

2.11 CHILD DAY CARE FACILITIES

(ADOPTED 1999)

1. INTRODUCTION

Child day care centres are becoming an increasingly important service to families in which parents work outside the home, and there is a need to provide for these services in convenient locations close to either homes or to centres of employment, in surroundings which are both safe and enjoyable for the children. Accordingly, the Town Planning Scheme provides for Child Day Care Centres as a discretionary use in all zones, although applications are notifiable under the 'SA' procedures within all zones with the exception of the Town Centre Zone. (Refer Policy 2.2 Public Notification and *Advertising Procedures*.) It is recognised however, that the majority of proposals for Child Day Care Centres are likely to be in residential areas.

Child Day Care Centre means any land or buildings used as a day care centre for the daily or occasional care of more than four children in accordance with the Community Services (Child Care) Regulations 1988. (Up to four children may be cared for in a private dwelling as a *Child Family Care Centre*, which does not require specific planning approval.) These centres are subject to licensing by the Child Care Services Board, which is responsible for administration of the Regulations governing staffing, safety and the children's welfare.

2. AIM

The aim of this policy is to provide guidance for the location, siting and design of Child Day Care Centres, and to ensure as far as practicable, that such development is compatible with surrounding development and provides a safe and pleasant environment.

3. POLICY

In considering applications for Child Day Care Centres Council shall take into consideration the following criteria:

- 3.1** *Location:* Centres are encouraged to locate near commercial, community or recreational areas and near roads which have the capacity to accommodate any additional traffic generated by a child day care centre without undue impact on the amenity of the adjacent residential area.
- 3.2** *Site Characteristics:* The site is to have a minimum lot area of 500m² and provide opportunities to design the centre so as to minimise impact on surrounding properties.
- 3.3** *Amenity:* The building is to be domestic in design and appearance with a maximum 50% site coverage, if located in a residential area. In order to minimise potential noise impact on surrounding properties, the Council will require erection of suitable fencing (normally masonry) between activity areas and adjacent residences, unless otherwise agreed to by adjacent owners and occupiers.
- 3.4** *Operating times:* Days and times of operation are to be restricted to Monday Friday, from 7.00am - 6.00pm, and Saturday 7.30am - 12.30pm.

- 3.5** *Scale*: Maximum number of children to be accommodated in Child Day Care Centres to be limited to 25 persons at any one time. The numbers may be increased to 40 persons at any one time where the proposal satisfies the following criteria:
- (a) The site abuts non-residential land uses, and
 - (b) The size and shape of the lot and the nature of existing vegetation permits the design of buildings and play areas which will ensure minimum impact on the amenity of surrounding properties.
- 3.1** *Parking*: On site parking is to be provided in accordance with Scheme Provisions. Where car parking is provided between the building and street alignment(s) a minimum of a 1.0m wide landscaping strip is to be established and thereafter maintained along the street alignment(s). Suitable barriers shall be provided to protect the fencing of any properties situated adjacent to any parking areas.