

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## What is the Leongatha Early Learning Centre Project?

The Leongatha Early Learning Centre project will see the construction of a 121-place integrated children's facility in Symmons Street, Leongatha providing long daycare, kindergarten, maternal and child health and allied health services.



### Why we are building a new facility in Leongatha?

This project forms part of the Early Years Infrastructure Renewal program in response to the introduction of three-year-old kindergarten in South Gippsland and increasing demand for children's services in the region.

### When will the project commence?

Construction of the Leongatha Early Learning Centre will commence in 2021.

### When will the project be completed?

Completion of the Leongatha Early Learning Centre will be in 2022.

### What is the cost of the project?

The cost Leongatha Early Learning Centre project will be approximately \$5 million with Council funding \$3 million and grant funding sought for the remaining \$2 million.

### How will the project impact local residents close to Symmons Street?

It is anticipated that Symmons Street, Allison Street and Gray Street may experience increased traffic movement during the construction of Leongatha Early Learning Centre in 2021. In 2022, Symmons Street may experience increased traffic during operational hours of the new service.

### How will the new facility benefit our community?

The Leongatha Early Learning Centre will provide much-needed childcare and kindergarten services for families in South Gippsland. It is anticipated that the project will offer employment during and post construction contributing to our rural economy.

### Who will operate the new facility?

The centre will be leased and operated by a local not-for-profit early childhood service. Council will be undertaking a process to select a suitable tenant in the next few months.

### How will this affect other early childhood services in Leongatha? Will any close?

This facility will provide additional capacity to meet current and future demand. No services are planned to close. Building the new centre will reduce pressure on other services in Leongatha and other towns that are experiencing high demand.

For further details on the project please contact Sally Baker, Coordinator Children and Family Services or Glenn Wearne, Senior Project Delivery Officer on 5662 9200.