

Statement by Northside Community Service regarding the Civic Early Childhood Centre

Monday 19 August 2024

Northside Community Service will cease operations at Civic Early Childhood Centre on 13 September 2024.

The decision, made in consultation with ACT Property Group, is the result of several key factors including:

- **Building condition:** There have been significant maintenance and repair issues with the facility over recent years and ongoing discussions with the ACT Property Group. The costs to remediate the building are excessive and it has been deemed that the facility has reached the end of its serviceable life.
- **Lack of alternative sites:** During this process, we have investigated other suitable locations to run these services, but a suitable alternative has not been identified.
- **Financial viability:** The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent changes in work patterns have significantly impacted the service industry, including Early Childhood Education. Despite its best efforts, Northside Community Service has been unable to maintain the necessary occupancy levels at Civic Early Childhood Centre. With a current occupancy rate less than 50 per cent, continued operations at the Centre are financially unviable.

Northside Community Service, which has been operating the Civic Early Childhood Service since 1988, acknowledges the significant impact this closure will have on families, children and our staff.

Northside is committed to maintaining the highest quality of early education services in a safe learning community throughout the transition period.

Our priority is supporting families to find alternative care and educational arrangements at another Northside early childhood centre, or a suitable alternative arrangement. We will also be supporting our staff through this transition period.