

Council abandons plans to sell off early childhood centres

Community-run childcare to remain in City of Port Phillip

Families and staff from three City of Port Phillip early childhood centres were relieved to learn the outcome of a late-night Council vote that saw Councillors reject a proposal to sell off their community-run childcare and kindergarten services.

The decision means Elwood Children’s Centre, Eildon Road Childcare & Kindergarten (St Kilda) and The Avenue Children’s Centre & Kindergarten (Balaclava) will now be rebuilt or renovated, pending finalisation of funding arrangements.

The independent centres have campaigned to keep their services operating since December last year when Councillors voted unanimously to commence the proposal to sell process for the buildings from which the centres operate.

The parent-run management committees will now turn their efforts to working with Council to ensure the long-term future of the three centres.

“We’re thrilled to have reached a positive outcome after 10 months of campaigning to stop the sale of our beloved centres,” said Elwood Children’s Centre Committee President Claire Byrne.

“Collectively, we provide care and education for more than 200 local children each year, helping parents balance care-giving and work, and fostering connection and community among families.”

The Avenue Children’s Centre & Kindergarten Committee President Louise Hird agreed.

“The ramifications of selling our centres would have been long lasting with many carers unable to return to work due to a lack of affordable and accessible childcare options. The closure would also have resulted in significant job losses for more than 45 dedicated educators, and have broader negative impacts on the local economy. We’re relieved to see Council shift its thinking and agree to support community-run kindergarten and early childhood centres in Port Phillip. It is pleasing to finally see Council place value on providing services to their constituents.”

Eildon Road Childcare & Kindergarten Committee President Caroline Thornton said she hoped the long-term futures of the centres would now be assured.



“We’re eager to get to work on upgrading each of the centres and put the distractions of the council’s consultation period behind us. For 10 months, the staff at our centres have been in a place of unease while listening to stakeholders debate the future of their workplaces. This has taken its toll, and we have lost valued team members along the way. Last night’s decision means our teams can return their focus to doing what they love - educating and caring for our children, knowing that they have a secure future.

“Most importantly, future families in the City of Port Phillip will have access to quality, affordable care for their children without having to leave the local area for many years to come.”

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The Avenue
Children’s Centre
& Kindergarten




elwood children’s centre


Eildon Road
Childcare & Kindergarten