

INTEGRATED CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE – WHY?



Increase in 0-4 year old population

Forecasted population trends point to an increase in the 0-4 year old age group for North Melbourne. 305 children over the next 20 years (CoM Population Forecasts, Geografia 2014).

This will mean an increase in demand for early childhood education and care services.



Increased need for early childhood services

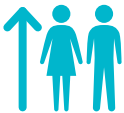
Data from the social economic index for areas (SEIFA) and Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) tells us there are high numbers of vulnerable families across pockets of the North Melbourne area (City of Melbourne, North Melbourne small area demographic profile, 2013). In Carlton, North and West areas, more than a third of children were found to be vulnerable on one or more AEDI domains (AEDI 2012).

These families require access to early childhood education and care services, allied health, family support and community services.



Increase in demand

Increase in demand for a range of children and family services and waiting lists in the area.



Increase in number of workers

Expected increase in workers in urban renewal areas (including North Melbourne) which will have an impact on the demand for early childhood education and care services. An additional 20,500 workers by 2031.



Increase in resident population

An increase in resident population over the next 10 years will contribute to an increase in long day care and kindergarten demand.

The population in North Melbourne is expected to reach 26,482 by 2035, a 77% increase on the 2015 population, 16,133 (CoM population forecasts, Geografia, 2014).



Policy focus

All levels of government are focused on shifting policy towards integration of services, early intervention, increased localised responses and more holistic support to people at all stages of life. Department of Education and Training, Commonwealth Government Social Inclusion agenda, the Australian Government's agenda for early childhood, 2011 Victorian Families Statement, Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework.

