

20 March 2023

GWH
PO Box 753
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Attention: Lee Bateman

Dear Lee,

New Childcare Centre, Lochinvar

We understand that Maitland City Council has raised an issue with the proposed development (DA/2022/1398 - 30 Christopher Road LOCHINVAR) as follows:

Further information on how the development addresses accessibility for customers who are children with a disability and employees of the service who have a disability.

With regard to the compliance of the building structure, we advise that the documentation reviewed for the purposes of the development application will meet all accessibility requirements of The Building Code of Australia and The Disability (Access to Premises) Standards as outlined in the Access Report dated 16 December 2022. In terms of physical access, this will address the accessibility needs of children and employees who have a disability.

Any other accessibility provisions would be addressed through operational policies. This would be at the discretion of the service provider.

The following is noted:

- For children with disabilities attending a childcare centre, a managed approach to accessibility is generally implemented regardless of the level of access provided to and within the building and would be documented through an Individual Plan.

The child's Individual Plan (IP), developed in conjunction with allied health specialists, teachers and parents; documents special requirements related to accessibility. The implementation of an IP is standard practice for children / students with special needs within any childcare centre or school.



- Within a childcare centre, **staff** are required to have a degree of physical mobility and stamina due to the nature of the duties performed as a part of their position descriptions.

Position descriptions for childcare workers commonly list the following attributes:

- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Instructional skills
- Physical stamina (in the context of meeting the demands of the physical energy exerted by the children)
- Current first aid certificate

Physical activities listed within position descriptions for childcare workers often include the following:

- Sitting on the floor
- Bending
- Walking
- Dancing
- Ability to distinguish colour
- Lifting children up to 15kg
- Administering first aid / resuscitation

With respect to administrative staff working with a childcare centre, administrative staff would typically carry out general administrative and finance duties for the efficient functioning of the centre including collection of fees, control of all financial accounts processes, and maintenance of confidential records and information management activities. This position is subject to a Working with Children Check. Commonly, a current Driver License and First Aid Certificate is highly desirable for a position of this nature.

Any specific environmental modifications can be established during the induction / orientation process and implemented prior to commencement of employment.

If you would like to discuss this matter in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

LINDSAY PERRY
B.Arch, M.Dis.Stud.

Internationally Certified Access Consultant GAATES ICAC BE-02-106-18
ACAA Accredited Access Consultant No. 136 |
Registered Architect NSW 7021
Livable Housing Assessor 20047 | NDIS SDA Assessor SDA00049

