

Facility Manager  
Primary Care & Community Health Network

c/- Cranebrook Community Health Centre  
Laycock St  
Cranebrook NSW 2749

21 September 2007

General Manager  
Blue Mountains City Council

Emailed to: council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir,

**SPRINGWOOD TOWN CENTRE PROJECT – OPTIONS REPORT  
MANAGEMENT FILE F00241**

I am writing to you to provide feedback on the Options Report that has been displayed for public comment, specifically in relation to the **Springwood Early Childhood Centre (SECC)** that currently operates from the Northern Carpark on Macquarie Road.

It is our preference that the existing location for the SECC be maintained and incorporated into any new buildings and uses that may be developed for that site. Our reason for this is that the service is functioning well in its present location:- It is accessible for the client group that it serves; its location is well known and established in the community; its visibility and prominent location offers good security for staff and clients accessing the service.

Should this not be possible, the proposed re-location of the SECC to the Civic Centre precinct would be endorsed, provided the new location does not compromise the key site and location benefits the SECC currently enjoys. For example:

- The SECC should be situated directly onto Macquarie Road (ie. next to the existing Red Cross building)
  - This would provide the SECC with level street access to the Macquarie Road footpath and enable easy access for clients of the service with strollers and toddlers.
  - It would avoid the building being "hidden" behind the Red Cross building and trees due to the slope of the land, thus reducing graffiti, vandalism & security risks.
  - It would enable us to maintain after hours / evening services, which would not be possible in a site that offered a lesser degree of security for staff and clients.
  - It would maintain the SECC's main street presence, which is an important means of promoting awareness of the service with its various target groups for childhood clinics, immunisation clinics and breastfeeding etc.

- Should a site directly onto Macquarie Road not be possible, any design of the new SECC must, at a minimum, facilitate level access and eliminate external security risks for staff and clients.
  - An alternate consideration could be incorporating the SECC into the complex housing the Library, Civic Centre and Neighbourhood Centre, provided the abovementioned principles of security, prominent location and access can be addressed.
- Access to public transport. The Northern Carpark site is very convenient for train and bus services, and obviously, the Civic Centre precinct does not enjoy the same proximity to the train station.  
It would be expected that Council will work with other partners to ensure that public transport access to the Civic Centre precinct is improved should the SECC, and any other new services, be developed in that zone.
  - Car parking and pedestrian access. The existing Northern Carpark site is well served by parking and safe pedestrian access.  
There is concern that there is less parking available in the Civic Centre precinct, which will compromise access for our clients. Likewise, there is concern that the Civic Centre precinct is less pedestrian friendly, particularly the side lane next to Buckland Park. We strongly advocate that these issues must be addressed if the SECC is re-located to Buckland Park.
  - The existing children's play area in Buckland Park should be re-located, improved and incorporated into the design of the new SECC. The play equipment adjacent to the existing SECC in the Northern Carpark is well patronised by families visiting our service; it facilitates family visits for new mothers with toddlers and encourages return visits. As well as having benefits for the SECC clients, improving and re-locating the Buckland Park play area would increase its overall patronage, which you note in the report as being sometimes underutilised.

Thank you for considering our feedback on the Options Report. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss the issues presented, please contact me on 4730 5176.

Yours sincerely,

**Paul Wynn**  
**Facility Manager**  
**Primary Care & Community Health Network**  
**Sydney West Area Health Service**