



13 June 2024

Parents of children in on campus community childcare services

Changes to on campus childcare arrangements from January 2025

Dear colleagues,

Yesterday morning, four community childcare providers at ANU and I met to discuss the University's strategy for childcare services on our campus from 2025. These four childcare centres' licences are due to expire on 31 January 2025. This letter serves as an update to you as the parents and guardians of children who are part of these centres and part of our ANU community.

As parents who use our on-campus childcare services, you will know that four of our current childcare centres on campus operate in heritage buildings located within the Acton Conservation Precinct.

Due to the age of these buildings and the ongoing work required to remediate hail damage and ensure the buildings meet our high standards, the University has explored options to help us provide the best, uninterrupted childcare services for ANU families into the future.

With these four childcare centres' licences expiring in January 2025, it is an opportune time to look at how we enhance our service. With the support of the University's Campus Planning Committee, a decision has been made to install two new purpose-built childcare facilities on the campus, and to commence a procurement process to operate them.

This means the University will:

- **Prioritise places for current families.** We want to provide assurance that you will have continuity of care arrangements by ensuring, as part of the procurement process, that the successful provider(s) prioritise places for existing ANU families in the new facilities.
- **Engage with existing providers.** We value the long-standing relationships we have with our providers on campus and are working with them to ensure that they have the opportunity to submit commercial proposals to operate within the new facilities.
- **Transition to purpose-built facilities.** We want childcare services at ANU to be the highest quality. The new facilities will deliver the very latest high-quality environment that supports the development needs of children and the operational needs of our providers. This transition to new facilities is aimed at reducing the disruptions to childcare services that can occur in heritage buildings, while also ensuring we continue to offer the high standards of care parents expect for their children. The new facilities will have enough room for the current level of demand for childcare on campus.

- **Maintain continuity of services.** We want to assure you that childcare will continue to be available through this process. Childcare services will continue to be provided on campus during the procurement process to ensure there is no disruption to the services our community relies upon, nor to the care and education of its children.

The childcare centres on campus provide essential services to our community and I thank all our wonderful on-campus operators for the excellent service and care they continue to provide. Since the 1960s, ANU has been at the forefront of supporting the University community by providing essential and accessible childcare services and has played a vital role in fostering supportive and inclusive environments for families at ANU.

Please note that Goodstart Early Learning ANU centre is not impacted by these arrangements, as their commercial agreement is separate from the community childcare providers on campus.

We understand this transition may give rise to some questions, but please know we are working to ensure a smooth process. We will be engaging with key stakeholders, including parents, guardians, staff and childcare centre boards to gather feedback and keep everyone informed throughout the process. As the development of the procurement process is in progress, we would love to hear from you about things that would make our on-campus services even better. If you have suggestions or questions about this process, please contact commercial.services@anu.edu.au.

More details on the procurement process will be released next week but we are hoping to finalise the transition by November 2024, with the new facilities to open in late January 2025. As a parent I know how important high-quality childcare is. We will work to ensure ANU parents and families have access to the excellent services and facilities you expect in our childcare centres, both now and into the future.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Price
Chief Operating Officer
Australian National University