

Strategic Analysis for South Gippsland Early Years Services

South Gippsland Shire Council allocated up to \$60,000 for a strategic analysis of early years infrastructure requirements in South Gippsland at its meeting this week.

Due to a change in the landscape of early years' education with the provision of funded three-year-old kindergarten for 2020, local childcare and after-school care the study is required for capacity planning.

A commitment was made to provide the necessary maintenance to keep both the Toora and Welshpool kindergartens operational for approximately five years pending the outcome of the analysis.

The study will also determine required Council funding, potential grant funding opportunities and project timelines.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Administrator Julie Eisenbise identified the need for further strategic work for early years.

"The Toora and Welshpool Kindergarten Feasibility Study has varied considerably since the consultant started the review following the introduction of 15 hours of subsidized three-year-old kindergarten.

"We now have to do a comprehensive study to identify which areas in our Shire are developing, where three-year-old and four-year-old children will be and look at our population growth along with the need for infrastructure development.

"There is extensive strategic work required before implementing recommendations given in the Toora and Welshpool Kindergarten Feasibility Study, so we will undertake maintenance in the meantime," said Ms Eisenbise.

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