

Attachment D

Use Group:	Early years
Use(s):	D. Long day care

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Summaries of the key findings from this assessment are provided in the main Community Infrastructure Needs Analysis Key Findings & Recommendations report.

Detailed assessment results are provided in Part B to this report. Where available, Building Condition audits and Fitness for Purpose assessments that have informed the Suitability Assessment may be requested directly from Moorabool Shire Council.

Definition(s):

Long day care:

Centre-based education and care services for children aged 0-6 years, providing up to 12 hours of care a day. Services operate under the Australian Government National Quality Framework and must meet the requirements of the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. Long Day Care in Moorabool is provided by the private sector and community organisations.

Notes

Revision and update of the Quantity Standards

The Quantity Standards are directly informed by the current levels of public use that existing facilities receive. This is because Council cannot reasonably determine Quantity Standards without first understanding how well, or how poorly, existing facilities are used.

The current Quantity Standards for Long day care have been informed by the findings of the Utilisation Assessment. If utilisation rates change in future, the Quantity Standards should be revised to reflect that change.

Existing infrastructure

The following facilities within Moorabool Shire were recorded through the Community Infrastructure Audit and assessed for this report:

Facilities providing 4 year-old kindergarten	Service type	Owner & operator	# licensed places	Modelled enrolment capacity
Aussie Kindies Early Learning, Bacchus Marsh	Long day care with integrated kindergarten program	Private owner & operator	80 ¹	120
Bacchus Marsh Child Care & Kindergarten Centre	Long day care with integrated kindergarten program	Private owner & operator	50 ¹	75
Ballan Child Care Centre	Long day care	Council owned, privately operated	50	75
Early Learning Centre, Maddingley	Long day care with integrated kindergarten program	Private owner & operator	103 ¹	155
Maddingley Montessori Centre	Long day care	Private owner & operator	110	165
Pentland Child Care & Kindergarten Centre	Long day care with integrated kindergarten program	Private owner & operator	60 ¹	46
Story House Early Learning Centre, Darley	Long day care with integrated kindergarten program	Private owner & operator	96 ¹	144

Table D1: Existing infrastructure (within Moorabool Shire)

For more information about how the above figures for ‘# licensed places’ and ‘modelled enrolment capacity’ have been determined, refer to the Quantity Assessment section of this document.

¹ Total places for Long Day care and Kindergarten

To inform the Travel Accessibility Assessment, the following facilities outside of but within 20 minutes' drive of towns within the Shire, were also recorded and mapped:

Facilities providing Long day care outside of Moorabool Shire
City of Ballarat
Alfredton Child Care Centre
Alfredton Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Ballarat Child Care Co-operative
Creswick Road Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Delacombe Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Girrabanya Children's Centre
Lake Gardens Children Centre
Mount Clear Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Mount Helen Goodstart Early Learning Centre
Sebastopol Child Care Centre
Wendouree Children's Services
Hepburn Shire
Creswick Children's Services
Daylesford Community Child Care
City of Melton
Melton World of Learning
Goodstart Early Learning Centre (High Street)
Goodstart Early Learning Centre (Melton West)

Table D2: Existing infrastructure (accessible from Moorabool Shire)

Quantity Assessment findings

Purpose

A strategic assessment to determine whether there are enough facilities in relation to population size.

The Quantity Assessment determines whether there is currently a suitable and sufficient quantity of services or facilities to meet the needs of the population of an area. It seeks to identify any under or over-provision that exists now and, using Council's population forecasts, may exist in the future.

Note regarding notation:

- *Figures that refer to an undersupply are prefixed with '-' and oversupply prefixed with '+'.*
- *The name 'Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds' refers to the urban areas of Darley, Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley.*

The Quantity Standard

Standard

used: *1 enrolment place per 3 children aged 0-4 years*
Population trigger²: 150 children aged 0-4 within a 20 minute drive

Rationale: *Enrolment data for long day care centres in Bacchus Marsh was not available for 2018 but was collected in May 2016 through an earlier version of this needs assessment. Data in 2016 informed a Quantity Standard of '1 licensed place per 6 children aged 0-4 year'.*

This assessment now uses 'enrolment capacity' rather than licensed places as the preferred measure of existing provision. Enrolment capacity is calculated as 2 children per licensed place and the new Quantity Standard is therefore 1 unit of enrolment capacity per 3 children aged 0-4 (equivalent to 30% participation). This roughly reflects the national figure of 26% participation in LDC reported by the ABS in June 2014 (44020DO007_201406 Childhood Education and Care, Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014).

'Licensed places' and 'enrolment capacity'

Figures for 'licensed places' refers to the maximum number of children that each centre is licensed to educate at any one time. But the number of licensed places does not provide an adequate metric to determine how many children can actually attend long day care at a facility across the span of a week. This is because within a week, each licensed place can actually be used by more than 1 child. For example, a child may only require care for 2 days a week; on other days, different children may effectively occupy that licensed place.

The Quantity Assessment modelling uses the assumption that the maximum 'enrolment capacity' of facilities is equivalent to 2 children per licensed place.

Integrated kindergarten within long day care

² minimum cohort population required to trigger need for a facility

Where a long day care centre also provides an integrated kindergarten program, the number of licensed places allocated to kindergarten is subtracted from the total number of licensed places. This removes double-counting of places used for long day care vs kindergarten.

Findings of the Quantity Assessment

Detailed results of the gap analysis comparing the audit of existing supply with the Quantity Standard are provided in Part B to this report.

The audit recorded 7 facilities within the Shire providing long day care, 5 of which also provide an integrated kindergarten program. As explained above, the number of licensed places used for kindergarten have been subtracted from each centre's total licensed places to arrive at the enrolment capacity for long day care (see Table D1).

Small towns and rural areas:

- There is no long day care provision with small towns and rural areas. Towns rely on the facilities in Ballan, Darley, Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley, Ballarat and to a lesser degree Melton.
- When modelled together, the areas of 'Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds'³ and 'Rural East' show a surplus of +143 places of enrolment capacity, falling to +100 places by 2021 and a shortfall of -21 places by 2031.
- Ballan Child Care Centre services the small towns in the centre and west of the Shire. When modelled together, Ballan and the Rural West has a shortfall of -78 places now, increasing to a shortfall of -87 by the year 2021 and -154 places by 2041. It should be noted that, due to the long distances between Ballan and the towns in the far north, south and west of the Rural West, it is understood that many families instead choose to use centres in Ballarat.

Ballan:

- Modelled on its own, Ballan has a small surplus of +18 places currently, reducing to +13 by the year 2021 and becoming a shortfall of -6 places by 2031 and -31 by 2041.
- *See above for results when modelled with the Rural West.*

Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds:

- Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds⁴ shows a surplus against the Standard of +245 places now, reducing to a surplus of +206 by the year 2021 and +121 by 2031. When modelled together with the Rural East, the surplus is less but still considerable at +143 places now. This reduces to a surplus of +100 places by 2021 and a shortfall of -21 places by 2031.
- On its own, Maddingley has a surplus of +213 places now, reducing to a surplus of +191 by 2021 and +130 by 2031. When modelled together with Bacchus Marsh, the area has a surplus of +148 places now falling to +106 by the year 2021 and a shortfall of -3 by 2031.
- Bacchus Marsh and Darley together show a much smaller surplus of only +31 places now, falling to a shortfall of -9 places by 2031. This is because there are only 75 places of long day care within Bacchus Marsh (Bacchus Marsh Child Care & Kindergarten Centre) meaning that families rely on the centres in Darley and Maddingley.

³ The area 'Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds' refers to the urban area of Darley, Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley.

Utilisation Assessment findings

Purpose

Facility-specific assessments that determine whether services and facilities have adequate capacity to meet community demand.

The Utilisation Assessment examines the current level of use of facilities and determines whether or not they have capacity to accommodate existing and/or increased use.

Findings of the Utilisation Assessment

Council does not own or operate any long day care facilities. As such, enrolment data was not available and Utilisation Assessments were not carried out.

Travel Accessibility Assessment findings

Purpose

A strategic assessment to determine whether people can travel to services and facilities within a reasonable journey time.

The Travel Accessibility Assessment examines the geographic distribution of existing facilities and their relationship to public transport (train station and bus stops) and car parking. It assesses whether facilities are accessible within a reasonable journey distance or time from where people live and identifies any significant spatial gaps in provision.

The Travel Standard

Standards

used:

- Settlements of population less than 500: 20 minute drive*
- Settlements of population between 500 and 2,000: 15 minute drive*
- Settlements of population more than 2,000: 10 minute drive*
- Population trigger⁴: 150 children aged 0-4 years within a 20 minute drive*

Rationale:

The Travel Standards have been informed by various factors:

- *The geographic distribution of existing facilities and their distance from people.*
- *Minimum populations required to support viable services and facilities.*
- *Council and other service providers' financial ability to deliver and maintain a network of services and facilities.*

Findings of the Travel Accessibility Assessment

*Detailed results of the Travel Accessibility Assessment are provided in Part B to this report. Summary results are shown in **Table D3** and **Map D1** below.*

Small towns and rural areas:

Table D3 below provides tabular results of the assessment for each of the 22 small towns and rural areas; the same results are shown on Map D1.

- The results show that families in all small towns other than Morrisons have at least 1 long day care centre within the Travel Standard for their location. Several towns in the far west of the Shire meet their travel standards due to the proximity of facilities in Ballarat rather than facilities within Moorabool.
- The following towns have only 1 facility within their Travel Standard:
 - Barkstead (but another facility 1 minute beyond the Travel Standard)
 - Blackwood (but another facility 3 minutes beyond the Travel Standard)
 - Elaine (but another facility 4 minutes beyond the Travel Standard)
 - Mt Wallace (the next closest is 6 minutes beyond the Travel Standard)
- Barkstead, Clarendon, Elaine, Lal Lal, Navigators and Yendon (and to a lesser degree Dunnstown) only meet their Travel Standards because of their proximity to facilities outside of Moorabool, primarily in Ballarat.

⁴ Minimum population required to support a viable service / facility.

Ballan:

- Ballan meets the Travel Standard (10 minute drive) as it has the Ballan Child Care Centre within town. The next closest facilities are Pentland Child Care & Kindergarten Centre (16 minutes) and Aussie Kindies Early Learning Bacchus Marsh (17 minutes).
- It is worth noting that Ballan has only 1 facility within the 10 minute drive time standard.

Note: at present, Bacchus Marsh is the only settlement assessed as an urban area. As the population of Ballan grows, it may be appropriate to also apply the urban assessment to Ballan.

Bacchus Marsh and Surrounds:

- Map D1 shows that all parts of the urban area have at least 1 child care centre within the Travel Standard of '10 minute drive'.
- Darley is particularly well served by 3 centres, plus the Bacchus Marsh Child Care and Kindergarten centre just to the south.
- Central and southern Bacchus Marsh have no facilities and rely on facilities to the north, in Darley and Maddingley.
- Maddingley is adequately provided by 2 facilities.

Gap analysis results (Travel Accessibility Assessment) - maps

The following maps are provided in Part B to this report ('Detailed assessment data'):

Map D1: Travel Accessibility Assessment results for 'long day care'

	Population within range ⁵	Travel Standard	Standard met/failed	Actual journey time to 2 nearest facilities (as measured)	Comments
Balliang	<100	20 minute drive	✓	17 minutes: Early Learning Centre Maddingley 18 minutes: Maddingley Montessori Centre	2 Moorabool facilities within 18 minutes. Bacchus Marsh is just beyond the Travel Standard but Maddingley is close enough.
Balliang East	100-200	20 minute drive	✓	14 minutes: Maddingley Montessori Centre 15 minutes: Early Learning Centre Maddingley	2 Moorabool facilities within 15 minutes. Both Bacchus Marsh and Maddingley are within the Travel Standard.
Barkstead	<100	20 minute drive	✓	16 minutes: Daylesford Community Child Care 21 minutes: Creswick Children's Services	1 non-Moorabool facility within travel standard and another just 1 minute beyond. Closest Moorabool facility is Ballan Child Care (23 mins)
Blackwood	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	20 minutes: Ballan Child Care Centre 23 minutes: Pentland Child Care & Kindergarten	Only Ballan Child Care within travel standard. Pentland Child Care is 3 minutes beyond.
Bungaree	100-200	20 minute drive	✓	13 minutes: Ballarat Child Care Co-operative 13 minutes: Girrabanya Children's Centre	2 non-Moorabool facilities within 13 minutes plus several more within travel standard including Ballan Child Care (16 minutes).
Clarendon	100-200	20 minute drive	✓	12 minutes: Mount Helen Goodstart ELC 16 minutes: Mount Clear Goodstart ELC	2 non-Moorabool facilities within 16 minutes. Closest Moorabool facility is Ballan Child Care (29 minutes).
Dales Creek	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	16 minutes: Ballan Child Care Centre 20 minutes: Pentland Child Care & Kindergarten	2 Moorabool facilities within travel standard.
Dunnstown	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	11 minutes: Ballarat Child Care Co-operative 12 minutes: Girrabanya Children's Centre	2 non-Moorabool facilities within 12 minutes plus several more within travel standard including Ballan Child Care (20 minutes).
Elaine	<100	20 minute drive	✓	20 minutes: Mount Helen Goodstart ELC 24 minutes: Mount Clear Goodstart ELC	1 non-Moorabool facility within travel standard and another 4 minutes beyond. Closest Moorabool facility is Ballan Child Care (31 mins)
Gordon	500-2000	15 minute drive	✓	10 minutes: Ballan Child Care Centre 20 minutes: Ballarat Child Care Co-operative	2 facilities within travel standard. Closest is a Moorabool facility and other is not.
Greendale	500-2000	15 minute drive	✓	12 minutes: Ballan Child Care Centre 15 minutes: Pentland Child Care & Kindergarten	2 Moorabool facilities within 15 minutes plus several others within travel standard.

⁵ Travel Standards have been assigned to small towns according to population ranges. As larger populations can support a wider range of services and facilities, travel distance / time standards are generally less (i.e. better) for larger settlements. For more information regarding this methodology refer to the Moorabool Community Infrastructure Planning Process on Council's website.

	Population within range ⁵	Travel Standard	Standard met/failed	Actual journey time to 2 nearest facilities (as measured)	Comments
Hopetoun Park	500-2000	15 minute drive	✓	10 minutes: Bacchus Marsh Child Care & Kindergarten 10 minutes: Pentland Child Care & Kindergarten	2 Moorabool facilities within 10 minutes; Maddingley and other Darley facilities are also within travel standard.
Korweinguboora	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	15 minutes: Daylesford Community Child Care 16 minutes: Ballan Child Care Centre	2 facilities within travel standard. Closest is a non-Moorabool facility, by a small margin.
Lal Lal	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	14 minutes: Mount Helen Goodstart ELC 16 minutes: Mount Clear Goodstart ELC	2 non-Moorabool facilities within 16 minutes. Closest Moorabool facility is Ballan Child Care (25 minutes).
Morrison's	<100	20 minute drive	✗	24 minutes: Ballan Child Care Centre 28 minutes: Mount Helen Goodstart ELC	No facilities within travel standard. Closest is Ballan Child Care (24 minutes)
Mt Egerton	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	12 minutes: Ballan Child Care Centre 20 minutes: Mount Helen Goodstart ELC	2 facilities within travel standard. Closest is a Moorabool facility and other is not.
Mt Wallace	<100	20 minute drive	✓	15 minutes: Ballan Child Care Centre 26 minutes: Early Learning Centre Maddingley	Only Ballan Child Care within travel standard. Next closest is 6 minutes beyond the standard.
Myrniong	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	10 minutes: Pentland Child Care & Kindergarten 11 minutes: Aussie Kindies Bacchus Marsh	2 Moorabool facilities within 11 minutes plus 6 more within 20 minutes.
Navigators	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	10 minutes: Girrabanya Children's Centre 11 minutes: Mount Clear Goodstart ELC	2 non-Moorabool facilities within 11 minutes. Closest Moorabool facility is Ballan Child Care (24 minutes).
Wallace	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	13 minute: Ballan Child Care Centre 15 minutes: Ballarat Child Care Co-operative	2 facilities within travel standard. Closest is a Moorabool facility and other is not.
Yendon	200-500	20 minute drive	✓	10 minutes: Mount Helen Goodstart ELC 13 minutes: Mount Clear Goodstart ELC	2 non-Moorabool facilities within 13 minutes. Closest Moorabool facility is Ballan Child Care (21 minutes).

Table D3: results of the Travel Accessibility Assessment for small towns

- ✓ Travel Standard met,
- ✗ Travel Standard failed

Suitability Assessment findings

Purpose

Facility-specific assessments that determine whether facilities are fit for their purpose and in adequate physical condition.

The Suitability Assessment seeks to determine how suitable facilities are in terms of supporting the services or community activities delivered through them.

Findings of the Suitability Assessment

Council does not own or operate any long day care facilities. As such, Suitability Assessments were not carried out for long day care.

It is anecdotally understood that privately-operated long day care centres within the Shire are generally fit for purpose, though some are in old buildings that require modernisation to meet contemporary standards. Remedying any issues with the condition or suitability of these facilities is the responsibility of the private operators.

If Council is requested to contribute financially to improvements at any long day care facilities, it is strongly recommended that Fitness for Purpose Assessments be conducted prior to deciding on Council investment.

Child Safety Standards and multipurpose facilities

It is important to note that the Victorian Government Child Safety Standards apply compulsory minimum standards to all organisations that provide services to children, including local government. The standards may have implications for community infrastructure that services both children and adults on the same site at the same time, such as an early years and community hub, library or recreation facility.

It is recommended that, for any project building or modifying facilities that service both children and adults at the same time, the project manager should consult with Council's Child Safety officer to ensure a risk management approach to child safety.