

CITIZENS' SERVICE CENTRE

TEL: (02) 9335 2222
FAX: (02) 9335 2029
TTY: (02) 9335 2025 (Hearing Impaired)
EMAIL: council@marrickville.nsw.gov.au

OUR REF: 12180-02 TF:LS



ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE

2-14 FISHER STREET PETERSHAM
ADMINISTRATION TEL: (02) 9335 2000
PO BOX 14 PETERSHAM 2049
DX 3910 - ANNANDALE
ABN: 52 659 768 527

YOUR REF:

25 August 2004

The Committee Manager
Standing Committee on Public Work
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Committee Manager

INQUIRY INTO THE JOINT USE AND CO-LOCATION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS

I refer to the letter from Kevin Greene MP dated 23 June 2004 regarding the above matter.

The following is a list of buildings and projects within the Marrickville LGA that are listed for consideration in your enquiry:

- Council has recently designed and constructed a major recreational facility at the Debbie & Abbie Borgia Recreation Centre at Steel Park, Marrickville. The operation and management of this facility is undertaken by the Police Citizens Youth Club in a joint arrangement with Marrickville Council.

To date this facility is a good example of a partnership that applies the technological aspects held by Council to create the facility but utilise the specialist knowledge of the PCYC in developing suitable programs based on their broad experience.

- Council currently operates a childcare centre within the Wilkins Primary School at Marrickville.

Again this is a good example of a partnership between Marrickville Council and the Department of Education applying specific skills or facilities.

In this case Council provides the childcare service operation within an existing infrastructure owned by the Department of Education.

The co-location of a childcare facility within a school grounds has a natural synergy that benefits the broader community.

- Council will be redeveloping the old Marrickville Hospital site within the next 5 to 10 years into a Central Library and other civic facilities. It is envisaged that this development will look to provide a centre where a broad spectrum of public facilities will be made available including the possible co-location of state government offices.

- Council has had problems with constructing specialist buildings for state government services and not having them utilised. The main example being the Tillman Park Child Care Centre that had specific facilities for Early Child Care Nursing Programs constructed as part of the redevelopment. However, due to operational matters within the Area Health Service, these facilities have not been utilised.
- Council currently has a number of Town Halls that are not utilised to their full potential during the day but are used in the evenings.

It is considered that with assistance, Council would be able to bring the premises up to a standard whereby they would be used by a greater range of customers such as state government agencies for training, conferences, seminars and the like.

- Council whilst having a number of co-located after hours childcare and school holiday programs within public schools, has encountered significant impediments when dealing with the Department of Education in regard to accessing school premises. Further, many of these buildings are old and do not meet DDA requirements as well as a lack of adequate office and storage space for staff.

The successes that Council has had are usually as a result of direct contact with the school P & C association and headmaster e.g. Stanmore Public School Child Care Centre. That is, the issue of joint venture/partnerships do not appear to be a concept that the Department of Education is readily able to respond to given its primary function is as an educational provider.

I trust the above matters provide some insight into the issues affecting inner city LGA's where many of the premises are aging and do not meet current standard for public facilities.

Should you require further clarification please contact myself on 9335 2218 or Kerry Bradley, Manager Children & Family Services on 3995 2141.

Yours faithfully



Anthony Fazio
Manager, Property Services