

# ***Submission on Proposed Education and Child Care SEPP***

*Prepared by  
Inspire Program Australia*

*March 2017*



**Inspire**  
Program Australia

## PART 1 – INSPIRE PROGRAM AUSTRALIA

### Who is Inspire Program Australia?

Inspire Operations Pty Ltd is a Sydney based approved child care provider (PR-40005407). We trade under the name of 'Inspire Program Australia' and we specialise in providing innovative child care programs for school aged children.

Our approved services are:

Name of Service	Service Approval
Inspire Carlingford	SE 40007379
Inspire Roseville	SE 40005691
Inspire Bonnyrigg	SE 40007316
Inspire Kellyville	SE 40007315
Inspire Baulkham Hills	SE 40006506
Inspire Pennant Hills	SE 40005690
Inspire Artarmon	SE 40005246
Inspire Jasper Road	SE 40007805
Inspire Boronia Park	SE 40008847

In addition to our nine approved services, we have 5 additional centres that are in the planning stages and we are working towards having these approved by June 2017. We know there is a great demand for after school care and children and parents love our service – so we are keen to grow and provide our innovative service to more families.

### Why Inspire was created

Inspire was developed by two working mums who were frustrated by after school care. Firstly – it was nearly impossible to get a spot and when they did, they were very disappointed in the service. The children weren't enjoying it and they were certainly not thriving in the environment. To make matter worse, one of the children was glued to the computer game Minecraft and lots more electronics all afternoon. It was a 'free for all' with very little structure.

There was no other out of school hour care alternative. So Inspire was created to offer something DIFFERENT.

### How is Inspire different?

Inspire is different in many ways – but here's a few...

- Most of our services operate in community halls, church halls and scout halls.
- Inspire has a fleet of buses that collect children from school and brings them to our centres.
- Inspire provides homework and tuition for children which includes Literacy and Maths Club.
- Inspire offers children a comprehensive internationally recognised martial arts program and a black belt instructor is at the centre every day. Martial arts help children develop confidence, coordination, concentration and respect.
- Inspire invests heavily in creating amazing resources for the children's program. For example, this year we published a cookbook on healthy eating – the children investigated the sugar content of foods are cooked lots of healthy snacks!

- We are committed to listening to children's ideas and base our program around them – and we try to deliver exceptional quality.
  - We had children interested in dancing – so we had a professional dancer teach lessons.
  - Kids were interested in science – so we engaged a teacher and a graphic designer to create awesome worksheets for our 'science club'.
  - Children were interested in animals – so we drew them, painted them, made craft items and arranged for WIRES to visit.
  - Children wanted recognition for their achievements in martial arts – so we run special grading days at Sydney Olympic Park for them to perform to their parents.
- When they are at Inspire, children want to feel like 'school's out'...so we have an Inspire / martial arts uniform for them to wear. They love taking off their dull school uniforms and wearing the bright orange Inspire uniform.

These are just a few ways we are different – and while Inspire may not be suitable for every child, we think that most people would agree that it is good to have variety and choice in any market – and child care is no exception.

**We believe that it is important for families to have options and choices with their outside-of-school-hours care. It is important that the planning policies and approvals process facilitates an environment where both on-site and off-site care can continue to be available for school aged children.**



## **PART 2 – WHY WE WELCOME A SIMPLIFY AND STANDARDISE PLANNING APPROVAL PATHWAYS FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES**

Inspire have worked with 13 local councils across Sydney, and we can say that some were good; others difficult, and a few were hostile and traumatising. Below is a summary of the hurdles and intimidation that we've encountered:-

- Request of information beyond scope of DCPS
  - Between an assessor's personal opinion & neighbour's objections – we were asked for unreasonable information beyond the scope of the DCPs. For instance, an assessor inspected a proposed site and asked how and where we would run our arts/craft activities, and where the paint brushes were to be washed.
  - We stated that we are licensed by the office of the Early Childhood Education Directorate (ECED), and that they will assess the suitability of the site when they do the site inspection prior to granting the service approval. We were dismissed and told by the assessor that they are the governing body because we are in their LGA and that the office of ECED had no jurisdiction over them.
  - We have been asked by a council as to how we intend to safety supervise our children within our care.
- Hostility and Intimidation
  - We were told by an assessor "no matter what solution you provide, we will not approve your application".
  - On several occasions we were asked to withdraw our DA because they do not like to reject applications. They didn't want to reject it because they don't have reasonable grounds upon which to reject it. They also spoke to us like child care workers - unlikely to take them to the Land and Environment Court over the rejection.
  - At a meeting with the group known as the Bennett Precinct, we felt like we were going to be stoned to death – they actually positioned their chairs (about 20 of them) around the 3 of us and yell abuses at us continually throughout the evening.
  - Our independent expert reports were dismissed– they questioned its accuracy and integrity. At one time, we were told that it was "made up".
- Unreasonable Grounds for Rejections
  - One rejection summary noted that the cost of our service to the neighbourhood out weighted the benefit to the community – and this is a community where there is a 2 year waitlist at the nearby public school.
  - We didn't provide a comprehensive plan of management – and we weren't given time to provide one. It's easier to reject our application because we're out of time.
- For a proposed site, we required council to sign the DA application form because the building was situated on council's land. The same assessor asked for the annual fire certificate. The irony is that the Property department within the same council could have promptly provided the signature and the annual fire certificate (as the council maintained this safety aspect of the building). It took us 4 months to obtain both.

- For one application, we required a bushfire clearance report; the Rural Fire Service would not issue this clearance. Our town planner had to write a comprehensive fire evacuation and safety management plan to satisfy council. The sarcastic nature of this request is that:
  - This community building is on council's land
  - Is situated next to a large sports oval with numerous parking spaces
  - The trees behind the building forms part of a nature's walk for the residents
  - There are already school aged children actively using the hall each night of the week
- We were told by council staff that council passes our DA applications from one assessor to the next as they often don't know how to assess our application - our application states \$nil for structural works. They said that they've never have encountered this type of application before.
- The timeframe for processing our DA's is 3 to 18 months. The system definitely needs to be streamlined – and we request that the SEPP is adjusted to provide a simplified, more appropriate approval pathway.
- We located a suitable site in the scout hall in Winston Hills – there were children's outdoor play equipment, lots of outdoor space, plenty of parking and a beautifully maintained hall that suited our use. Unfortunately it was not zoned for a child care centre. This is such a waste of a valuable community space, especially where children and families are already frequenting this site on a daily basis.

## PART 3 – OUR CONCERNS WITH THE PROPOSED SEPP

### Our concerns with the Draft SEPP for Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities 2017

Inspire is grateful that the NSW Government recognises the growing demand on all levels of education, including child care. Being in the child care industry (and parents) we understand first-hand the enormous pressure that is placed on families if they do not have access to quality child care services.

School aged care is a large sector of the child care market, figures from the Department of Education and Training show that Outside School Hours Care accounts for 32.9% of the children using child care. This is a massive segment of the child care industry and affects hundreds of thousands of families – the introduction of the SEPP is an opportunity to ensure that the policies and planning pathways are appropriate for this sector and support a variety of service types.

Currently care provided on school grounds is not coping with demand – there are not enough after school places in many areas of Sydney. It is vital that the SEPP provides a framework that is appropriate for school aged care and provides opportunities for services to be delivered on school grounds AND off site.

**Table 2: Number of children using child care by service type, March quarter 2015 to March quarter 2016**

Service type	Mar. 15	Jun. 15	Sep. 15	Dec. 15	Mar. 16
Long Day Care	660,760	643,810	676,050	685,760	677,380
Family Day Care and In-Home Care	220,420	220,850	227,990	224,910	212,820
Occasional Care	6,670	7,010	7,380	7,100	5,960
Outside School Hours Care	382,580	391,150	398,730	368,650	409,370
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,211,200</b>	<b>1,224,170</b>	<b>1,269,190</b>	<b>1,247,820</b>	<b>1,242,470</b>
<i>Per cent of Australian population<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>30.8%</i>	<i>30.7%</i>	<i>31.8%</i>	<i>31.3%</i>	<i>31.2%</i>

Source: Department of Education and Training administrative data

**With the release of the draft SEPP we had hoped that some of the frustrations we face in relation to planning and approval of our services would be streamlined, standardise or made more appropriate for the age of children under our care. However, on reviewing the draft SEPP we are extremely concerned that the care of school-aged children is not adequately addressed– and this oversight is going to kill a significant and important part of this industry that has been providing valuable services to families with school aged children in NSW.**

Within the child care sector, there is much focus on the 0-5 year old sector – most of the policies, planning requirements and standards are written with this sector in mind, and given the age, vulnerability and care requirements of this group- their policies do need careful consideration. However it is not appropriate to have care for **school age** children defined, assessed and governed by the same requirements.

We believe that the SEPP has been developed with an assumption that school-aged care is only provided on school sites. Whilst this covers the majority of services, there is a growing number of off-site services, such as Inspire which are providing a valuable services to hundreds of families needing child care. Although off-site services are mentioned in definitions – little or no regard has been given to ensure this sector has **appropriate** definitions or approval pathways available.

The problem faced by providers of 'off-site school aged care' is that according to the Draft Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Amendment Order, they are defined as 'centre-based child care'. (Schedule 1, 5). This means we are faced with the most complex, costly and time consuming approval pathway of needing to gain local development consent (DA) and, as part of this pathway we will be assessed according to the draft 'Child Care Planning Guideline.' While this is clearly intended for the design and construction of long day care centres caring for 0-5 year olds, no consideration has been made for school age children that may be utilising existing buildings.

This is evident in the highly detailed, prescriptive instructions in relation to storage requirements, ventilation and natural light, ceiling heights, shade, simulated outdoor environments and fencing – if a service was required to address all these requirements you would NOT be able to provide the service in a shared space or a community hall as they simply could never meet the guidelines.

At Inspire we care for children for 3 hours per day. It is not feasible for us to have a permanent and purpose built venue; instead we hire community buildings and church halls. If we were building a new purpose built centre – we would understand the need for the proposed approval pathway, however this is NOT appropriate when we are hiring community facilities because:

- We select facilities that are suitable for school aged children and are comparable and in many cases superior to those available on school sites.
- Our use of the site is similar to its current use (eg a scout hall is already used by school age children)
- We do not undertake any construction work.
- We have a low amenity impact.

**The proposed SEPP would herald the end of after school services in community halls, church halls, bowling clubs and scout halls. We would hate to see this happen, because:**

- There is a HUGE demand for after school care – and most services on school sites in Sydney are FULL.
- The NSW Government estimates an additional 172,000 new students will be entering the public school system by 2031 – 60% of these will need outside of school hours care due to female participation in the workforce.
- The Productivity Commission estimates that approximately 165,000 parents in NSW would like to work or work more hours, if they could access suitable, affordable child care.
- There are many community buildings that are suitable for school aged care – and in many cases offer a better environment than on on-site school setting

- Under the proposed SEPP, there would be no more off-site care options for school aged children –so children would be stuck on school grounds for up to 11 hours per day (is that the life we want for our children?)
- With no off-site options, there would be less after school services for families – and no choice, parents would have to settle for the on-site service. This is effectively creating a ‘monopoly’ and this environment does not foster innovation, quality and strong customer service.
- There would be more families unable to get after school care – this can create huge financial stress for families.
- It would be wasting community resources – halls that could be used for after school care would be empty, simply because they don’t have enough storage, or natural light or fences that are required in the Planning Guideline.
- Community groups – such as the scouts, churches and bowling clubs would suffer as they would not receive the rental income for the hire of the hall. Higher vacancies can also lead to properties being ill-repaired and vandalised.
- In a society that is becoming increasingly disconnected – this would be one more community connection that is eroded. At Inspire, we have seen families connect with the local church, join scout groups and make friends because their child attends Inspire in the community hall.
- Each Inspire centre services children from several local schools – this allows children from different schools to mix and build friendships. This may seem trivial to some – but we have seen this have a dramatic effect of children’s well-being, confidence and sense of identity. Being part of a wider community and friendship group is also particularly helpful for children that may be having a tough time at school.

The Australian Centre of Excellence in Local Government recognises the important role community venues can provide in delivering child care and they released Guidelines for the Planning and Development of Child Care Facilities to help councils deliver more places closer to home and work. Excerpts of some of the key provisions relevant to the proposal include:

1.4 Take long term view in operational planning: Local government manages its own operational or community land and facilities. In some cases it can make these available for child care either through direct provision or by leasing the facility to a provider.

1.4.1 Better utilise local government land and buildings: Ensure involvement of the property portfolio staff to identify under-utilised land or buildings which could be used for child care. Some local governments have been able to re-purpose historic buildings

2.6.1 Use land smarter: Often child care can be incorporated into existing community facilities such as parks, libraries and swimming pools. In addition, whilst local government is not always a provider of child care (or may not want to be), there are a number of models which use their land portfolio to enable supply. Being aware of new delivery approaches can help local government to think creatively about how to co-locate child care with other community facilities

## ZONING PROBLEMS

There have been many occasions when Inspire has found a perfect venue to care for school aged children. It's safe, provides great indoor and outdoor spaces has bathrooms and car parking and it's in an area that desperately needs after school care – but zoning is the first obstacle we face, and on so many occasions the 'perfect' venue is not permissible in the zone. Ironically, many of these venues are often used by children (eg church groups, scouts etc.) – but the system does not permit us to use the venue to care for children for 3 hours in the afternoon (even though it is vacant, which is a tragic misuse of community resources).

**We believe that if the NSW Government is to deliver the after school care that the community needs, they must address the issue of zoning – and this SEPP provides a perfect time and opportunity to improve zoning problems. This issue is placing stress on families and companies such as Inspire want to grow and be part of the solution, but we need a suitable controls and approval process in place.**

Inspire cares for school aged children – and need to provide services close to schools. When we review the 'State Environmental Planning Policy (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017' we note that: PART 4 – Schools specific development controls lists 21 'prescribed zones' for schools, in comparison PART 3 - Early childhood education and care facilities does not list any zones, Clause 22 permits child care in R2 and IN2 zones – which is a positive change, but we need to go to the 'Standard Instrument – Principal Local Environmental Plan' to identify zones where child care is permissible and we find there is only 11 zones (which the SEPP proposes will be increased to 13).

As a provider of care for school aged children – these zonings are dramatically limiting the services we can provide. Whilst these 13 zones may be appropriate for traditional 0-5 year old children, we believe it is too restrictive for care facilities for school-aged children.

We are very concerned that Clause 14.7 of the 'State Environmental Planning Policy (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017 prohibits the use of land zoned RE1 – some councils have venues such as community halls and scout halls in RE1 zones and to prevent the use of these buildings will have many adverse effects on the community – in particular child care services.

Inspire is already operating services in RE1 zones as it was permitted by the relevant councils. We are also aware that some council run child care services operate in RE1 zones.

We are also concerned that child care is not listed as a permissible use for SP2 – Inspire found a great venue suitable in the Ryde LGA. It was a church with very large halls and outdoor area and it was in an area with a chronic shortage of after school care – our DA was rejected on the grounds of the zoning. This 'place of worship' is already frequented by school age children, we believe the extension of its use to provide after school care should have been permitted in the interests of serving the community and maximising the use of existing community amenities.

We also note that the 'Design Criteria' outlined in part 3 of the 'Draft Child Care Planning Guidelines' details the 'siting of a development'. Inspire previously found venues that would meet the 'Location' criteria and would be very suitable for school-aged care. However council rejected our DA applications because they were in RE1 and SP2 zones.

Inspire has worked with many different councils in Sydney – and there is great inconsistency as to which zones child care is permissible in – we believe that for the industry to grow and the process to be streamlined it is essential that the SEPP addresses this issue and lists prescribed zones (as they do in Part 4 for schools).



## PART 4 – OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED SEPP

### Our recommendations

The NSW Government recognises that children are our most precious resource and they have committed to invest in providing quality child care and education in NSW. Delivering quality care for **school aged children** is an important part of this promise. The draft SEPP will make it more difficult for the NSW Government to achieve these outcomes as it will kill services providing off-site school-aged care.

We recommend that the NSW Government makes changes to the SEPP so that growing, innovative companies such as Inspire can continue to provide quality care options for school-aged children.

#### 1. NEW DEFINITIONS

It is encouraging to see that some definitions are being changed to more appropriately reflect the range of development types that are occurring – but we feel an important one has been omitted. There needs to be a new definition for services such as Inspire that provide off-site care school aged children. We feel our sector has been ‘thrown into the basket’ with the 0-5 years early child hood sector and we are a VERY different market it is NOT appropriate for us to be defined as ‘Centre based child care.’

We recommend changes to Table 1 from *‘Explanation of Intended Effect: Draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017’*

- a. We recommend that ‘out-of-school-hours care’ is omitted from the definition of ‘Centre-based child care.’ As these category is not appropriate for school aged children.
- b. We recommend that a new definition is created for Table 1 (see below):

NEW Additional Definition	Type of service
Off-site school aged care	Early childhood education and care service for school children not on a school site which includes out of school hours care and vacation care.

Having a separate definition is more appropriate as this a unique segment of the market and will allow for more appropriate approval pathways.

**Table 1: Types of development and definitions**

New Definition	Type of service	
Early childhood education and care facility	Group term which collectively covers home-based child care, school-based child care and centre-based child care.	
Centre-based child care	A building or place used for early childhood education and care, such as long day care, occasional care, out-of-school-hours care not located on a non-school site, a preschool, family day care not carried out in an educator's residence, or a combination of any of the above.	<b>REQUEST</b> <i>Omit reference to out-of-school-hours here</i>
Home-based child care	Early education and care for up to 7 children under the age of 13 years provided by a person in their home. Includes home based care regulated under the NSW State Supplementary Provisions and family day care carried out in an educator's residence regulated under the National Law and Regulations.	
School-based child care	Early childhood education and care service for school children on a school site which includes out of school hours care and vacation care.	<b>REQUEST</b> <i>Add new definition here for 'Off-site School Aged Care'</i>
Mobile child care	Early education and care service that visits a premises, area or place for the purposes of providing child care.	
Temporary relocation of an early childhood education and care facility	The relocation of an early childhood education and care facility due to an emergency that threatens the safety of the facility and its occupants (such as bushfire, flood, storm and the like).	

## 2. APPROVAL PATHWAYS

We propose that 'off-site school aged care that does not have structural works' be classed as a complying development.

We believe this is a more appropriate approval pathway. It will ensure our segment of the industry does not die – and we can continue to provide a much needed service to NSW families. This pathway will also meet the SEPP objectives of streamlining and simplifying the approval process, whilst still allowing appropriate controls to be in place and ensure only safe, suitable venues are approved. This change would also facilitate more consistency with off-site and on-site services for school aged children. Under the draft SEPP (and current arrangements) on-site services are exempt, but off-site services must endure the most complex approval pathway – which in many cases is a gross inefficiency of resources and ultimately has the effect of limiting the services available to families.

On-site and off-site services provide the same service to the same clientele and it seems absurd that the approval pathways are so vastly different. We recognise that schools, due to their zoning and primary purpose are deemed appropriate venues and agree that off-site services should be assessed – but feel an age-appropriate 'complying development tool' should be developed.

**Table 2: Proposed approval pathways**

Exempt development	Complying development	Local development	Integrated development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile child care</li> <li>• School-based child care without works</li> <li>• Temporary relocation of services due to emergency</li> <li>• Home-based child care on bushfire prone land</li> <li>• (Note: all other home-based child care is already exempt development)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New development for school-based child care</li> <li>• Minor alterations and additions</li> <li>• Centre based child care on TAFE sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other Centre-based child care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• s91 EP&amp;A Act</li> <li>• (Unchanged)</li> </ul>

**REQUEST**  
*Add off-site school aged care without structural works or with **minor alterations** and additions as a complying development.*

#### **An example of recognising a unique market segment - Mobile Child Care**

Inspire's call for a new definition and a new approval pathway is reasonable, justified and essential to the delivery of quality care for school aged children.

The SEPP already recognises the unique characteristics of mobile child care. This segment of the market has its own definition and approval pathways. See Clause 25 of the 'State Environmental Planning Policy (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017. We believe that in order adequately provide child care for school aged children – the same approach must be taken – that is, a new definition and approval pathway established for off-site school aged care.

### 3. STANDARD INSTRUMENT (LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS)

We believe that the proposed changes to the LEP will have positive impacts on some sectors of the child care industry – but out-of-school-hours care has NOT been appropriately addressed.

- a. We would like to see 5 c OMITTED from the definition of centre-based child care.  
That is, remove: *out-of-school-hours care (including vacation care)*.  
This should NOT be part of the definition for ‘centre based child care.’  
5 f should include the words: *or off-site school aged care*
- b. We recommend that 6 has another definition added:  
***off-site school aged care*** means a building or place not within a school that is used to provide out-of-school hours care (including vacation care) for school children.

#### [5] Dictionary

Omit the definition of **child care centre**. Insert in alphabetical order:

**centre-based child care** means a building or place used for the education and care of children that provides any one or more of the following:

- (a) long day care,
- (b) occasional child care,
- (c) out-of-school-hours care (including vacation care),
- (d) preschool care,
- (e) a family day care service (within the meaning of the *Children (Education and Care Services) National Law (NSW)*),

but does not include:

- (f) a building or place used for home-based child care or school-based child care, or
- (g) an office of a family day care service, or
- (h) a babysitting, playgroup or child-minding service that is organised informally by the parents of the children concerned, or
- (i) a child-minding service that is provided in connection with a recreational or commercial facility (such as a gymnasium) to care for children while the children’s parents are using the facility, or
- (j) a service that is concerned primarily with the provision of private tutoring, or lessons or coaching in, or providing for participation in, a cultural, recreational, religious or sporting activity, or
- (k) a child-minding service that is provided by or in a health services facility, but only if the service is established, registered or licensed as part of the institution operating in the facility.

#### REQUEST

#### OMIT:

***c) out-of-school-hours care (including vacation care)***

#### REQUEST

#### ADD:

***f) or off-site school aged care***

#### [6] Dictionary, definitions of “early childhood education and care facility” and “school-based child care”

Insert in alphabetical order:

**early childhood education and care facility** means a building or place used for the education and care of children, and includes any of the following:

- (a) centre-based child care,
- (b) home-based child care,
- (c) school-based child care.

**school-based child care** means a building or place within a school that is used to provide out-of-school-hours care (including vacation care) for school children.

#### REQUEST

#### ADD:

***off-site school aged care*** means a building or place not within a school that is used to provide out-of-school hours care (including vacation care) for school children.

## ZONING

With the introduction of a new definition for 'off-site school aged care' we would like the SEPP to list the prescribed zones. This will overcome the inconsistency and confusion that is currently faced as each council has child care permissible in different zones.

We believe for 'off-site school aged care' the prescribed zones should be the same as the ones outlined in Part 4 for schools. We believe aligning 'off-site school aged care' with 'schools' is more appropriate than the current child care zones which are limited and designed for care of children 0-5 years old.

On-site school aged care is already happening in the prescribed zones listed in Part 4 and it is logical that 'off-site school aged care' has the same prescribed areas.

We would also like 'off-site school aged care' to be permissible with consent in:

RE1 – Public Recreation

RE2 – Private Recreation

SP2 – Infrastructure

Permissibility in these zones is very important in providing suitable care facilities to the community. Given that we only care for children a few hours a day, it is not feasible for us to have purpose built facilities – we need to hire and share community buildings. Many suitable buildings are in RE1, RE2 and SP2 zones.

In particular we have been prevented from using churches in SP2 zones – we need to recognise that in order for many churches to survive they must modernise and evolve to the community needs – the zoning needs to permit the church to offer ancillary/related activities from their site as this helps them serve and connect with the community.

**We know the NSW Government is committed to providing more care facilities – the changing of this zoning and the inclusion of RE1, RE2 and SP2 will allow many more quality, off-site school aged care services to be available.**

### Part 4 Schools—specific development controls

#### 27 Definition of "prescribed zone"

In this Part:

**prescribed zone** means any of the following land use zones:

- (a) Zone RU1 Primary Production,
- (b) Zone RU2 Rural Landscape,
- (c) Zone RU4 Primary Production Small Lots,
- (d) Zone RU5 Village,
- (e) Zone RU6 Transition,
- (f) Zone R1 General Residential,
- (g) Zone R2 Low Density Residential,
- (h) Zone R3 Medium Density Residential,
- (i) Zone R4 High Density Residential,
- (j) Zone R5 Large Lot Residential,
- (k) Zone B1 Neighbourhood Centre,
- (l) Zone B2 Local Centre,
- (m) Zone B3 Commercial Core,
- (n) Zone B4 Mixed Use,
- (o) Zone B5 Business Development,
- (p) Zone B6 Enterprise Corridor,
- (q) Zone B7 Business Park,
- (r) Zone B8 Metropolitan Centre,
- (s) Zone SP1 Special Activities,
- (t) Zone SP2 Infrastructure,
- (u) Zone E4 Environmental Living.

#### REQUEST

'Off-site school aged care' should also have a list of specific development controls

#### REQUEST

These zones should be listed in the SEPP as prescribed zones for 'off-site school aged care'

#### REQUEST

**For 'Off-site school aged care' ADD:**  
**RE1** Public Recreation  
**RE2** Private Recreation  
(NOTE: SP2 which is in the above list is also important to our sector)

## PART 5 – CASE STUDIES

We wanted to share some details on real centres that are providing off-site school aged care –so you understand that quality care can be provided in venues that may not meet all the requirements outlined in the draft Child Care Planning Guidelines.

### Inspire Jasper Road



QUICK FACTS	
Name of service	Inspire Jasper Road
Address	25 Jasper Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
Type of child care	Off-site school aged care
Type of venue	Scout hall
Zoning	RE1
Places approved by DEC	51
NOTES	Currently service is full and has a wait list

#### Providing a much-needed community service

- Inspire Jasper Road provides off-site after school care. Inspire staff transport the children from local schools to the centre.
- The local schools do have on-site after school care – but they do not have enough places to meet the demand of the community.
- When Inspire opened this service the local school, Jasper Road Public School, had over 80 children on the waiting list and families had to wait up to a year to secure a position at the on-site after school care.
- Inspire Jasper Road is run from the local scout hall. It has indoor and outdoor spaces that are suitable for a range of children’s recreational and educational activities. There are bathrooms, emergency exits, parking, good ventilation, fans, heaters and air conditioning Inspire has good storage and each day we set up the centre so it is a welcoming, fun, colourful space – and the children love it. Although the scout hall is basic, Inspire commissioned building inspections, fire plans and parking and acoustic reports.
- This scout hall provides a safe, suitable environment to care for school aged children that is superior to many sites located on school grounds - however it would not meet many of the requirements detailed in ‘Draft Child Care Planning Guideline’ proposed under the new SEPP.
- Great use of an available community venue that was previously only used after 6pm during the weekdays.

**The proposed SEPP would prevent services like this one from opening – which would be a great loss to the community.**





## Inspire Kellyville

QUICK FACTS	
Name of service	Inspire Kellyville
Address	45 President Road, Kellyville NSW 2155
Type of child care	Off-site school aged care
Type of venue	Kellyville Anglican Church
Zoning	R3
Places approved by DEC	64

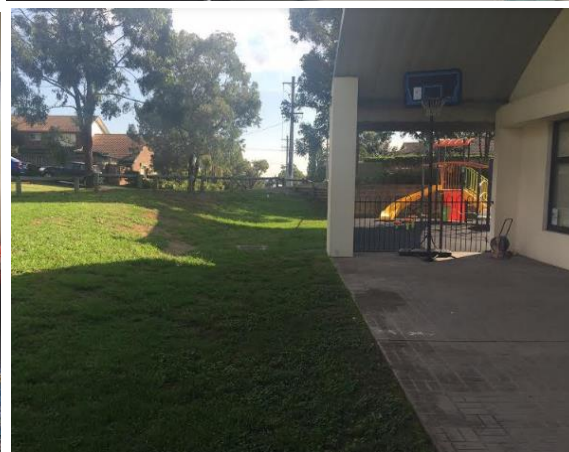
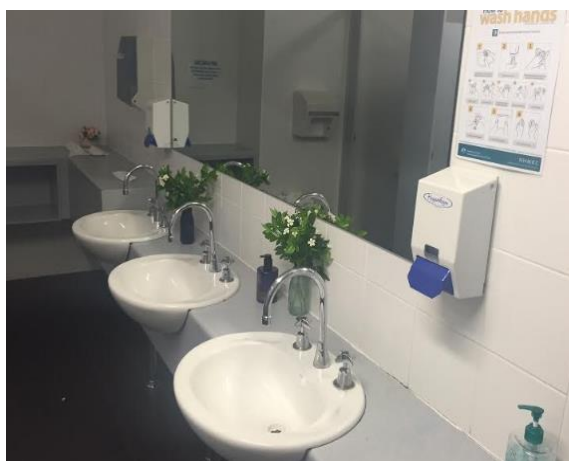


### Providing a much-needed community service

- Inspire Kellyville provides off-site after school care. Inspire staff transport the children from local schools to the centre.
- The local schools do have on-site after school care – but they do not have enough places to meet the demand of the community and Inspire’s service is different to other services offered at the local schools. Parents appreciate having choice and this also encourages **quality** in the industry – which is a key objective of the NSW government.
- Inspire Kellyville operates from the Kellyville Anglican Church. It provides fantastic facilities. We use a large multi-purpose hall and a craft room, plus outdoor play area. There is great off-street parking, quality, modern bathrooms, emergency exits, parking, good ventilation, fans and heaters. Inspire shares storage with the church and each day we set up the centre so it is a welcoming, fun, colourful space – and the children love it.
- This venue would not meet all of the requirements in the ‘Draft Child Care Planning Guideline’ proposed under the new SEPP – but ironically in its operation as a church it has hundreds of children there each week (and it’s a great venue for them) and the local high school hires the church for HSC exams – so the schools also believe this is a suitable venue for children.
- This church provides a safe, suitable environment to care for children that is superior to many sites located on school grounds.

**We need the SEPP to recognise that ‘off-site school aged care’ has very different requirements to ‘centre based child care’ and these different market segments must have appropriate approval pathways – otherwise ‘off-site school aged care’ will no longer be able to open centres such as this service at Kellyville.**





**Images from Inspire Kellyville.**

The amenities are superior to services that are provided at on school sites. NSW's SEPP should not have policies and approval pathways that prevent services such as these from operating—it would be a great misuse of community resources.



## Inspire Roseville

### QUICK FACTS

Name of service	Inspire Roseville
Address	28 Lord Street, Roseville NSW 2069
Type of child care	Off-site school aged care
Type of venue	Roseville Presbyterian Church
Zoning	R2
Places approved by DEC	47
Students attending	75



### Providing a much-needed community service

- Inspire Roseville provides off-site after school care. Inspire staff transport the children from local schools to the centre.
- The local schools do have on-site after school care – but they do not have enough places to meet the demand of the community. In particular the on-site after school care provided at Lindfield Public School had over 100 children on the wait list when Inspire starting operation in 2015.
- The after school service provider onsite at Lindfield East Public School has called Inspire Program (April 2017) to advise they are FULL and they will also be referring families to Inspire Roseville.
- Inspire Roseville operates from the Roseville Presbyterian Church. We are very lucky to have the use of the old church (which is now used as the church hall) plus two homework rooms and areas for outdoor play. This venue has bathrooms, emergency exits, parking, fans and heaters, storage and each day we set up the centre so it is a welcoming, fun, colourful space – and the children love it.
- There are many community benefits of Inspire using this church hall. Not only does it provide much needed after school care, it also provides a valuable income stream for the church which was struggling financially as its congregation was getting smaller. Having Inspire families at the church every afternoon – was breathing new life into a vacant building – families have appreciated the community connection and some families have even joined the church for Christmas celebrations and as regular members of the congregation. *Element 6.3.4 of the National Quality Standards requires that 'the service builds relationships and engages with the local community.'* Inspire Roseville is a perfect living example of a service building a relationship with the local community – and it's a positive relationship that is benefiting the children, the families and the church – as a society we need planning policies that support relationships such as these.
- **Being an older building, this venue could never meet all of the requirements in the 'Draft Child Care Planning Guideline' proposed under the new SEPP...and this would prevent centres like Inspire Roseville from opening. The community would miss out on much needed after school care services.**



# *Appendix*



**Inspire**  
Program Australia



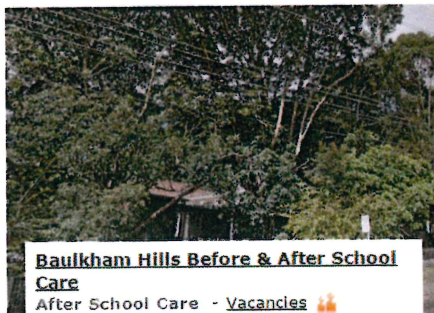
Whilst this submission focuses on Inspire Program Australia —there are many other services providing ‘off-site school aged care’, here is a sample of some of them...



#### **Armidale PCYC Kidzcare**

After School Care - [Fee Info](#)

176 Rusden Street, ARMIDALE NSW 2350



#### **Baulkham Hills Before & After School Care**

After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🍷

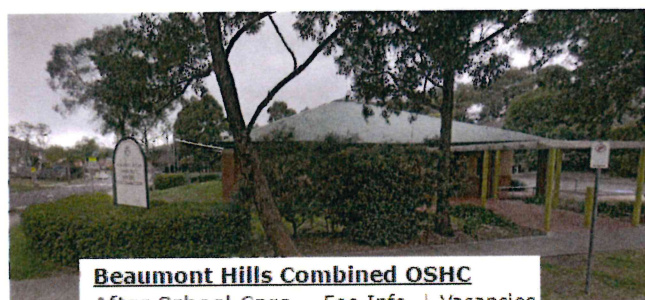
Building 7 Balcombe Hts Comm. Buildings 92  
Seven Hills Rd, BAULKHAM HILLS NSW 2153



#### **Blue Haven OOSH Service**

After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🍷

Blue Haven Community Centre Apsley Court,  
BLUE HAVEN NSW 2262



#### **Beaumont Hills Combined OSHC**

After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#)

Cnr Arnold Jansen Dr & The Park Way,  
BEAUMONT HILLS NSW 2155

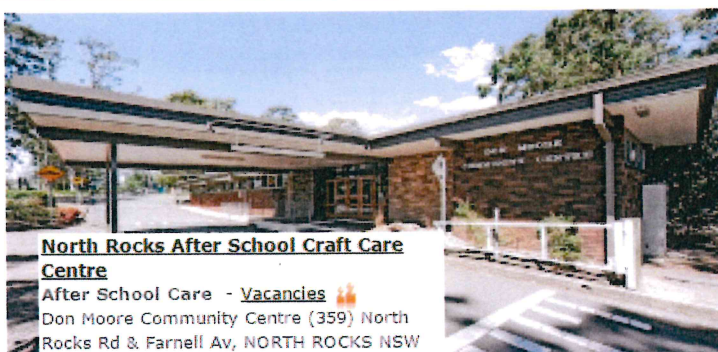
*Currently ‘off-site school aged care’  
faces a complex, costly and difficult  
approval process—despite this  
there are still many off-site services  
providing after school services  
everyday in NSW.*



#### **Bligh Park Combined OSHC**

After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#)

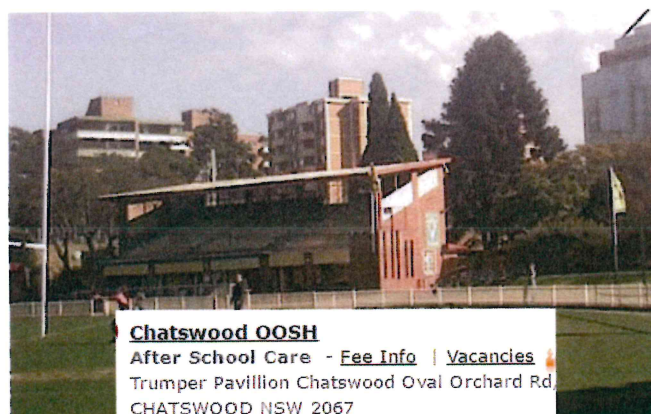
Children's Services Centre 1 Guardian Cres,  
BLIGH PARK NSW 2756



#### **North Rocks After School Craft Care Centre**

After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🍷

Don Moore Community Centre (359) North  
Rocks Rd & Farnell Av, NORTH ROCKS NSW



#### **Chatswood OOSH**

After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#) 🍷

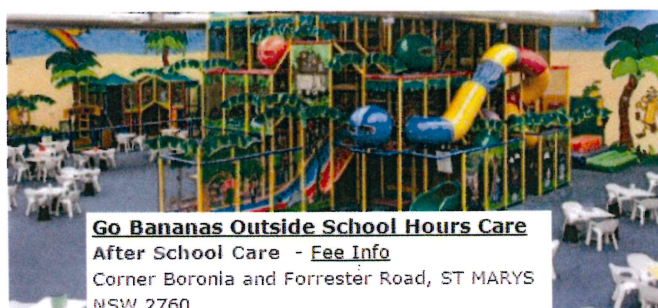
Trumper Pavillion Chatswood Oval Orchard Rd,  
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067



#### **Glossodia Community Centre OOSH**

After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🍷

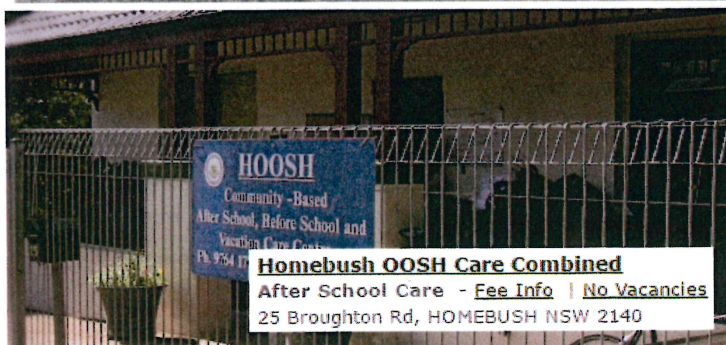
162 Golden Valley Drive, GLOSSODIA NSW  
2756



#### **Go Bananas Outside School Hours Care**

After School Care - [Fee Info](#)

Corner Boronia and Forrester Road, ST MARYS  
NSW 2760



#### **Homebush OOSH Care Combined**

After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [No Vacancies](#)

25 Broughton Rd, HOMEBUSH NSW 2140





**Greystanes Uniting Church Child Care Before and After Care (Dolphins)**

After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
46 Eldridge Road, GREYSTANES NSW 2145



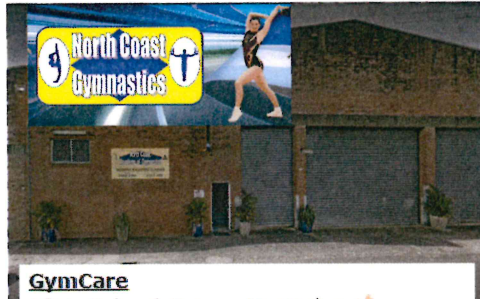
**Gundagai Out of School Hours Care**

After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
Gundagai Neighbourhood Centre 245 Sheridan Street, GUNDAGAI NSW 2722



**Jumbos OOSH**

After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
17 Merrigal Road, PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444



**GymCare**

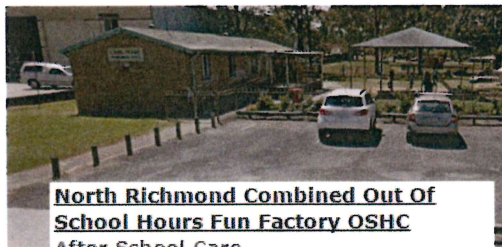
After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
North Coast Academy Of Gymnastics 9 Phyllis St, SOUTH LISMORE NSW 2480



**Jungle Club**

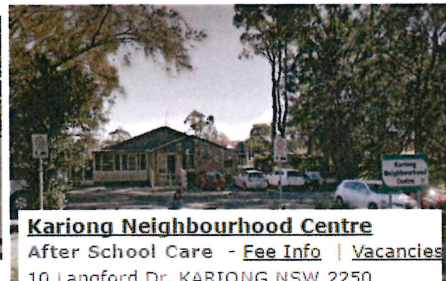
After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
6 Bray Street, COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

*The SEPP has completely overlooked this sector of the child care market. We must recognise this unique sector and streamline the approval process for off-site school age care.*



**North Richmond Combined Out Of School Hours Fun Factory OSHC**

After School Care  
Chas Perry Hall 30 Elizabeth Street, NORTH RICHMOND NSW 2754



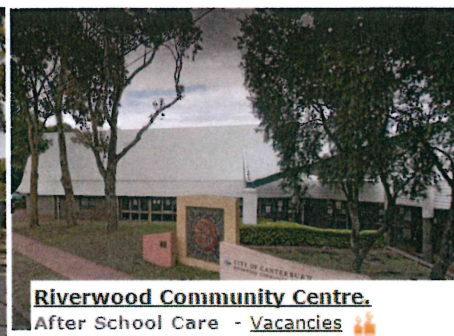
**Kariong Neighbourhood Centre**

After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
10 Langford Dr, KARIONG NSW 2250



**Narara Valley Baptist Church.**

After School Care  
149 Narara Valley Drive, NARARA NSW 2250



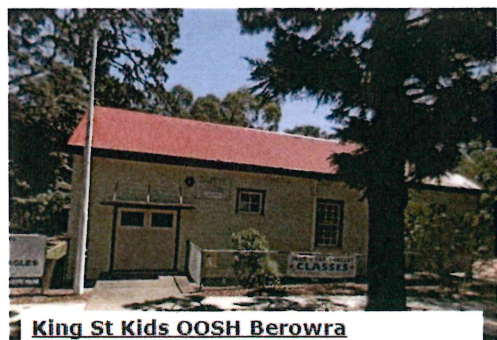
**Riverwood Community Centre.**

After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
Riverwood Community Centre 151 Belmore Rd North, RIVERWOOD NSW 2210



**Kurrajong District Combined OSHC**

After School Care  
Kurrajong Community Centre 30 McMahons Park Rd, KURRAJONG NSW 2758



**King St Kids OOSH Berowra**

After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
41-45 Berowra Waters Road, BEROWRA NSW 2081



**Kids Fun Club Clovelly**

After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
1 Burnie Street, CLOVELLY NSW 2031



**Whoosh Care Annandale Community Centre**

After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
Annandale Community Centre 79 Johnston Street, ANNANDALE NSW 2038



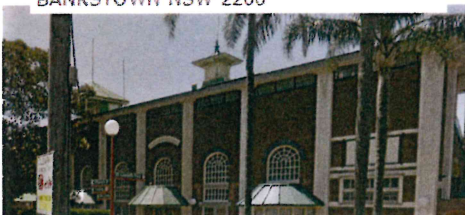


**Leroys Outside School Hours Care**  
After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#)  
Uniting Church Hall 381 Hume Highway,  
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200



**Lane Cove Out of School Incorporated.**  
After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#)  
178 Longueville Rd, LANE COVE NSW 2066

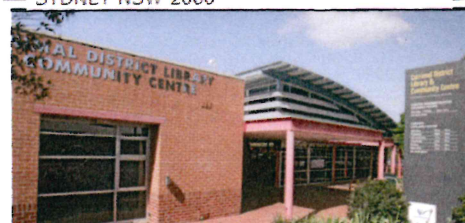
*'The SEPP must allow  
off-site school age  
services to grow and  
help meet the  
demands of the  
community.'*



**KU Grandstand Kids Care**  
After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#)  
Grandstand Bld 5 Fig Tree Lane, NORTH  
SYDNEY NSW 2060



**Ultimo Children's Program**  
After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#)  
40 William Henry Street, ULTIMO NSW 2007



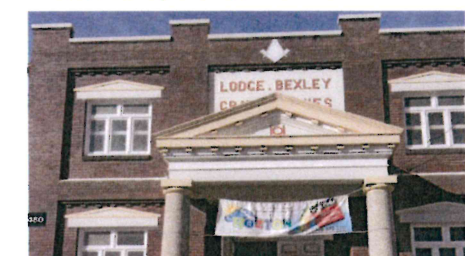
**Bungalow OOSH Care**  
After School Care  
Corrimal Community Centre and Library 15  
Short Street, CORRIMAL NSW 2518



**Pyrmont Children's Program**  
After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
Level 1 Corner John & Mount Street, PYRMONT  
NSW 2009



**Colin Place Out Of School Care**  
After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
2 Colin Place, CARLINGFORD NSW 2118



**Bozton Before and After School Care**  
After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#)  
Bexley Masonic Hall 478-480 Forest Road,  
BEXLEY NSW 2207



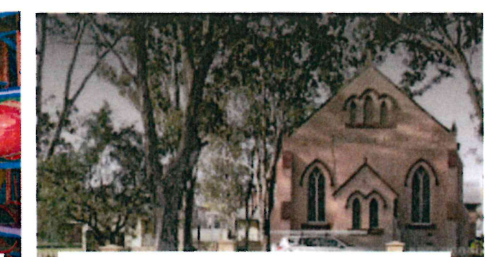
**Chester Hill Combined OSHC**  
After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
Chester Hill Multipurpose Centre 231 Wellington  
Rd, CHESTER HILL NSW 2162



**Mosman Council OOSHC**  
After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#)  
Drill Hall Cross St, MOSMAN NSW 2088



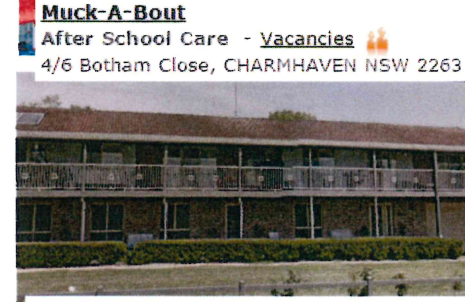
**Muck-A-Bout**  
After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
4/6 Botham Close, CHARMHAVEN NSW 2263



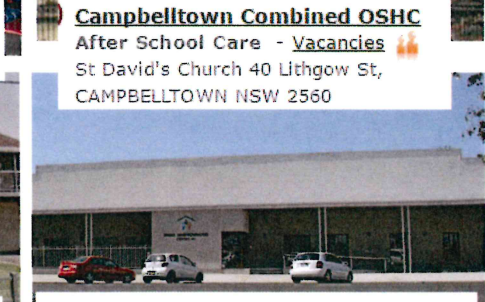
**Campbelltown Combined OSHC**  
After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
St David's Church 40 Lithgow St,  
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560



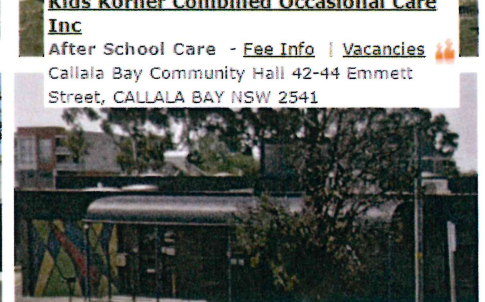
**Kids Korner Combined Occasional Care Inc**  
After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
Callala Bay Community Hall 42-44 Emmett  
Street, CALLALA BAY NSW 2541



**Mrs P Before and After School Care**  
After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
66-76 Factory Road, REGENTVILLE NSW 2745



**Central After School And Vacation Care**  
After School Care - [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
1/80 Gipps Street, DUBBO NSW 2830



**Campbelltown City School Holiday Care**  
After School Care - [Fee Info](#) | [Vacancies](#) 🏠  
40 Broughton Street, CAMPBELLTOWN NSW

There are more services providing 'off-site school aged care', this is just a sample