community Centre. Through *Holdsworth Street*

*Community Centre* Council provides the following Family Support Services for residents of Woollahra LGA:

- Daily Playgroups
- Positive parenting and child development classes

Council also supports the following playgroups:

- St Brigid's Library Double Bay
- Rose Bay Playgroup at Rose Bay Cottage
- Dover Heights Playgroup

### **Other Services**

**The Benevolent Society** provides child protection services in the South Eastern Sydney region and Volunteer Home Visiting Services for isolated families in South East Sydney.

### **Private Services**

There are a number of private services in the area offering childhood development services, such as Leap into Learning Health and Development and BabyBliss parent support services.

## **2.4 Out of School Hours Services (OOSH)**

### **Council Services**

Council provides up until February 2005, Vacation Care programs for children with a disability through Holdsworth Street Community Centre. This service has not been amalgamated with Woollahra Primary School.

### **Other Services**

All primary schools within the LGA have OOSH and Vacation Care Programs.

## **2.5 Early Child Health Centres**

Council supports two Early Child Health Centres by providing accommodation to these services operated by South East Sydney Area Health Service in Oxford Street Paddington and Cross Street Double Bay. These two Centres are highly used by new mothers.

## **2.6 Recreation and Culture**

### **Council Services**

Council supports recreation and culture for children and families through provision of 23 playgrounds, parks and outdoor pools and beaches. Council funds and provides grants to community service providers to provide school holiday programs. Council's libraries at Double Bay and Paddington also provide children's activities and special events.

### **Other Services**

There are a number of private providers of recreational and cultural services for children in the Woollahra LGA.

## **2.7 Education**

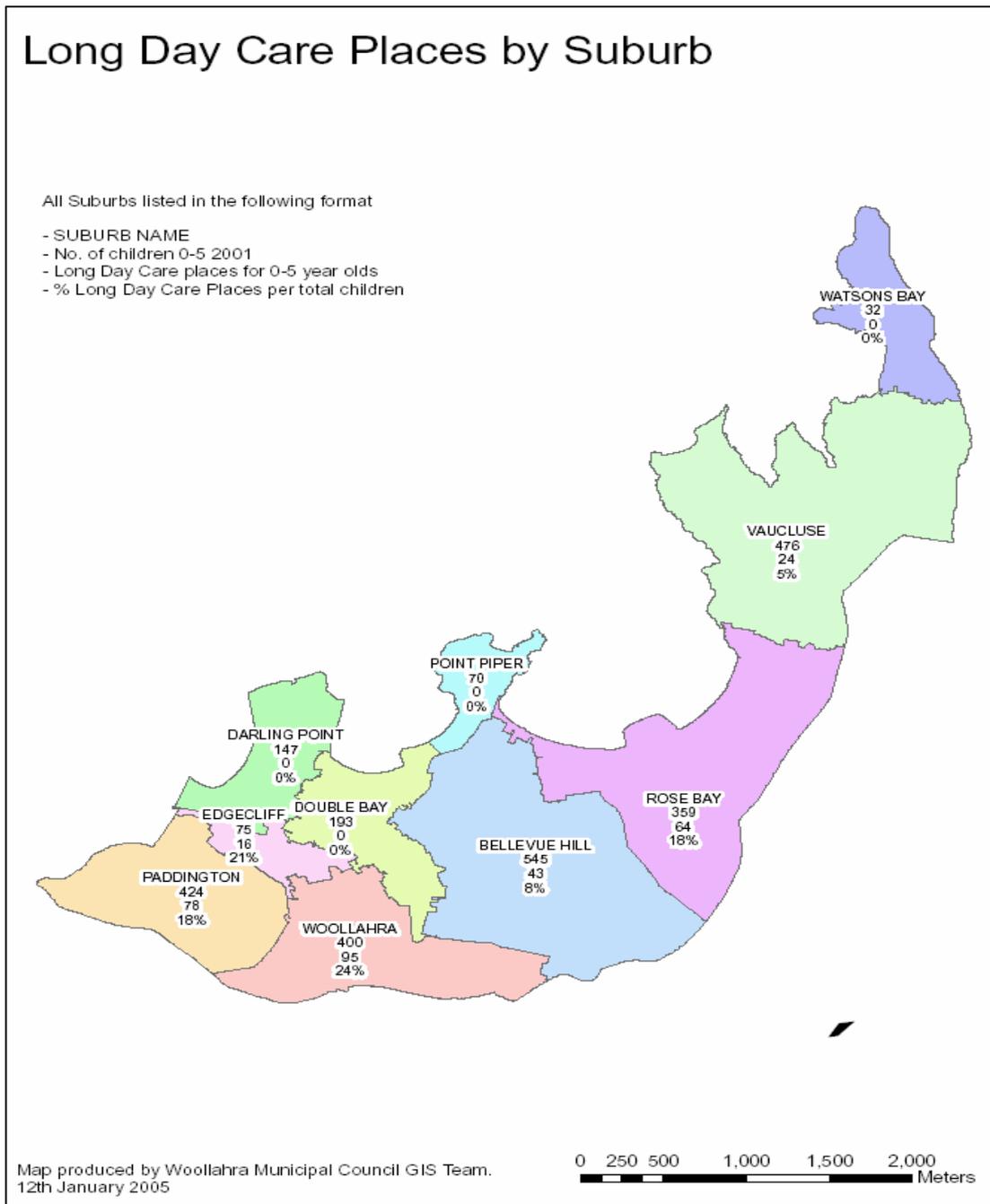
There are seven public primary schools in the LGA and nine private primary schools.

**Appendix 3 Child Care Needs Assessment**

**3 MAPS – LONG DAY CARE AND PRE-SCHOOL**

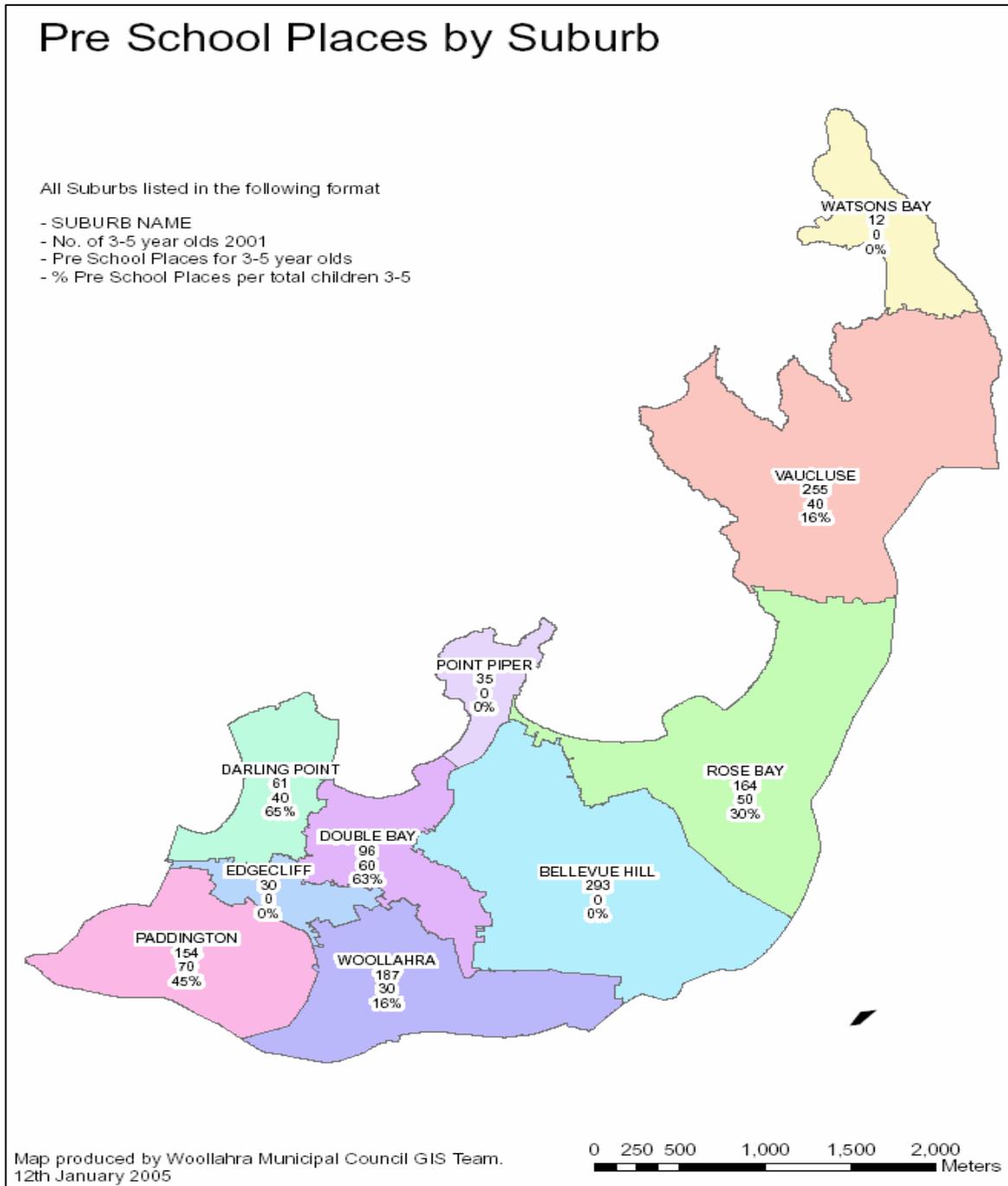
The following map shows the number of children, number of Long Day Care places and % of places per total number of children, by suburb across the Woollahra LGA.

**Figure 3 Map – Long Day Care Places by Suburb in Woollahra LGA**



The following map shows the number children by suburb, the number of Pre School places by Suburb, and the percentage of Pre School places per total children 3-5 years.

**Figure 4 Map - Pre-School Places by Suburb in Woollahra LGA**



## **Appendix 4 Community Consultation – Families and Children**

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### **4 CONSULTATION – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

#### **4.1 Background - Micromex Community Study**

Council commissioned Micromex Research to undertake a Community-based Study to assess attitudes towards current provision of services and facilities by Council, and to identify the needs of the Community and the values placed on them. 1200 randomly selected households throughout Woollahra Council LGA were interviewed. A sample size of 1200 residents provides a maximum sampling error or plus or minus 2.8% at 95% confidence. Of the 1200 people interviewed, all respondents with children 11 years and under were asked a series of questions relating specifically to their family demographic. The total number of families with children 11 years and under interviewed was 150. A sample size of 150 residents provides a maximum sampling error or plus or minus 7.8% at 95% confidence. A copy of the questions asked to Families with Children 11 years and under is shown in **Figure 5**. The following information is a summary of the outcomes of these Studies.

#### **4.2 Community Study – 1200 Residents**

In relation to the questions asked in the overall Community Study, it is important to note that although only 11% of the households interviewed as part of the Community Study were families with children 11 years and under, 70% of residents surveyed rated child care as highly important.

Specifically, 72% of residents rated child care as highly important, 13% as of medium importance and only 14% rated child care as of low importance. This was consistent across the wards.

Child Care Services rated 20<sup>th</sup> in the top 22 highest priority services in the next 10 years.

#### **4.3 Community Study - Targeted Survey Families 11 Years and Under**

The outcomes of these Surveys was that:

- 93% of families had either one or two children.
- Pre-School and Family Day Care were the most important issues that needed to be addressed in the LGA.
- 76% respondents with children 0-5 used a child care or Pre-School service.
- The major issues in accessing children's services were that nothing was available/lack of service.
- 18% respondents with children 0-5 were on waiting lists.
- Waiting lists for Pre-School, Long Day Care is between 10 and 22 months.

- The average number of lists the respondents were on is 4.3 months for an average period of 16 months.
- 7% of households were single parents.
- Five services achieved significant levels of dissatisfaction:
  - Occasional Care – 36% Low
  - Long Day Care – 36% Low
  - Pre-School – 30% Low
  - Family Day Care - 28% Low
  - Home Based Care – 27% Low
  - Recreation and Cultural Programs - 22% Low
- The three services with the highest level of satisfaction were
  - Home child care through Grandparent - 55% High
  - Early Child Health Centres - 65% High
  - Playgroups – 55% High

The following services were ranked by residents with children in terms of how important they were.

**Table 4 Service Priority Ranking**

		Priority Score
<b>Priority Ranking</b>	<b>Service/Facility</b>	
	Pre-School	3.6
	Family Day Care	3.2
	Recreational and Cultural Programs	2.4
	Early Intervention Services	1.8
	Out of School Hours Care	1.5
	Playgroup	0.9
	Early Child Health Centre	0.9
	Family Support Groups	0.8
	Long Day Care	0.7
	Occasional Care	0.7
	Home Based Care	0.2
	Home Childcare through Grandparent	0.0
	Private Nanny	0.0

**Table 5** below details how residents, by ward, rated the importance of specific services for children.

**Table 5 Children's Services Important Ratings by Ward**

The following table shows the importance that resident families with children 11 years and under place on children's services. There was a high to very high importance rating placed on a number of services (with low levels of not-important) including:

- Long Day Care, Pre-School, Occasional Care and Family Day Care child care services
- Playgroups,
- Early Child Health Centres, and
- Recreation and Cultural Programs.

		Bellevue Hill		Vaucluse		Paddington		Double Bay		Cooper	
		Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
Private Nanny	Very important	8	44.4%	5	16.1%	22	40.7%	1	12.5%	5	29.4%
	Important	5	27.8%	5	16.1%	7	13.0%	2	25.0%	2	11.8%
	Neutral	2	11.1%	4	12.9%	6	11.1%	2	25.0%	4	23.5%
	Unimportant	-	-	2	6.5%	2	3.7%	-	-	1	5.9%
	Not at all important	3	16.7%	15	48.4%	17	31.5%	3	37.5%	5	29.4%
	Total	18	100.0%	31	100.0%	54	100.0%	8	100.0%	17	100.0%
Playgroups	Very important	7	36.8%	12	36.4%	38	61.3%	5	62.5%	12	63.2%
	Important	5	26.3%	8	24.2%	9	14.5%	-	-	3	15.8%
	Neutral	4	21.1%	4	12.1%	4	6.5%	-	-	3	15.8%
	Unimportant	-	-	1	3.0%	1	1.6%	-	-	-	-
	Not at all important	3	15.8%	8	24.2%	10	16.1%	3	37.5%	1	5.3%
	Total	19	100.0%	33	100.0%	62	100.0%	8	100.0%	19	100.0%
Early Child Health Centres	Very important	9	47.4%	18	54.5%	49	76.6%	4	44.4%	10	52.6%
	Important	6	31.6%	6	18.2%	4	6.3%	2	22.2%	4	21.1%
	Neutral	1	5.3%	2	6.1%	2	3.1%	-	-	2	10.5%
	Unimportant	-	-	1	3.0%	1	1.6%	-	-	1	5.3%
	Not at all important	3	15.8%	6	18.2%	8	12.5%	3	33.3%	2	10.5%
	Total	19	100.0%	33	100.0%	64	100.0%	9	100.0%	19	100.0%
Out of School Hours Care	Very important	5	31.3%	14	42.4%	34	61.8%	5	55.6%	6	37.5%
	Important	1	6.3%	6	18.2%	8	14.5%	-	-	4	25.0%
	Neutral	6	37.5%	3	9.1%	7	12.7%	2	22.2%	4	25.0%
	Unimportant	1	6.3%	2	6.1%	1	1.8%	-	-	-	-
	Not at all important	3	18.8%	8	24.2%	5	9.1%	2	22.2%	2	12.5%
	Total	16	100.0%	33	100.0%	55	100.0%	9	100.0%	16	100.0%
Family Support Programs	Very important	2	11.1%	7	24.1%	26	47.3%	5	55.6%	6	35.3%
	Important	7	38.9%	8	27.6%	13	23.6%	-	-	5	29.4%
	Neutral	5	27.8%	1	3.4%	9	16.4%	-	-	4	23.5%
	Unimportant	2	11.1%	3	10.3%	1	1.8%	-	-	1	5.9%
	Not at all important	2	11.1%	10	34.5%	6	10.9%	4	44.4%	1	5.9%
	Total	18	100.0%	29	100.0%	55	100.0%	9	100.0%	17	100.0%
Recreation and Cultural Programs	Very important	4	21.1%	13	38.2%	28	47.5%	4	44.4%	7	38.9%
	Important	8	42.1%	11	32.4%	16	27.1%	3	33.3%	5	27.8%
	Neutral	4	21.1%	7	20.6%	12	20.3%	1	11.1%	4	22.2%
	Unimportant	1	5.3%	-	-	3	5.1%	-	-	2	11.1%
	Not at all important	2	10.5%	3	8.8%	-	-	1	11.1%	-	-
	Total	19	100.0%	34	100.0%	59	100.0%	9	100.0%	18	100.0%
Early Intervention Services	Very important	4	25.0%	12	41.4%	31	53.4%	4	57.1%	4	25.0%
	Important	5	31.3%	4	13.8%	10	17.2%	1	14.3%	4	25.0%
	Neutral	4	25.0%	6	20.7%	10	17.2%	-	-	4	25.0%
	Unimportant	2	12.5%	1	3.4%	3	5.2%	-	-	1	6.3%
	Not at all important	1	6.3%	6	20.7%	4	6.9%	2	28.6%	3	18.8%
	Total	16	100.0%	29	100.0%	58	100.0%	7	100.0%	16	100.0%

		Bellevue Hill		Vaucluse		Paddington		Double Bay		Cooper	
		Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %	Count	Col %
Family Day Care	Very important	6	31.6%	17	50.0%	44	71.0%	6	60.0%	10	52.6%
	Important	6	31.6%	5	14.7%	7	11.3%	1	10.0%	2	10.5%
	Neutral	3	15.8%	2	5.9%	1	1.6%	-	-	3	15.8%
	Unimportant	-	-	2	5.9%	1	1.6%	-	-	-	-
	Not at all important	4	21.1%	8	23.5%	9	14.5%	3	30.0%	4	21.1%
	Total	19	100.0%	34	100.0%	62	100.0%	10	100.0%	19	100.0%
Occasional Care	Very important	3	15.8%	13	38.2%	26	43.3%	4	44.4%	6	33.3%
	Important	5	26.3%	6	17.6%	13	21.7%	2	22.2%	6	33.3%
	Neutral	5	26.3%	-	-	8	13.3%	-	-	1	5.6%
	Unimportant	-	-	2	5.9%	4	6.7%	-	-	1	5.6%
	Not at all important	6	31.6%	13	38.2%	9	15.0%	3	33.3%	4	22.2%
	Total	19	100.0%	34	100.0%	60	100.0%	9	100.0%	18	100.0%
Long Day Care	Very important	4	22.2%	15	44.1%	47	75.8%	4	50.0%	8	44.4%
	Important	4	22.2%	4	11.8%	4	6.5%	-	-	1	5.6%
	Neutral	6	33.3%	-	-	2	3.2%	-	-	3	16.7%
	Unimportant	-	-	2	5.9%	2	3.2%	-	-	-	-
	Not at all important	4	22.2%	13	38.2%	7	11.3%	4	50.0%	6	33.3%
	Total	18	100.0%	34	100.0%	62	100.0%	8	100.0%	18	100.0%
Pre-School	Very important	9	50.0%	20	58.8%	51	83.6%	5	62.5%	7	43.8%
	Important	3	16.7%	3	8.8%	3	4.9%	-	-	3	18.8%
	Neutral	3	16.7%	-	-	1	1.6%	-	-	1	6.3%
	Unimportant	-	-	1	2.9%	1	1.6%	1	12.5%	1	6.3%
	Not at all important	3	16.7%	10	29.4%	5	8.2%	2	25.0%	4	25.0%
	Total	18	100.0%	34	100.0%	61	100.0%	8	100.0%	16	100.0%
Home Based Care	Very important	1	5.6%	11	36.7%	23	42.6%	2	25.0%	5	27.8%
	Important	4	22.2%	3	10.0%	8	14.8%	-	-	2	11.1%
	Neutral	5	27.8%	5	16.7%	7	13.0%	2	25.0%	2	11.1%
	Unimportant	1	5.6%	2	6.7%	3	5.6%	1	12.5%	3	16.7%
	Not at all important	7	38.9%	9	30.0%	13	24.1%	3	37.5%	6	33.3%
	Total	18	100.0%	30	100.0%	54	100.0%	8	100.0%	18	100.0%
Home Childcare through Grandparent	Very important	7	43.8%	14	46.7%	27	56.3%	4	57.1%	6	37.5%
	Important	3	18.8%	2	6.7%	7	14.6%	-	-	2	12.5%
	Neutral	5	31.3%	2	6.7%	2	4.2%	1	14.3%	3	18.8%
	Unimportant	-	-	1	3.3%	2	4.2%	-	-	1	6.3%
	Not at all important	1	6.3%	11	36.7%	10	20.8%	2	28.6%	4	25.0%
	Total	16	100.0%	30	100.0%	48	100.0%	7	100.0%	16	100.0%

**Figure 5 Micromex Survey to Families with Children 11 Years and Under**

**Q1. How many children do you have under the age of 12?** .....

**Q2. What are their ages?** *Prompt*

0-2 ..... 3-5 ..... 6-11 .....

**Q3a. Please rate the importance to you of the following services and your level of satisfaction with the provision of these children and family services in the Woollahra LGA:**

(The scale is from 1 to 5 where 5 means that the service or facility is very important to you and a score of 1 means that the service or facility is not at all important to you. With your level of satisfaction 5 means you are very satisfied and 1 means you are not at all satisfied.)

	Importance					Satisfaction				
	Low		High			Low		High		
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
a) Family Day Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b) Occasional Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c) Long Day Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
d) Pre-School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
e) Home Based Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
f) Home Childcare through Grandparent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
g) Private Nanny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
h) Playgroups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
i) Early Child Health Centres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
j) Out of School Hours Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
k) Family Support Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
l) Recreation and Cultural Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
m) Early Intervention Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Q3b. If dissatisfied, why?**

Service ..... Reason.....

Service ..... Reason.....

Service ..... Reason.....

**Q4a. Do you use Childcare or Pre-School services?** Yes O No O (If no, go to Q6)

**Q4b. (If yes), in which suburb is the service located?**

.....

**Q4c. What type of service is it?** .....

**Q5. How many days a week do you use this service?** .....

**Q6. What children’s services that are not currently available in Woollahra would you like to be able to use?**

.....

.....

**Q7. We would like to know more about difficulties you may have accessing the type of children’s services that are either currently available or you would like to see in Woollahra. What are the major issues you have accessing these services?**

.....  
.....  
.....

**Q8. Are you currently on a waiting list for children’s services?**

Yes  No  (If no, go to Q12)

**Q9. What type of service(s) are you waiting for?**

.....  
.....

**Q10. How many waiting lists are you on? .....**

**Q11. How long have you been waiting? ..... months..... years**

**Q12a. Is your household a single parent household? Yes  No  (If no, go to Q12c)**

**Q12b. Do you work full time, part time or are you a full time home carer?**

Full time home carer  (Go to end)  
Work full time  (Go to end)  
Work part time  (Go to end)

**Q12c. (If no), what is the employment status of both parents?**

Both parents employed full time   
Both parents employed part time   
Both parents not employed/home duties   
One parent employed full time, one parent part time   
One parent employed full time, one parent not employed/home carer   
One parent employed part time, one parent not employed/home carer

Other (please specify)  .....

#### 4.4 Consultation – Written Surveys

As part of the Social Needs Study 2004, surveys were sent to children’s service providers servicing the Woollahra LGA. Many private childcare centres did not respond to the survey, however, 31 surveys from children’s services organisations were returned including from Long Day Care, family support services and Pre-Schools in the area.

##### 4.4.1 List of Service Providers

31 surveys from children’s services organisations were returned including from Long Day Care, family support services and Pre-Schools in the area. A detailed list of service providers interviewed and outcomes of the survey are shown in **Table 6**.

**Table 6 Detailed Outcomes of Written Survey**

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Located In/Out Woollahra</b>	<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>No. Woollahra Residents using service</b>	<b>Wait List</b>
1.	Waterford Pre-School Waverley	Outside	Pre-School 3-5	8 (30 places per day)	Yes (200, 3-5)
2.	Bo Peep Kindergarten	Inside	Pre-School 2-5	14 (25 places per day)	Yes (24)
3.	KU Peter Pan Pre-School	Inside	Pre-School 3-5	49 (40 places per day)	Yes (246)
4.	Little Rascals Day Care	Outside	Home-Based Care 16 months to 5 years.	2 (5 places per day)	Yes (5, 0-2)
5.	Kristins Possum Pre-School	Inside	Long Day Care 2-5	20 (26 places per day)	No
6.	Kinderworld	Inside	Long Day Care 2-5	n/a (24 places per day)	Yes 6-12 months
7.	Moriah College Pre-School	Outside	Pre-School 3-4	40 (64 places)	Yes 25
8.	North Bondi Kindergarten	Outside	Long Day Care 3-5	40 (24 places per day)	Yes 60
9.	The Scots College Prep School	Inside	Pre-School 3-5	60	Yes
10.	St Marks Pre School (Cranbrook)	Inside	Pre-School 3-5	50 (40 places per day)	Yes
11.	Kesser Torah Pre School	Outside	Pre-School 3-5	10 (100 places per day)	No
12.	Gardiner Child Care Centre	Outside	Long Day Care 0-5	7 (16 places per day 0-2) 5 (39 places per day 2-5)	Yes 0-2 – 433 2-5 – 40
13.	Annie Potters HB Child Care	Outside	Home Based 0-5	5 (5 places per day)	Yes 20
14.	Paddington Out Of School Hours Care Inc.	Inside	OOSH	30	No

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Located In/Out Woollahra</b>	<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>No. Woollahra Residents using service</b>	<b>Wait List</b>
15.	Holdsworth Street Community Centre	Inside	OOSH & Vacation Care	30 (total 40 users)	No
16.	Holdsworth Street Family Support	Inside	Family Support (playgroups)	312 members (538 total members)	No
			Parenting Classes	17 (20)	No
17.	Sir Phillip Baxter Child Care Centre	Inside	Long Day Care	60 (0-2, 35 places per day) 30 (3-5, 20 places per day)	Yes, 0-2, 200 +
18.	The Benevolent Society SUPS program	Inside	Support for children with disabilities	10	No
19.	St Michael's Pre-School	Inside	Pre-School	62 (40 per day)	Yes 50+
20.	Di's Day Care	Outside	Home Based Child Care 0-5	4 (7)	Yes
21.	Vaucluse Little School	Inside	Long Day Care 2-4 years	(24 per day)	Yes
22.	Mt Zion War Memorial Kindergarten	Outside	Occasional Care 3-5 years	45 (56 places per day)	Yes
23.	The Cottage Glenmore Road OOSH Centre	Inside	OOSH & Vacation	100	No
24.	Waverley Council Child Care Support Team	Outside	Long Day Care, Family Support, SUPS, Speech Pathology, Family Day Care	n/a	n/a
25.	Leap into Learning – Health Devt. For Children	Inside	Early Child Health Services	n/a	n/a
26.	Rose Bay OOSH	Inside	OOSH & Vacation	n/a	n/a
27.	Temple Emanuel Woollahra Kindergarten	Inside	Pre-School	44 (60 places per day)	Yes
28.	Double Bay OOSH Program	Inside	OOSH	70	No
29.	Paloma Pre-School	Outside	Long Day Care	(18 places per day)	Yes
30.	Wee Care Kindergarten	Outside	Pre-School 2-4	(29 places per day)	Yes 250
31.	Wee Care 2 Child Care Centre	Outside	Long Day Care 3-5	(29 places per day)	Yes 250

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**Figure 6 Copy of Survey sent to Children's Service Providers**

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**WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SOCIAL NEEDS STUDY 2004**

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SURVEY**

Please complete the following form and return to Sarah Reilly, Woollahra Council in the reply paid envelope attached. This survey is to identify needs and issues for residents in the Woollahra Municipal Council Local Government Area (LGA).

---

**ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION**

Name of organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Service/s within Woollahra (please state all addresses if there is more than one location):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name and Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the main services you provide:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Day Care   | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary School  | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Day Care             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home-Based Care | <input type="checkbox"/> OOSH & Vacation |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre School      | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Child Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Support  |  |  |

If you are a **child care service**, how many places do you have?

0-2yrs \_\_\_\_\_ 3 – 5yrs \_\_\_\_\_

How are you funded?

- |   |                                     |                                  |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-Profit | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Private |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|

Do you have places for Children with a Disability?  Yes  No

If Yes, How many? \_\_\_\_\_

*If you provide multiple services, please complete a separate sheet for each service. Additional copies of Section B are attached.*

**Use of services by Woollahra Community Members**

Name of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, please list the **Number of Children from the Woollahra Local Government Area** currently accessing your service/s.

0-2yrs \_\_\_\_\_ 3 – 5yrs \_\_\_\_\_ 5 – 12yrs \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a waiting list for access to your services? Yes  No

0-2yrs \_\_\_\_\_ 3 – 5yrs \_\_\_\_\_ 5 – 12yrs \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list the number of Woollahra LGA children on the waiting list.

0-2yrs \_\_\_\_\_ 3 – 5yrs \_\_\_\_\_ 5 – 12yrs \_\_\_\_\_

When a vacancy becomes available, what is the take up rate? \_\_\_\_\_

On average, how long do people wait to access services? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the barriers to accessing your services?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiting Lists/Resource Constraints | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Access      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restrictive Eligibility Criteria   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fees                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness of Services              | <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted Times       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Transport Access              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other – Please Specify |

Please list the most successful programs you have delivered.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any unsuccessful programs you have delivered. What do you think made them unsuccessful?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do you consider to be the major issues, unmet needs, or service gaps you have identified in relation to your clients?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **4.5 Consultation – Interviews with Service Providers**

From September 2004 to November 2004 the following children's services providers were interviewed to identify issues, needs and service gaps:

- Woollahra Kindergarten
- Sir Phillip Baxter Child Care Centre
- Early Child Health Centres
  - Double Bay – 1 Cross Street, Double Bay
  - Paddington – The Gate House Cottage, 188 Oxford Street
- Bondi Beach Cottage Family Centre
- Child and Family Health Team, War Memorial Hospital
- The Benevolent Society & The Eastern Sydney Scarba Service
- Tumbatin Clinic, Sydney Children's Hospital
- The Third Bear Child Care Centre
- Eastern Respite and Recreation
- Jewish Care
- Holdsworth Street Community Centre

In addition, a workshop was held with Children's Service Providers on Thursday 11 November to confirm the issues and to identify potential strategies.