Keeping you informed about child care

This is the second of a series of information bulletins about a change to the child: staff ratio for Long Day Care services that Council delivers to the community.

**How will the child: staff ratio affect Council’s child care services?**

Changes to the child: staff ratio mean that Council’s Long Day Care services may be required to reduce the number of children in the preschool age group (3-5 years). The number of children in the (3-5 year) group may be reduced from 15 to 11 children.

**Will child care offer a funded preschool program in 2016?**

Council’s Long Day Care services will have a qualified early childhood teacher providing a funded preschool program in 2016. Families will have the option to nominate the Long Day Care preschool program as the funded preschool year for their child.

**Will there be any changes to the enrolment process?**

In the future, it will be important for families to renew enrolments for their children for the next year through the *Expression of Interest* process. It makes sure that our records are always up to date and that we can better plan for families who wish to attend Council’s Long Day Care Services. You can find out more information about our *Expression of Interest* process on our website [www.knox.vic.gov.au](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au).

**How will Priority of Access affect my child in the preschool age group?**

The Council’s *Commonwealth Government’s Priority of Access* applies to all families accessing Long Day Care services provided by Council.

In addition, the revised Council’s *Funded Preschool Policy 2015* includes a *Priority of Access* for funded preschool in Long Day Care services. Priority of Access to the 3-5 year group is given to families who choose their child’s funded year of preschool in our Long Day Care services.

Our *Funded Preschool Policy 2015* which talks about the Priority of Access for child care is available on Knox Council’s website under Children and Family Services. For further information please contact the Centre Co-coordinator or Early Years team on 9298 8000.