



Media Release

26 June 2023

Childcare Forum Details the Impacts on Local Essential Services

For immediate release.

It is known that the shortage of available childcare, afterschool care, and school holiday vacation care has had a significant impact on individuals' ability to return to the workforce.

Last week, Council convened with representatives from NSW Health, Local Schools, Ambulance Service and the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) to discuss the limited availability of childcare and the impacts it is having on attracting and retaining staff, and service delivery within the region.

Mayor Doug Batten says,

“Council participated in a round table discussion to gain a better understanding of the work the DRNSW is doing across the region to help improve the access to child care services. It was evident from this meeting that this body of work is only in its preliminary stages, and that this issue is currently being faced across all regional and remote communities within Western NSW.”

“DRNSW highlighted the issues surrounding access to qualified trained staff within childcare services, and that there is a fundamental gap in before and after school care, and during school holidays. Following this meeting, it is clear that this is a matter also being experienced within our local service providers, specifically within the Hospital and Schools.”

Adding,

“Council recognises the importance of addressing this matter and is eager to seek the support and partnership of the State and Federal Governments to explore possible solutions and improve the availability of childcare services within our region”

Stay connected:

www.gilgandra.nsw.gov.au | [Facebook.com/GilgandraShireCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/GilgandraShireCouncil) | [#MyGilgandraShire](https://twitter.com/MyGilgandraShire)



Whilst this is the first step in a long journey, Council will be discussing the options to develop a local strategy to address the effect on individuals' ability to return to the workforce, and the impacts it has on the local services, and service delivery within the community.

Council is eager consult with local providers, State and Federal Governments to develop a clear plan that ensures we have childcare services that meet the needs of our community, and will continue to keep the community informed on any progress surrounding this matter.

Contact: Merscia Kouroulis
Acting Activation & Communications Manager
mkouroulis@gilgandra.nsw.gov.au
6817 8800

Stay connected:

www.gilgandra.nsw.gov.au | [Facebook.com/GilgandraShireCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/GilgandraShireCouncil) | [#MyGilgandraShire](https://twitter.com/MyGilgandraShire)