

Nature, Scope and Intended Benefits of the Proposed Works and Impact on Children and the Learning Environment

The redevelopment will transform the kindergarten into a modern, inclusive, and safe learning environment. Larger, light-filled indoor spaces will be purpose-built to support a range of teaching and play experiences, including imaginative play, small group learning, and quiet reflection. Outdoor areas will be redesigned to encourage nature-based exploration and gross motor development, promoting physical health and wellbeing.

The proposed works will:

- Maximise useable floor space-a reconfigured internal layout will remove inefficient storerooms, install wall cabinetry and create a dedicated planning room and staff kitchen, improving overall building functionality.
- Provide new floor finishes and remove the need for educators to use storerooms as office space. This will mitigate occupational health and safety concerns by upgrading flooring (non-slip) and provide a purpose-built planning room with adequate ventilation.
- Improve safety for children by locating lockers inside the licenced playroom (removed from foyer area). This will promote children's independence and self-help skills.
- Improve access to the building by providing a new ramp and stair combination which will provide access to a fenced grass area that was previously blocked off. The new design will provide a safe area for families to congregate before and after kinder. Basic landscaping will also be provided in this area (trees for shade, bench seats and grassed area).
- Create an DDA compliant accessible toilet for families and educators located in the foyer.
- Create an additional meeting room. Creating a meeting space for confidential discussions with families and allied health providers and other professionals will not only improve communication with families but also improves educator job satisfaction.
- Improve educational practice by enabling staff to collaborate within a shared planning room (no longer sitting at a desk in storeroom). This will also assist when implementing a new model of team teaching.
- Providing a staff kitchen. This will enable educators to sit together and share meals- improving staff morale.
- Modernising children's bathroom by replacing old toilets with modern toilets with doors, to improve children's privacy and confidence.
- Extending the building footprint to accommodate an additional 6 licenced places in room One. Young Street Kinder currently has a 33-place room and a 27-place room. Expanding the facility to include two 33-place rooms will provide access to an additional 11 children, optimising utilisation and meeting the growing community demand. Increasing service capacity will allow more children to access high-quality kindergarten programs within their local community, reducing waiting lists and supporting families to access early childhood education closer to home.

Outdoors

- Outdoor play spaces will be upgraded to promote active, nature-based exploration and gross motor development, supporting the health and wellbeing of children. Landscaping design also incorporates new tree plantings to provide improved aesthetic screening and shade.
- Renewing dated synthetic rubber surface to improve bike circuit.
- Addition of water play features in sandpit