

## DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CITIES

### 1.18 EVENT BRIEF – Visit to Banyan Park Play Centre

<b>Date and Time:</b>	Thursday 15 November 2018, 10.30 am – 11.15 am
<b>Location:</b>	Banyan Park Play Centre
<b>Attendees:</b>	Eric Hutchinson, Administrator Claire Quintal, President and DIRDC Banyan Park Committee (names TBC)

#### Key Issues:

- Norfolk Island families are not able to access the Australian Government’s Child Care Subsidy (CCS), as Banyan Park and other child care providers on Norfolk Island are not accredited child care service providers eligible to attract CCS.
- The interim child care relieve funding was announced on 2 July 2018 and is provided through a contract with Banyan Park administered by the Department. The current contract expires on 31 December 2018.
- When the interim funding arrangement was agreed, there was an expectation that a state child care regulator would be in place by 31 December 2018.
- More detailed briefing is at **Attachment A**.

#### Building Better Regions Fund Round One – Banyan Park Playcentre Inc– Auwas Letl Salan, Norfolk Island's Kids

- The Australian Government has committed BBRF funding of \$899,900 towards the \$999,900 Auwas Letl Salan, Norfolk Island's Kids project.
- Banyan Park Playcentre Inc is providing \$100,000 cash and \$62,500 in kind support towards the project.
- The project will upgrade the island’s major education and care facility with new classrooms, landscaped outdoor area and extended undercover play areas.
- The project commenced in October 2017 and is expected to be completed by the end of January 2019.
- It is estimated that seven jobs will be created during the project, and another nine ongoing jobs to be supported post construction.

#### Other Childcare issues

- Norfolk Island Family Day Care (FDC) providers, Ms Katherine Lance and Ms Deborah Sheridan, have approached the former Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government and his Advisor, seeking support to provide CCS to FDC providers on Norfolk Island. The Department advised the priority is to strengthen and embed the Banyan Park arrangement prior to considering expansion to include FDC.

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- Childcare worker placements at Banyan Park. Correspondence was received from [REDACTED] for People Plus, in relation to students undertaking the practical component of childcare training at Banyan Park. The Department provided advice from DET encouraging [REDACTED] contact the Australian Skills Quality Authority to ascertain the process through which Banyan Park can become a regulated centre for workplace placement purpose.

**Background:** Nil

**Sensitivities:** Nil

**Attachments:**

A Child Care Fee Relief – Banyan Park Early Learning Centre – Norfolk Island

