

# FACILITIES NEEDS RESEARCH

STRATEGIC  
DIRECTIONS  
FOR MARRICKVILLE

**Final report**  
**June 2012**



THE MILLER GROUP



**MARRICKVILLE**  
council

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Community Facilities in Marrickville

### Background to the study

Marrickville Council commissioned this Facilities Research Study to provide an evidence base to underpin the development of a new facilities strategic plan for the community.

The Research Study:

- examines the current provision of community facilities
- determines whether they meets existing needs, and
- determines whether they will meet the needs of future population.

The question underpinning the Study is:

*Does Marrickville have sufficient community facilities; including halls, libraries, community centres, child care centres and arts and cultural facilities to meet the needs of the existing community and the future needs of the community for the next 10 years?*

The aim of the Study is to ensure that community facilities planning and implementation in Marrickville is aligned with current and future demographic and other social changes that impact, or will impact in the future, upon the requirements of the community for community spaces.

The Research Study and the proposed Strategic Framework align with the goals and objectives of the Marrickville Community Strategic Plan – ‘Our Place Our Vision’ – specifically Key Result Area 1 (KRA1) ‘*A diverse community that is happy, healthy and fair*’.

This Key Result Area also includes the following statements:

- 1.2 Marrickville communities value and celebrate their cultural diversity
- 1.3 Marrickville communities have access to a range of services for people of all ages and abilities
- 1.5 Marrickville communities have access to learning opportunities at all stages of life
- 1.7 Marrickville is a creative community participating in arts and cultural activities at all stages of life.

The KRAs cover the provision of equitable facilities and services to promote well being, child care, libraries and arts and cultural activities. They are set within a context of respect for, and celebration of, cultural diversity, the promotion of health and wellbeing, social connection, and facilitation of participation for previously underserved groups such as Aboriginal people, young people, older people, people with a disability and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex residents.

The Strategic Plan also encourages citizen participation in community life, through the promotion of educational opportunities for all residents, and by ensuring that a

flourishing local not-for-profit sector is maintained to service the community. The need for facilities identified to meet the expectations contained within this strategic framework include:

- Larger indoor spaces for community festivals, arts and cultural events;
- Places for regular group meetings and one off medium to small group activities;
- Spaces available as office space for service providers to residents of Marrickville;
- Spaces for exercise, dance and other activities;
- Library facilities;
- Learning environments for young people, older people and adult learners;
- Safe and quality environments for the provision of child care;
- Community centres or locations with access to multiple key services; banking, Medicare, health providers, Centrelink, aged care, youth etc;
- Low cost spaces for artists and studios to support other creative pursuits including social or community enterprise;
- The provision of community facilities that encourage place making social identity and inclusiveness within the community.

The Study also reflects and incorporates those major policy objectives of Council that are particularly relevant to the public domain and the built environment such as accessibility, active transport, environmental sustainability - including the reduction in green house gas emissions from Council facilities<sup>1</sup> - quality standards for provision of certain services including childcare and strategic requirements such as integrated planning and reporting.

The research undertaken for the Study provides an evidence base drawn from site visits and audits, extensive community and stakeholder consultations, reviews of relevant policy contexts and other associated activities being undertaken by Council. The evidences base underpins the Report's recommendations.

### **The Study Team**

The Study was undertaken by a partnership team made up of:

- The Miller Group – Social Policy and Management Consultants
- BBC Consulting Planners.

### **The scope of the project**

Central to the work of the Study's research team is the understanding that Council, given its finite resources, is, and will in the future, be unable to provide facilities which meet the requirements of all members of the community. Council must therefore align service and facility provision to the key strategic policies and directions of Council reflected through corporate strategic planning policies, primarily the Marrickville Community Strategic Plan. Council will also need to determine its priorities for the provision of new facilities and the replacement or embellishment of

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<sup>1</sup> Council has employed Kinesis to conduct an energy efficiency audit of all Council facilities. Sustainability was included in the facilities audit sheet.

current facilities in the context of the needs expressed by the community.

The Study uses the condition and usage of existing facilities as its main benchmark. It considers who, and how, the community uses exiting facilities to determine current unmet need and demand.

The Study also takes into account population predictions and future trends in the Marrickville LGA and identifies the most effective solutions for Council to meet the future population needs – including new facilities incorporating potential funding sourced through the application of Section 94.

The Study identifies the value of the embellishment of existing facilities and the need for new building work. Indicative locations and costings are provided as guidelines to assist Council in its determinations and decisions.

It goes without saying that in keeping with Council’s finite resources and its development policies, any major new work – especially any new facilities - would need to be given careful consideration, the community would need to be fully consulted, and detailed costings developed before recommendations are adopted.

Partnerships with other Council’s and government agencies should be considered both in light of the move towards council amalgamations and the potential value to be gained from economies of scale.

The following section gives a brief overview of the highlights of the body of the Report.

**What Marrickville has – the current situation**

Currently Marrickville Council provides a range of facilities for community use including:

- Halls - including town halls and other types
- Libraries
- Community Centres
- Childcare Centres and facilities
- Art and cultural facilities
- Recreational facilities<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 1: Overview of Current Facilities**

Facility Type	Number	Name of Facility
Town Halls	3	Petersham Town Hall
		Marrickville Town Hall
		St Peters Town Hall

<sup>2</sup>Sport and recreational facilities including Debbie and Abbey Borgia Centre, Robyn Webster Indoor Sports Centre, Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre and Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre are not included in this project as they were the subject of the earlier Recreation Needs Study. It should be noted however that these four venues have the potential to offer the community significant provision across the LGA see further in this section for issues arising.

Other halls	2	Herb Greedy Hall
		Seaview Street Hall
Libraries	4	Marrickville Library (main library)
		Dulwich Hill Library
		St Peters / Sydenham Library
		Stanmore Library
Community Centres	6	Tom Foster Community Centre
		Marrickville Youth Centre (Jarvie Park)
		Marrickville Community Health Centre
		Addison Road Community Centre
		May Murray Neighbourhood Centre
		Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
Child Care Centres	5	Deborah Little Early Learning Centre
		May Murray Early Learning Centre
		Enmore Early Learning Centre
		Cavendish Street Early Learning Centre
		Tillman Park Early Learning Centre
Other community providers	5	KU Crusader Kindergarten (Jarvie Park)
		KU Petersham Kindergarten
		SDN Marrickville
		Enmore Resource Centre – Family Day Care
		Pathways Early Childhood Intervention
Arts and Cultural	4	Australia Street Complex
		Chrissie Cotter Gallery
		ESP Gallery
		Stone Villa Artists
Other	2	Innari House
		Livingstone Road Cottages

These facilities are provided under a range of different arrangements including Council owned-leased, Council owned-managed, Council owned-subsidised lease, expression of interest (EOI), free access, non-Council owned service in other facility. These are discussed in detail in Chapter 4 of this Report.

### **Heritage Issues**

A number of the facilities in Marrickville are heritage buildings including Marrickville and Petersham Town Halls. This adds to the overall aesthetic of the built environment and promotes the heritage and history of the local government area. However, it also places restrictions on refurbishment, renovation and upgrade of some buildings and reduces the ability of Council to renovate to meet the accessibility standards required by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

How Council determines its priorities will need to reconcile these, sometimes competing issues. Further detailed consideration of this issue is set out in the Strategic Framework and the recommendations contained in this Report.

### **Meeting the needs of a diverse community**

As evidenced by the population data, and in the profile of respondents to the survey, Marrickville LGA is a diverse community. The social and cultural diversity of the LGA is something that is highly valued by the community at large.

*I love the fact that Marrickville still retains a huge diversity. Gentrification has some positive aspects but I would hate to see that process dilute Marrickville's diversity. (MYPLACE 2021 web forum)*

In Marrickville, as in other LGAs population size, growth rates and characteristics such as age structure, family type, income levels, cultural diversity etc. all have an impact on the community's needs and the demand for community facilities. Population rates and characteristics change, and so do the facility requirements of the resident community. It is important to understand population composition and potential changes so that the planning for and future provision of community facilities take into account predicted population changes.

The Study looked at the characteristics of the current population in Marrickville and at the predicted growth - where that growth is most likely to occur and the characteristics of the incoming population. Using this information we identified the changes that will be needed to meet the community facility needs of the community - now and in the future.

It is also important to bear in mind when reading through this Report that the facilities provided to the community through Marrickville Council are available to, and are well used by people from outside the LGA.

### **Marrickville today**

In 2009 78,271 people lived in Marrickville. There are currently an estimated 79,000 people in the LGA. Although the community is culturally diverse, first generation cultural diversity is decreasing. Today 25 per cent of Marrickville residents were born in a non-English speaking country, down from 30.5 per cent in 2001.

Marrickville has a slightly lower proportion of children and older people (65+) when compared to Sydney as a whole (Sydney SD). All population groups in Marrickville are increasing however it is these two groups which are predicted to have the greatest growth by 2030 (see Table 2 below).

Marrickville has an above-average proportion of adults aged 30-49 by comparison with Sydney SD. The people in this age group tend to be independent, in the 'prime' of their working lives and may be actively engaged with accessing community facilities. This group will increase in real terms by 2030 from 29,261 to 31,690 however the predicted percentage growth will not be as great as it will be for either children or older people.

Marrickville also has a very low proportion of 'couple families' with children (20 per cent of all households, compared to 34 per cent for the whole of Sydney) and a well above average proportion of single person households. This reflects the large number of city-working young adults in the area. There is an average proportion of couple families without children compared to Sydney as a whole - perhaps reflecting the increasing trend to either delay having children.

There has, however, been a localised 'baby boom' in the Marrickville area. Between

2006 and 2010, the ABS estimate that the number of children aged 0-4 increased by 22.2 per cent or 823, the highest of any age cohort and higher than the increase in the number of people over 65 during that period (619 persons). This 'boom' has put increased pressure on services used by parents of young children including parks, playgrounds, playgroups, play centres, baby gyms, learn to swim classes and child care, preschool, early learning centres and libraries. The implications of this for the facilities research is discussed in Chapter 4 of this report.

**Table 2: Population by age - Marrickville compared with Sydney SD**

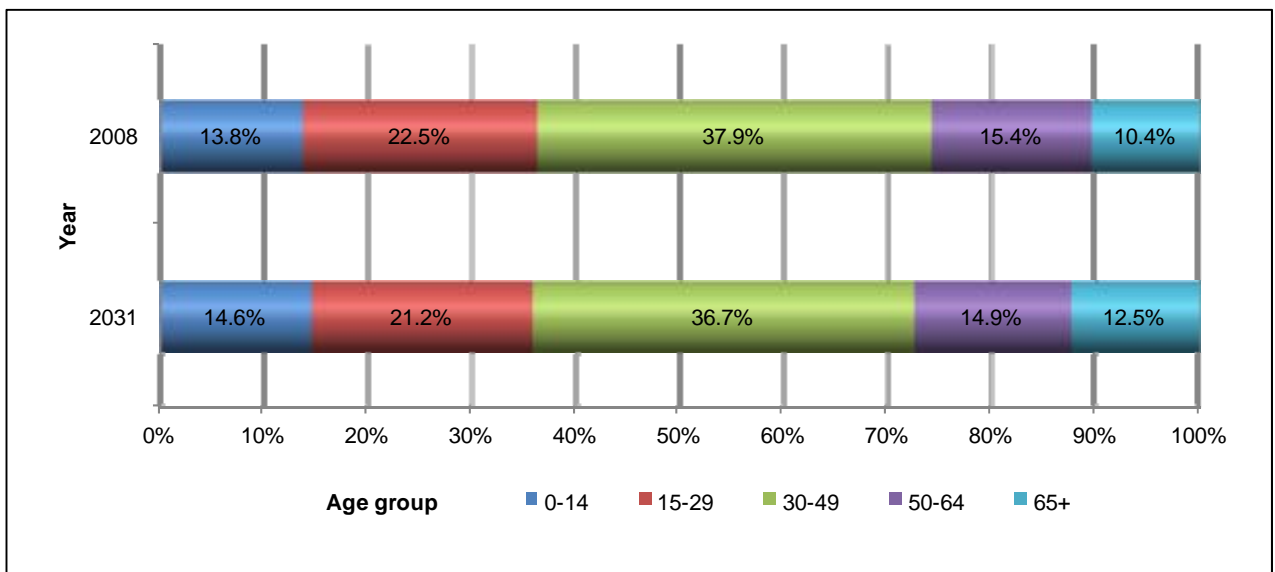
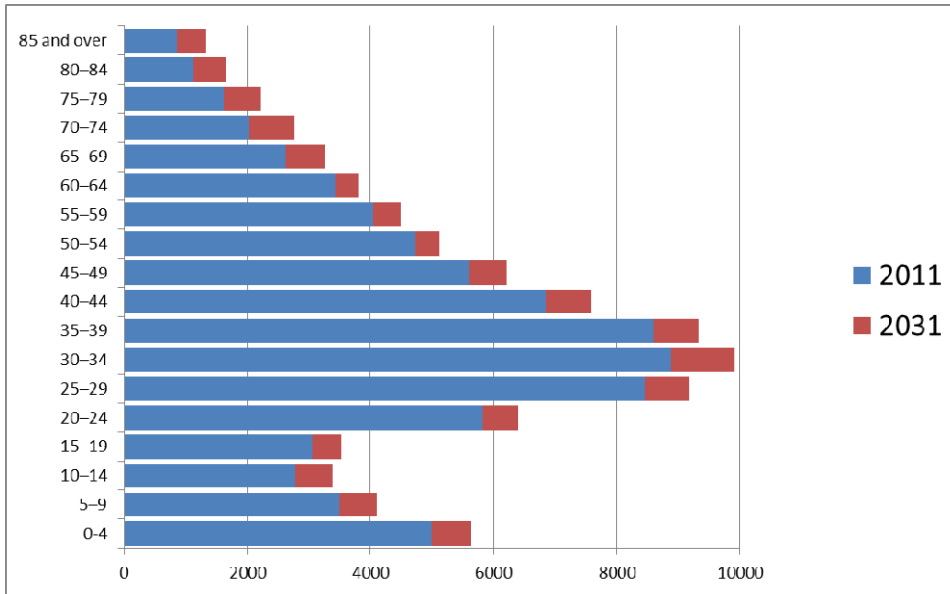
	Marrickville LGA						Sydney SD					
	2011		2031		Change		2011		2031		Change	
0-4	4990	6.3%	5640	6.3%	650	13.0%	301,120	6.6%	357,570	6.3%	56,450	18.7%
5-9	3500	4.4%	4097	4.6%	597	17.1%	281,560	6.2%	345,890	6.1%	64,330	22.8%
10-14	2780	3.5%	3388	3.8%	608	21.9%	278,800	6.1%	340,380	6.0%	61,580	22.1%
<i>School age (5-14)</i>	<i>6280</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>7485</i>	<i>8.3%</i>	<i>1205</i>	<i>19.2%</i>	<i>861,480</i>	<i>18.9%</i>	<i>1,043,840</i>	<i>18.4%</i>	<i>125,910</i>	<i>14.6%</i>
15-19	3060	3.9%	3524	3.9%	464	15.2%	295,590	6.5%	350,400	6.2%	54,810	18.5%
Over 65	8250	10.4%	11228	12.5%	2978	36.1%	577,380	12.7%	976,050	17.2%	398,670	69.0%
Total population	79,000	-	89,974	-	10,974	13.9%	4,550,300	-	5,688,600	-	1,138,300	20.0%

### Marrickville in the future

The population in Marrickville declined slightly in the 10-15 years to 2004 but it has experienced modest growth in recent years, and this overall growth is expected to continue at least until 2031. Between 2011 and 2031 the population is forecast to grow by 10,794 (13.9 per cent) to 89,974 people.

The expected growth in the 65+ age group up to 2031 will see an increase of 3,000, or 36.1 per cent with seniors comprising 12.5 per cent of the population, while the number of children and young people aged 0 -14 will increase over the same period from 11,270 (14.2 per cent) to 13,125 (14.6 per cent) an increase of 1,855. These will remain the two fastest growing population groups in Marrickville, even though it is predicted that, proportionately, they will still be slightly below the average for Sydney as a whole.

**Graph 1: Population growth Marrickville 2011 to 2031**



In accordance with the new Marrickville Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and the NSW Government's draft *South Subregional Strategy* a target of 4,150 additional dwellings for Marrickville for the period 2004 to 2031 - or an average of 154 new dwellings per annum - has been set.

The forecast average dwelling occupancy for the future developments is around 2.2, therefore, the potential population increase resulting from the projected developments is (4,988 dwellings x 2.2) around 11,000. These projections have been provided by Council's demographic consultants, *Public Practice* and adjusted for revisions to the growth projections under the new Marrickville LEP.

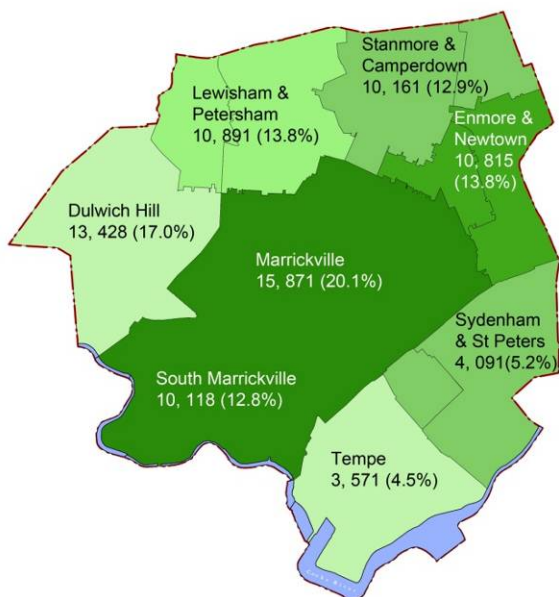
Because of the concentrated geography of development potential, the population

growth will *not* be uniform across Marrickville. Most of the new housing is expected to be located within a few major redevelopment hubs within Petersham/Lewisham (25 per cent), Marrickville (29 per cent), South Marrickville (10 per cent) and Sydenham (10 per cent). All of these hubs are within walking distance of major transport nodes (railway stations) and urban villages.

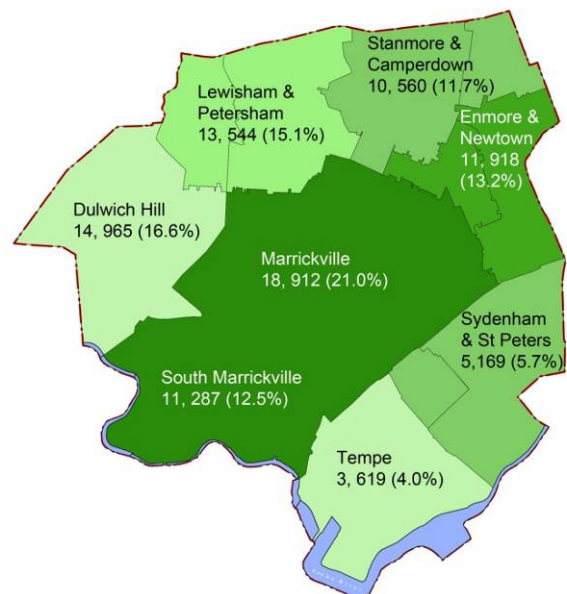
**Table 3: Population Growth x Planning Precinct, 2011-2031**

Precinct	2011 <sup>3</sup>		2031 <sup>4</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%
Camperdown/Stanmore	10, 161	12.9	10, 560	11.7
Dulwich Hill	13, 428	17.0	14, 965	16.6
Petersham/Lewisham	10, 891	13.8	13, 544	15.1
Marrickville	15, 871	20.1	18, 912	21.0
Enmore/Newtown	10, 870	13.8	11, 918	13.2
South Marrickville	10, 118	12.8	11, 287	12.5
Tempe	3, 571	4.5	3, 619	4.0
Sydenham/St Peters	4, 091	5.2	5, 169	5.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79, 000</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>89, 974</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 1: Marrickville population by suburb 2011**



**2031**



<sup>3</sup> Public Practice Pty Ltd, Community Projector Marrickville 2011-2031, detailed projections, page 25.

<sup>4</sup> 2011 estimates plus potential additional population in 2031 - based on full uptake of 'estimated potential additional dwellings' (5,030) x location x average expected occupancy of 2.2, minus forecast 1,167 fewer persons in institutions (assumptions based on Kim Kennedy, Population, Demographics and Development Projections, unpublished document and Public Practice, Community Projector Marrickville 2011-31)

### **Implications for community facilities**

The forecast additional population of 10,974 (13.9 per cent more than current population) by 2031, which will take the Marrickville population to 89,974, and an additional 1,870 workers will place additional demands on community facilities including; halls, community centres, libraries, child care centres and arts and cultural facilities.

This will mean an increase in demand, or an additional 10,974 potential resident users of Council's community facilities and services. This forecast growth in population size will be accompanied by greater than proportional growth in the 50+ age groups, as noted above. In addition, as the overall population ages over the next 20 years, community interests and capacities will also change and this will impact the demands for, and use of, community facilities in Marrickville.

### **Audit findings**

A key part of this research was the conduct of an audit of facilities. The audit involved the following:

- An inventory of community facility assets from Council records;
- Review of previous council reports - including the 2004 Facility Audit;
- Review of Council's works program for implementation of recommendations of 2004 Facility Audit;
- Inspections of Council owned community facilities (external inspections of child care centres);
- A review of land use zoning, heritage status, property description data and land classification.

The audit of community facility assets has been presented in spreadsheet format with summary information included. Inventory sheets for each facility summarising key information are included as Appendix 7.

In summary, Marrickville Council provides an extensive range of community facilities in a range of different configurations; some facilities are owned and operated by Council with others operated by non-government organisations occupying Council-owned facilities. Council also leases facilities for the provision of community services and a number of services run by Council (seven) are run from non-Council owned facilities. Many of these facilities are used for a number of purposes and multi function facilities are clearly the norm in facilities provision.

Use of Council's community facilities is generally high with facilities well patronised and appreciated.

The spaces with the highest levels of use are the smaller halls located in densely populated areas. These are booked by regular users for up to 40 hours per week. The users of these halls are generally locally-based community organisations, such as older people groups (including culturally-specific older people groups) and special interest groups. Older people groups are much more likely to use the facilities during the day. Larger halls have lower levels of utilisation, with fewer groups using the facilities more intensively each week. These groups are more likely to come from

outside the LGA with half of the regular users being non-local. Use of these more spacious facilities is primarily for ballroom dancing.

Findings below present the key points for each venue type from the outcomes of the audit. The full range of issues can be found in the body of this report at Chapter 4.

**Outcomes from the Consultations**

An important part of the methodology for this research, in addition to the facility audits, was talking to the community and other stakeholders to find out what facilities people are currently using and why; whether they are satisfied with the quality of the facilities they use; and what their expectations are for the future use of community facilities in Marrickville.

***Community Feedback***

The agreed target for the sample for the consultation phase of this research was 300. The final sample size was 347 including:

- Online general public survey
- Stakeholder survey
- Hall hire survey
- Staff survey
- Intercept survey
- Face to face meetings and consultations.

**Table 4: All contacts for the facilities study**

Type of contact	Number
Online general public survey	139
Intercept general public survey	88
Online hall hirer survey	27
Online stakeholder survey	68
Group consultations	14
Submissions (email and mail)	11
<b>Total contacts</b>	<b>347</b>

Residents from Marrickville (and neighbouring LGAs) who responded to the research either by completing a survey intercept or online, or being involved in a face-to-face meeting were drawn from all sections of the community including:

- Older residents
- Parents and carers of young children
- Aboriginal people
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- People with a disability
- People from low socio-economic background
- Young people.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> There was a gap in feedback from young people for this study based on the survey and intercept findings so the Youth feedback has been supplemented by the results from the Recreation Research

Intercept surveys were run at specific venues for specific groups in order to allow access for people who were not able to complete the survey on line and also gather data about particular usage at particular venues (see Table 5 below). These surveys were either run by staff at the venue or the Miller Group depending on the preference of the group coordinators.

**Table 5: Intercept surveys**

Venue	Type of group	Completions
Tom Foster Community Centre	Older people	15
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	General	4
Chrissie Cotter Gallery	Gallery exhibitors	6
Marrickville Town Hall	Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Questioning and Intersex (BLTQI) Club Music Society	2 1
Petersham Town Hall	Dancing group	11
Seaview St Hall	Playgroup	9
St Peters Town Hall	Political party Ministry	1 1
Herb Greedy Hall	CALD Social Group	12
Library: Marrickville	CALD Book Club	6
Library: Marrickville	General	2
Library: Marrickville	Lunar New Year	3
Library: Marrickville	Family history group	8
Library: Stanmore Branch	Parents/carers of children in workshop	5
Library: St Peters Branch	Parents/carers of children in workshop	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>88</b>

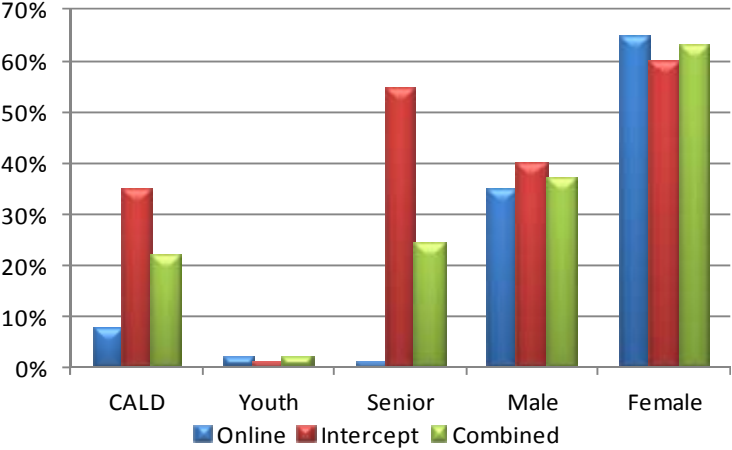
**Table 6: Profile of respondents**

Group	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
CALD	6	8	29	35	35	22
Youth (10-19)	2	2	1	1	3	2
Senior (65+)	1	1	47	55	48	24
Male	40	35	34	40	74	37
Female	74	65	51	60	125	63

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Focus Groups (2) held at Marrickville Youth Resource Centre in 2011 and also feedback provided by Council officers based on the results of youth consultations that are regularly undertaken by Council; in this instance the Marrickville Youth Forum and Newtown and Marrickville Festivals'. See Chapter 5 for a full report of these findings.

**Graph 2: Profile of survey respondents**

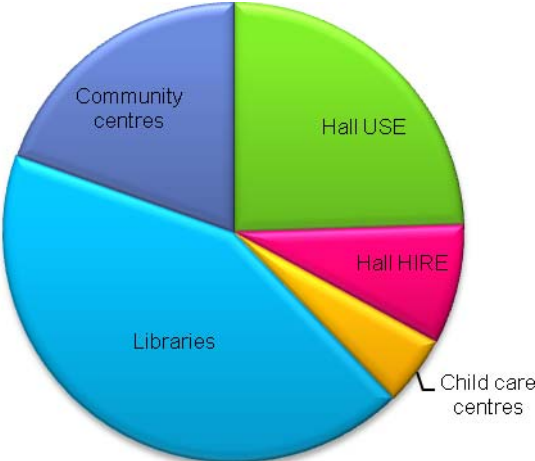


The following section provides a short summary of the major findings of this consultation process.

Based on responses to the surveys, both intercept and online the top facilities used by people in Marrickville are in order:

- Libraries (90 responses)
- Halls use regular (76 responses)
- Community Centre (54 responses).

**Graph 3: Most used facilities**



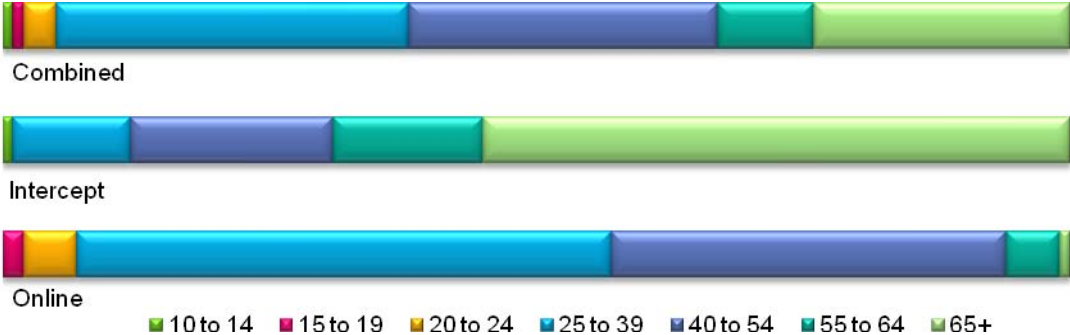
Ninety respondents answered that they used libraries, 76 respondents used halls, 54 used community centres, galleries and cultural centres.

The sample, by its nature, is skewed towards interest in facilities and usage so a reasonably high proportion of respondents indicated that they used a variety of different venues. Of the 90 people who use libraries, 26 of these also used halls, and 19 also used community centres. Similarly with hall users of the 76 respondents 26 people also used libraries and 17 also used community centres.

There were some gender and age-related trends in responses to the research. For example with the online and intercept surveys:

- More men than women (55:45 per cent) were travelling from outside the LGA to attend activities, groups or events within Marrickville
- More women than men identified using childcare
- Men and women both use libraries at around the same percentage with 46 per cent of male respondents reporting that they used libraries and 47 per cent of women respondents reporting library usage
- Far more women than men reported using community centres which may be due to gender imbalance in older population groups
- Old people responded more frequently to the intercept surveys
- People aged between 25 and 45 responded more frequently to the online survey (see Graph 4 below).

**Graph 4: Respondents' age by survey type**



The main reasons for using the facilities differed by type however in general people were satisfied with the general levels of:

- Accessibility especially by public transport
- Cleanliness – including internal and external presentation.

While the majority of people who responded to surveys and indicated that they travel to the LGA for activities were from adjoining LGAs, people will, and do, travel substantial distances to engage in activities that they have a commitment to. People from outside the LGA were coming from as far away as St Marys, Balgowlah and Holsworthy with one respondent coming from Lithgow and two from Gosford.

The 47 respondents who live in other suburbs were from:

- Hurlstone Park (4)

- Earlwood (3)
- Alexandria, Ashfield, Campsie, Gosford, Roselands and St Marys (2)
- Annandale, Arncliffe, Auburn, Balgowlah, Bankstown, Belmore, Bronte, Canterbury, Connell's Point, Croydon, Glebe, Holsworthy, Hurstville, Lithgow, Maroubra, Mascot, Matraville, Meadowbank, Monterey, Pagewood, Penrith, Randwick, Regents Park, Rockdale and Strathfield (1).

People are generally positive about the accessibility of their facilities however members of the community with a disability indicated that many venues were inaccessible or difficult to access for people with limited mobility.

People 'use' halls most frequently for social gatherings and then secondly for recreation specifically dancing. Educational programs and talks, multicultural events, concerts and performances, and using meeting rooms were also popular response for using halls.

People hire halls for access to meeting rooms for groups. The most common reason given was for meetings of older people groups, the second for support groups and then clubs and meetings.

For libraries, the most popular library was Marrickville which is the largest branch in the LGA. The most popular activity at every branch was borrowing items such as books, DVDs etc. with 72 respondents (31 per cent) saying they borrowed items. Participating in activities and events, research and study, participating in classes and groups, and using the Internet were the next most popular activities at libraries with 14 per cent, 11 per cent, 9 per cent and 9 per cent of respondents undertaking these activities respectively.

Libraries were highly rated for their cleanliness, accessibility by public transport and operating times. The three features which received the lowest ratings (poor and very poor combined) were 'adequate parking (25 per cent)', 'toilets' (21 per cent), and 'size' (20 per cent).

Intercept surveys at specific venues highlighted the positive regard with which members of the community hold for the 'place' where they conduct their social gathering or recreational activity. The social connectedness that arises from attending or participating in a group activity regardless of age, gender, ethnicity etc tends to lead to positive outcomes from the consultations.

People's responses were very targeted and specific to issues for a particular venue that need improving such as:

- acoustics in Town Halls,
- air conditioning various venues,
- heating Town Halls,
- toilets,
- storage for group materials especially at Herbert Greedy and Seaview Street Halls<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> See Chapter 5 for a more detailed discussion of specific feedback by venue.

### ***What the community feels needs to be added or improved?***

- There was feedback from a number of sources that there was a lack of medium sized meeting spaces for around 20 to 50 people. Apart from Herbert Greedy Hall and Seaview Street Hall which are fairly heavily utilised there needs to be alternative options.
- St Peter's Town Hall is well utilised however the top floor is inaccessible and this is the only community facility in this location. It is badly flight path affected which is a concern for some residents.
- More low cost, subsidised or no-cost space for community education or social enterprise and creative endeavours.
- There was some negative feedback about the poor state of tidiness of venues or meeting rooms left by the preceding groups. This was a particular concern where playgroups with young children meet after adult support groups where smokers are leaving cigarette butts at entry points.
- This was also an issue where kitchen facilities are being used and not properly tidied before vacating the premises.
- Local residents living close to venues used for large social events raised concerns about noise, reduced parking and waste removal.

### **Aboriginal people**

Aboriginal people in Marrickville consulted for this research indicated the need for:

- An Aboriginal specific community space,
- The potential for a child care facility that is identified for Aboriginal people,
- more Aboriginal art work and culturally specific material in existing facilities to ensure that Aboriginal people feel comfortable and welcome in the spaces especially for young children, and
- Better support for Metro Migrant Resource Centre which currently supports 70 local Aboriginal people.

### **Young people**

Young people who responded to the consultation process and the Council consultations were looking for more facilities for their creative activities and social events. They were looking for multi-functional spaces where they could have access to Wi-Fi, a social space to meet friends and also access to outdoor spaces for sporting activities.

There was feedback about the need to reinstate the night basketball and also the lack of options generally for young people who didn't want to participate in organised sport. They were interested in skate parks, indoor soccer and other exercise options such as yoga and Pilates.

The Marrickville Youth Resource Centre and Marrickville Library were popular venues for young people. The first because of its specific focus on youth needs and the second because it is central and gives them free access to computers.

What was most important for young people was having access to services and facilities that were age appropriate and 'for' young people. They wanted to socialise safely with other young people. They also wanted to have better opportunities for education and training outside of the school environment.

A youth cafe, outdoor cinema and outdoor under 18 music events were all rated highly.

### **Older people<sup>7</sup>**

Older people responded to the surveys in high numbers and the findings of the research indicate that they are generally high users of facilities and positive about the range of services and programmed activities available to them. There was specific feedback about the need for more aged care support especially those who are remote to Tom Foster Community Centre. There was the suggestion for improved bus access for the frail elderly and less mobile to major community destinations like the Metro Shopping Centre and Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre.

### **People with a disability**

People with a disability reported that they found a number of venues in Marrickville to be inaccessible. They require improved access to facilities where mobility is limited. A number of venues like the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre and Chrissie Cotter Gallery have been upgraded with provision of a lift or external ramps for wheelchair access which has been greatly appreciated by the community however some venues like the upstairs of St Peter's Town Hall remain inaccessible to people who use wheelchairs.

### ***What facility stakeholders said***

Stakeholders who responded to this research were defined as those who:

- Currently have regular access to facilities that are Council owned or
- Provide a valuable service to the community in Marrickville and may be interested in greater access to, or currently use, Council facilities for support of their service.

Stakeholders were united in wanting general improvements in the maintenance and upkeep of their facility and were interested in having more space for the needs of their group or service. Some were actively pursuing partnerships with Council to ensure that these things happen. Most wanted more regular access to facilities. Their specific needs are identified in detail in the Report however in general they were concerned about:

- Improved maintenance – kitchens, toilets, heating, painting
- Improved lighting especially after hours
- Access to more space for the provision of particular service
- Improved responsiveness to repair of facilities
- Maintaining an improved dialogue with Council.

### ***Discussion***

Trends in population size and structure are the major determinants of the demand for community facilities. When considered in conjunction with available stock of facilities and the feedback and expectations from the community, a picture clearly emerges of a Council which is currently providing well for its existing community.

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<sup>7</sup> In this document the term 'older people' is used to refer to people over 65

### ***For existing population***

Facilities are well utilised and generally well regarded by the community. Libraries, Halls, Arts and Cultural venues, Child Care Centres and Community Centres are all well used and well regarded.

The evidence indicates that the community perceive that facilities are generally accessible via public transport and clean and available when they need them to be (operating hours) except for people with a disability who have difficulty in access a number of Council's venues. Young people also indicated that they would like more options to meet their needs and that while the PCYC provides for certain sports and the MYRC provides services to disadvantaged youth there was little, apart from libraries and pools in between.

A lack of adequate parking was commonly raised as a desired improvement however increased parking may be out of step with Council's other environmental goals and the promotion of active transport networks and options.

Both the community and Council value highly the LGAs cultural diversity. The community, understandably, responded positively to Council's provision of facilities to support the needs of a culturally and socially diverse community.

Where there are improvements which need attention such as increased storage, improved booking systems to reduce duplication and streamline access, improved acoustics and better audio visual supply, these need to be considered on a case by case basis within the overall context of the findings of this research.

### **Study Findings and Recommendations**

The study finds that existing facilities are generally heavily utilized in meeting the needs of the existing community which as seen continual growth since 2004. Furthermore there are expressed unmet needs that can be met through improvements to operations and existing facilities, the use of vacant spaces and improved co-ordination and community access to rooms at major recreation facilities.

### ***Recommendations for S94 Contributions Plan Preparation***

1. In order to meet the needs of development likely to accommodate an additional 10,974 residents and 1,870 workers over the next 20 years, the study identifies the following facilities to be funded under S94:
  - a. A contribution to the cost of the new library (12.2%) of the total cost which represents the demand for the facility created by projected development;
  - b. Two multi-purpose community centres with a floor area of approximately 450 square metres (fully funded);
  - c. One child care centre (47 places).
2. Multi-purpose community centres and the childcare centre would be in addition to any that Council own or are in the process of establishing at the time of this report, including the Marrickville West Childcare Centre currently identified as a major project. Also excluded would be potential projects such

as an upgrade of the Australia Street facilities to meet the needs of recent development at Camperdown utilizing available S94 contributions funds in accordance with existing S94 contributions plans and the provision of facilities and services at Marrickville Town Hall once the library is relocated.

3. Options for the location of the multi-purpose community centres are:
  - a. An upgraded or new facility on the Seaview Street, Dulwich Hill site as part of the current master planning exercise;
  - b. A new-build facility located in the Sydenham-Tempe area, potentially on Sydenham Green which may avoid the high costs associated with land acquisition;
  - c. A new facility as part of, or adjacent to the library on the Marrickville Hospital site.
4. The multi-purpose community centres would contain spaces that would be accessible to a broad cross section of the diverse community including youth and seniors for a range of purposes including meeting rooms and activity spaces. The issues of mixed usage and accessibility will need to be carefully considered by Council in the design and programming for the new facilities to maximise engagement from various groups.
5. Options for the location of the child care centre are:
  - a. Co-location with community centre on Seaview Street site;
  - b. Housing childcare facilities in currently vacant properties, including the Livingstone Road cottages;
  - c. The provision of new facilities on Council-owned parkland (similar to the Pathways centre), possibly Sydenham Green if appropriate soundproofing solutions can be found;

***Key recommendations for other facilities:***

1. Australia Street group of facilities to be adapted for reuse as a community centre seeking to meet the demands generated by recent development in the Camperdown area. This is subject to the space for the exhibits in the Portuguese museum being provided within the new library building or Marrickville Town Hall.
2. Marrickville Town Hall should be upgraded and adapted for use for community purposes to address existing demand for space in areas such as meeting rooms, spaces for arts and culture and offices for community service providers. The provision of additional medium sized meeting rooms as part of the new library development or in a community centre in the vicinity of the library would enable existing facilities such as the town hall to be adapted for use to meet existing community needs.
3. Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation Centre can be better utilised for community purposes to ensure that residents in South Marrickville get improved access to general meeting and community space that is more effectively managed by the Council. There is potential for this facility to provide more services to the community.

Findings and recommendations for facilities are:

### *Libraries*

- Marrickville's library services are generally well located and well used, with a higher proportion of users in their working years than might be expected.
- The strongest users of library services are parents with young children, and older residents; school aged children are also high users of libraries.
- Due to the mixed demographic of users, libraries are busy throughout the entire day.
- Existing library buildings are currently operating at- or above-capacity, and limited by their physical size.
- Libraries are often used as places to spend time, rather than solely borrow books; this is particularly the case for Dulwich Hill and Marrickville libraries.
- St Peters branch library is the least well used, in terms of both loans issued and visitors.
- There is a well recognized and documented need for additional library facilities to meet the needs of existing and future residents. The planned new central library will assist in meeting these needs.
- Ways of attracting young people to increase their usage of libraries needs to be explored.

### *Halls and meeting rooms*

- Existing Council meeting spaces and halls are generally well located, well used and suited for the purposes they are put to, and are used by a diverse cross-section of the community.
- Cultural/seniors and religious groups are most frequent users.
- Many of the existing issues in council-operated facilities related to the dispersed management of these facilities, the fact that they are unstaffed, or the quantity and quality of the equipment provided.
- Smaller-scale meeting spaces and halls with a capacity of less than 100 have the highest level of demand, while larger, formal, regional-scale meeting places are less well utilised and draw half their regular users from outside the LGA. There is a mismatch between the supply and demand of community space. Council has an overprovision of large 'venue-style' space (the large town halls), while there is a strong demand for smaller, neighbourhood-scale meeting rooms.
- The utilisation of the larger more iconic halls such as Marrickville and Petersham (both of which have heritage qualities) may respond to initiatives to improve awareness.
- The age condition design and construction of facilities requires a commitment to on-going maintenance and in some cases limits the use to which buildings can be put.

- The organisation and operation of meeting rooms and halls is currently administered by several departments of Council and community service providers, creating inconsistency between venues and difficulties for both users and staff. The current booking system does not meet fully the requirements of staff and the community.
- A centralised, coordinated booking system that includes all spaces run by different services (including the library, venues and community organisations and also potentially spaces in recreation facilities) would make the location, booking and administration of facilities much easier; automated booking systems that allow users to reserve and pay for spaces online in particular would simplify booking and allow Council staff to be more involved in service provision and maintaining venue standards. Appropriate venue management software will also provide information on latent demand and utilisation.
- There is a need for more effective management and maintenance protocols, particularly with regards to kitchen equipment. Building- or equipment-related problems can go for an extended period of time before being reported to council, making it difficult to identify groups which may have caused damage. This applies mainly to the facilities that are not staffed on a regular basis.
- At present there is no centrally maintained directory of all Council and non-Council community facility spaces available for use by community groups. The establishment and maintenance of a database of all community facilities in the LGA (Council, other community organisations and private facilities) will help users whose requests have been denied due to capacity restraints, and may help to manage demand and need for council-run facilities.
- Unstaffed venues have resulted in space management issues –facilities are often left in a disorderly state (i.e. not in the standardised council setup), which impacts upon time allotted to subsequent users; it can also be difficult for groups such as seniors to rearrange the hall. Council staff currently have no way to enforce, monitor or restore standard room set-ups.
- AV equipment – PA systems are out dated and difficult to use in some cases, with many hirers opting to bring their own PA equipment, and almost all facilities lacking basic presentation equipment such as a projector and television / DVD player.
- The furniture in some venues, particularly Marrickville Town Hall, is heavy and cumbersome. This can be problematic to hirers and raises occupational health and safety concerns.
- There is a lack of permanent storage space for regular hall hirers at most venues.
- Co-location of inappropriate venue uses in buildings housing Council employees, disturbing staff working conditions.
- Council staff feel that there is a lack of awareness of the facilities available to the general public. Some of these issues may be easily solved, such as signposting the Dulwich Hill Hall; other issues may require more extensive effort, including better marketing of the existing large halls as destination venues (within permitted usage constraints).

Generally all buildings are old, typical of most of the built form in this inner west location. Buildings have been adapted over time to suite the emerging needs of the community and trends in community facility provision. The high utilisation rate of most facilities indicates that they serve their purpose. However the age of buildings result in an on-going liability for maintenance and adaptation to current standards in building services, sustainability and access.

Very few facilities are co-located thus inhibiting pooling of resources, the ability to staff facilities, the creation of a community facilities hub that is accessible and fosters social interaction and more integrated service delivery.

### ***Childcare***

- Council has had a strong commitment to the provision of high quality and socially just child care services that, including Family Day Care, 45 per cent of the long day care within the LGA.
- There is a spread of childcare centres across the LGA.
- Council services includes facilities for the 0-2 age group and there is a particular shortage of places for this age group in the LGA.
- The majority of children enrolled in LDC services are residents of the LGA, with LGA workers' children likely making up much of the remainder.
- There are no clearly defined 'catchment areas' within the LGA for each centre, with parents prepared to travel to centres other than their closest.
- All LDC centres are currently operating at capacity, with extensive waiting lists, and are often the preferred choice of parents in the LGA.
- In addition to LDC, Council operates services affiliated with local schools on DET land (one preschool and six OSHC). These facilities operate well, with OSHC centres responsive to changes in demand.
- There are no significant 'fit-for-use' problems with any of childcare facilities run by council.
- Changes to regulations regarding operation and design of child care centres requires on-going consideration of improvements and upgrading of facilities to meet new licensing and accreditation standards. Council has identified changes required to ensure compliance with current standards at it centres.

### ***Arts and Cultural Facilities***

- Council has committed to a strong provision of arts and cultural facilities throughout the LGA, and operates both galleries, studios and a residence.
- These facilities have a good coverage of the LGA, being evenly spread throughout.
- The venues housing arts and cultural facilities are well suited to their purpose, generally in a good condition, and often located in or adjacent to town centres.

- Arts and cultural venues have a wider catchment area than the LGA, serving the population of the Inner West.
- There is a need to consider the specific arts and cultural needs of young people in the LGA including young artists, musicians and actors through the provision of low cost facilities and services.

### **Next steps**

Council will need to look carefully at the results of the Study and at its recommendations in the context of the Marrickville Community Strategic Plan, especially the Long Term Financial Plan and the potential developer contributions that may be collected by Council through Section 94 of the Environmental and Planning Act to support the provision of two additional multi use community facility in the LGA and one additional child care centre.

The Study provides Council with a strong evidence base for decision-making. This ensures that Council's decisions will be transparent, can be accounted for based on good evidence, and can address the needs of the Marrickville, community as identified in this Study.

# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Marrickville LGA

The Marrickville LGA is situated in Sydney's Inner West, between four and ten kilometres south-west of the city centre. It covers an area of approximately 17 square kilometres. The area is bounded by Parramatta Road to the north, King Street and the Princes Highway to the east, the Cooks River and Alexandra Canal to the south, and New and Old Canterbury Roads to the west.

Kingsford Smith International Airport (Sydney Metropolitan Area's principal airport) is situated to the south-east of the LGA. Consequently, parts of the LGA, particularly Sydenham, St Peters and Tempe, experience high levels of aircraft noise which impacts adversely on liveability for the resident populations in these locations.

Marrickville LGA is well served by transport services including road, rail and active transport. Arterial road routes running either along the LGA's boundaries or through it include Parramatta Road, State Route 54 (along New Canterbury Road, Stanmore and Enmore Road), linking Sydney CBD to Liverpool, and the King Street-Princes Highway corridor.

Sydney Buses operates bus services through all suburbs in the Marrickville area.

CityRail provides passenger rail services along two lines within the LGA. The northern suburbs (Stanmore, Petersham and Lewisham) are served by the Inner West Line, and the southern and eastern parts (St Peters, Sydenham and Tempe) are served by the Bankstown line.

The LGA is also being increasingly served by a bicycle network (that is still being developed, as funds allow). Prior to adoption of the current bicycle strategy in 2007, Council constructed 12 local cycling routes. Recent expansions to the network have focussed on the Cooks River corridor.

The new light rail development extending the current light rail line all the way along the Hawthorne Parade Canal using existing rail infrastructure will provide significant connectivity along the North West section of the LGA.

Estimated population for the LGA in 2011 was 79,000 residents. A more in depth breakdown of the population by gender, age, ethnicity etc can be found in Chapter 4.

# Marrickville LGA - Regional Context



KEY	
	LGA Boundaries
	Heavy Rail
	Existing Light Rail
	Light Rail under construction
	Parks
	Golf Clubs

## 1.2 The Study

In October 2011 Marrickville Council commissioned this study in to the community facility needs, both current and future, for the LGA. The aim of the work is to provide an evidence base to support the development of a strategic plan for facilities for the next five to ten years. The Study and the strategic plan it will inform the draft acquisition strategy (2003).

The current study and the proposed strategic framework align with the goals and objectives of the Marrickville Community Strategic Plan – ‘Our Vision Our Place’ and other major and relevant policy objectives of Council.

## 1.3 The Purpose of the Study

The aim of the current Study is to ensure that the planning and implementation of community facilities in Marrickville address and align with the demographic and other social changes that impact upon the needs of the community.

Underpinning the research is the following question:

*Does Marrickville have sufficient community facilities; including halls, libraries, community centres, child care centres and arts and cultural facilities to meet the needs of the existing community and the future needs of the community for the next 10 years?*

Will the expected growth in the population lead to a required increase in facility provision and if so which facilities will best meet community needs.

The needs for facilities identified to meet the expectations set within this strategic framework include:

- Larger spaces for community festivals, arts and cultural events
- Places for regular group meetings and one off medium to small group activities
- Spaces for exercise, dance and other activities
- Library facilities
- Learning environments for young people, older people and adult learners
- Safe and quality environments for the provision of child care
- Community centres or locations with access to multiple key services; banking, Medicare, health providers, Centrelink, aged care, youth etc
- Low cost spaces for artists and studios to support other creative pursuits including social or community enterprise.

The research also draws upon other major policy objectives of Council that are particularly relevant to the public domain open space and built environment such as accessibility, active transport, environmental sustainability including the reduction in green house gas emissions, quality standards for provision of certain services including childcare and integrated planning and reporting.

The aim of the Study is to ensure that facilities planning and implementation in

Marrickville is aligned with demographic and other social changes that impact upon the needs of the community for community spaces.

It provides an evidence base drawn from local, state, national and international data; site visits and audits; and extensive community and stakeholder consultations, all of which underpin the recommendations of the research.

The study specifically investigates and documents:

- the extent of service gaps (for existing populations),
- forecast needs (for incoming populations as residential development takes place)
- other issues across Council's community facility needs.

## **1.4 The Approach**

The approach taken to this project was a partnership between the Miller Group and BBC consulting with each partner bringing their particular strengths to the approach and outcomes. The Miller Group managed the project overall and conducted the community consultation phase of the project while BBC Consulting conducted the audit of existing facilities the need and demand study and the review of Council processes tested with key Council staff.

The project was guided by a working group established by Council which included representatives from Library Services, Community Services, Culture and, Assets Management.

The role of the Working Group was to guide the project and also to assist with access to information and materials relevant to the project including in-house data and policy information. The Group also provided the team with significant input and determination of the relevance of findings.

The general approach to the project included the following elements:

- a review of relevant background information including existing strategies and policies
- the identification of urban consolidation/development and demographic trends and the implications for the present distribution of facilities
- an audit of Council's existing community facilities taking into account asset condition, quality, community need and staff feedback)
- a review of existing needs and demands for community facilities
- a review of demographic projections and its potential impact upon Council and the community it services.

### **Community consultation**

Consultations with the community were conducted through surveys and face to face meetings. The surveys were available both online and intercept surveys where members of the Miller Group visited user groups on location in the halls and facilities across the LGA.

Groups surveyed included the general public as facility users, groups and individuals who regularly hire halls or have expressed interest in hiring halls, stakeholders who lease or provide services to the Marrickville community and staff who access facilities for functions and meetings. Each group had their own stand alone survey

and people were able complete any or all of the surveys if it was relevant to do so.

A total of 322 people responded to the surveys across all data capture methods.

**Table 6: Survey completion**

<b>SURVEY</b>	<b>Completions</b>	<b>Partial</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Public	89	50	139
Stakeholder	57	11	68
Hall Hirer	26	1	27
Intercepts	88	-	88
<b>TOTAL SURVEYS UNDERTAKEN</b>			<b>322</b>

Specific feedback was gathered from some local service providers such as the Marrickville Legal Centre. The team also met with the Marrickville Aboriginal Consultative Committee.

Input and advice was also received from:

- key Council staff such as Environmental Services; and
- stakeholders from adjoining Councils.

Site visits were conducted at major facilities including:

- Petersham Town Hall
- Marrickville Town Hall
- Herbert Greedy Hall
- St Peters Town Hall <sup>8</sup>.

**The audit**

The BBC project team members also conducted an audit of existing Council facilities which included site visits to all Council owned community properties (see Appendix 7).

**1.5 Scope of the Study**

The Study encompasses all of Council’s owned facilities including:

- Halls
- Libraries
- Child Care Centres
- Community facilities
- Arts and cultural facilities.

The Study focuses equally on the condition, appropriateness and accessibility of physical facilities and the programs and activities (both structured and unstructured) that occur on and in them. It is also concerned with the services and

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<sup>8</sup> Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre, Debbie and Abbey Borgia Centre, Robyn Webster Centre, Fanny Durack Aquatic Centre

management regimes that influence the use of, and the effectiveness, of both the facilities and programs.

Having made this assessment (for both existing and future populations), the Report identifies service delivery gaps and provides options for improvement. These options for improvement form the basis for the Draft Strategic Framework and Action Plan.

## CHAPTER 2: POLICY CONTEXT

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter identifies and summarises the key policy drivers and the legislative context for facilities planning and management within Marrickville.

### 2.2 Local government legislative and policy frameworks

Council operates within legislative and policy frameworks developed at national and state levels and with *indirect* support from some agencies at these levels (in the form of grant assistance, advisory services, advocacy and other types of facilitation). As set out in the Local Government Act 1993 – Section 24:

*A council may provide goods, services and facilities, and carry out activities, appropriate to the current and future needs within its local community and of the wider public, subject to this Act, the regulations and any other law.*

In line with the Act this research project sets out to inform Council about the level of current and future need for community facilities based on the evidence gathered from the audit, community consultations and other data sources. Section 46 of the Act goes on to specify in more detail the following activities that this provision covers:

- (i) public recreation,
- (ii) the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of persons,

This provision includes, but is not limited to, maternity welfare centres, infant welfare centres, kindergartens, nurseries, child care centres, and family day-care centres, surf life saving clubs, restaurants or refreshment kiosks.

This provision is further interpreted at the local Council level in the following Council frameworks:

- Marrickville Community Strategic Plan 'Our Vision Our Place'
- Marrickville Local Action 21 Plan
- Sub catchment Management Plans
- Long Term Financial Plan for Marrickville which sets out
  - Affordability of enhancements and embellishments
  - Major constraints
  - Rate capping in NSW.

A key driver for the ongoing provision of facilities is the Marrickville Community Strategic Plan; Our Place, Our Vision which was developed in partnership with the community and key stakeholders, and based upon extensive consultation. More detailed strategies and actions are elaborated in the *4-year Delivery Program*, the *1-year Operational Plan* and *Council's Long Term Financial Plan*. The social inclusion values expressed within the Plan, while aspirational, reflect a strong expectation from the community that Council provide them with ongoing access to well maintained and accessible spaces for recreation, adult education, social and other meeting place needs etc.

Central also to the ongoing provision of facilities is Council's ownership of its existing stock of buildings some of which have significant heritage and other value to the community.

As set out in Council's Asset Management Plan, the key elements of Council's current infrastructure management approach as set out in the existing asset management plan are:

- Taking a life cycle approach,
- Developing cost-effective management strategies for the long term,
- Providing a defined level of service and monitoring performance,
- Understanding and meeting the demands of growth through demand management and infrastructure investment,
- Managing risks associated with asset failures,
- Sustainable use of physical resources,
- Continuous improvement in asset management practices.

These factors have been taken in to account in the analysis of the findings from this research. Other issues of importance to facilities management such as transparent and consistent approaches to leasing, hiring and access to buildings; accessibility for people from traditionally underrepresented groups including people with a disability and Aboriginal Australians; targets for reductions in green house gas (GHG) emissions and other strategies that relate to the impact of the built form on the environment and LEP/DCP and Section 94 Plans are all considered in the analysis of data and the development of the proposed Strategic Framework.

Marrickville Council activity (as with all other local government Council's) is governed by an Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework as set out in the Local Government Act.

### **The Local Environment Plan (LEP) and the Development Control Plan (DCP), the Local Environment Plan (LEP)**

Council's LEP 2010 sets the direction for growth in the LGA over the next 25 years. The directions are based on local opportunities and the targets and objectives established within the NSW Government's Metropolitan Strategy and draft South Sub-regional Strategy.

The LEP has nine aims – of which the following five are particularly relevant to the current Study:

- Improved certainty and efficiency regarding the use of land
- Vitalisation of centres (with a stronger focus on residential development in urban centres)
- Sustainable transport
- Ecologically sustainable development
- High quality design.

The LEP provides the framework for additional (residential and other) development in the LGA via zoning, permissible uses and planning controls (with respect to densities, scale, floor space ratios etc.). Specifically, it determines the limits to and the locations of different types of development.

With respect to this, the LEP determines the majority of anticipated residential development up to 2031 to occur in Local Centre (B2) zones in Marrickville, Dulwich Hill, Petersham/ Lewisham and Enmore/Newtown (52 per cent); High Density Residential (R4) zones in Petersham/Lewisham and Marrickville (22 per cent) and in the Business Park (B7) zone in Sydenham (11 per cent).

The incoming populations associated with this higher density and urban village-based development will exert additional pressures on existing community facilities to meet the needs of the increased population. Consideration will need to be given to the impact of increased utilisation on Council's existing stock of properties, the increased requirement for maintenance and renovation to existing properties.

### Development Control Plan (DCP)

The DCP provides the specific details on the LEP's planning provisions. It fleshes out the 'desired future character of areas' - with specific objectives, principles and planning controls. The objectives cover quality urban design, inclusiveness, heritage preservation, quality of life, ecologically sustainable development, site appropriate development, and social impacts.

The purposes of the principles and controls are, variously, to achieve 'good public environments', to optimise safety; and to retain and enhance sustainable transport.

### Urban Design Principles

The DCP proposes twelve 12 urban design principles for ensuring 'good public environments'. A number of these principles are relevant for facilities planning and management and have been detailed in Table 7.

**Table 7: Marrickville Council Relevant Urban Design Principles & Implications for Facility Planning**

Urban Design Principles	Implications for community facilities planning in Marrickville	Potential Benefits for the Marrickville community
1. Organise places that are consistent with, or improve, the urban structure and are well connected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition and/or reconfiguration of facilities to improve active transport networks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased social interaction</li> <li>Increased use of sustainable transport</li> <li>More active, healthy lifestyles</li> </ul>
2. Provide ease, safety and choice of access for all people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and development of facilities in locations that optimise walkability, access to public transport nodes, choice and directness of routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved ease and flexibility of access</li> <li>Increased use of sustainable transport</li> </ul>
3. Maintain and create a complementary mix of uses and types of buildings and spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-location of facilities to optimise synergies, energy efficiencies, access and use</li> <li>Need for diverse and complementary public places that provide for diverse lifestyles and life stages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved access</li> <li>More use of places and facilities</li> <li>Improved equity for whole community to facilities</li> </ul>
4. Stimulate activity and a sense of vitality in public places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to design public places and facilities that encourage informal use and incidental encounters and also provide formal opportunities for events and social gatherings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More active, healthy lifestyles</li> <li>More use of places and facilities</li> </ul>
5. Support the intended use of spaces while also allowing for adaptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to design and refurbish facilities to be adaptable for different users, and life cycle needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More use of facilities</li> <li>Improved economic efficiency of public</li> </ul>

Urban Design Principles	Implications for community facilities planning in Marrickville	Potential Benefits for the Marrickville community
		infrastructure
6. Enhance the sense of place and time by embracing change yet respecting heritage values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retention of heritage elements in public buildings</li> <li>• Inclusion of recent and emerging cultural elements in spaces and buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A culturally richer, inclusive and meaningful public domain</li> </ul>

The following adopted strategies are relevant to Council's facility planning and management and have been taken into consideration in the current study:

- Marrickville Village Centres Urban Design Study
- Bicycle Strategy
- Transport Strategy
- Ageing Strategy
- Youth Strategy.

### 2.3 Commonwealth Policy Context

At the Commonwealth level, the focus is particularly on community service provision and social inclusion. Councils, while not directly impacted by this legislative framework, need to incorporate the general approaches were relevant and beneficial to the local community. Commonwealth funding that supports innovation and change in the not-for-profit (NFP) sector while not directly relevant to Marrickville's priorities can have an impact upon the services and agencies that can proliferate as a result of new funding streams; such as Job Services Australia (JSA's), Disability Employment Services (Australian Disability Enterprises) and Social Enterprise development.

Marrickville Council has a strong social justice track record and approach which reflects the needs and composition of its inner urban location and proximity to the central business district. This commitment is reflected in their support for local community activities, services and programming to support groups and members of the community which may be socially disadvantaged including:

- Older residents from language backgrounds other than English
- The elderly frail and their carers
- Low income families both couple and sole parent
- People with a disability
- Aboriginal people
- Parents and carers of young pre-school aged children who can be socially isolated
- Homeless people and those at risk of homelessness.

Key result areas in the Strategic Plan focus on enhancing provision to all members of the community and celebrating diversity.

#### Accessibility

The Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Premises Standards has direct implications for State and local government as it relates to access to buildings and facilities owned and leased by government authorities by people with limited mobility.

## Funding

Regional & Local Community Infrastructure Program funded by the Commonwealth Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

The Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program was offered as part of the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan. Funds are available to local government authorities to 'build and modernise community infrastructure'. Over the three funding Rounds for this Program Marrickville Council was successful in securing 876,000 dollars for local works.<sup>9</sup>

### 2.4 State Government policy context

At the State level there are a number of funding programs and policies that are relevant to this research. These include the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme managed by the Division of Local Government (DLG), the Community Building Partnership Program managed by Communities NSW and the Metropolitan Strategy Planning NSW.

*The Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS)* is made available from the DLG which is a division of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and is responsible for local government across NSW.

Communities NSW manages the *Community Building Partnership Program* which funds community groups and local councils to work in partnership to invest in community infrastructure throughout the State. Grant funding is capped at \$300,000 with an additional \$100,000 for the forty eight electorates previously identified with higher unemployment rates. Marrickville has received funding under this program.

### Metropolitan Strategy

Sydney's Metropolitan Strategy (*City of Cities*)<sup>10</sup> blueprint covers the whole of the Sydney metropolitan region and 'sets out solutions that transcend local government boundaries'. This strategy is supplemented by subregional strategies that 'provide further direction at a more local level'. Marrickville falls within the South Subregion which also covers Kogarah, Hurstville, Canterbury, Rockdale and Sutherland LGAs.

The strategy provides the city-wide planning framework for a more sustainable and liveable Sydney and covers a number of key areas such as transport, population growth, readiness for climate change, employment creation and important to this study includes '*ensuring fairness in access to services*'.

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<sup>9</sup> Allocations by round were as follows: Round 1 = \$493,000, Round 2 = \$193,000 and Round 3 = \$190,000

<sup>10</sup> NSW Department of Planning, 2005

## 2.6 Trends and best practice in community facilities

In recent years there has been a greater recognition of the important role that community facilities can play in enhancing a community's wellbeing through the provision of services, encouraging place making and social identity and facilitating a sense of inclusiveness for the diverse Marrickville community.

Through the provision of high-quality spaces with a range of potential uses and users, where people enjoy spending time, community facilities encourage social interaction, community engagement and the development of social capital. By helping to develop a sense of community, and increasing social interactions between individuals and groups who may otherwise have very little engagement with each other, community facilities can assist in the process of building shared understandings, experiences and identities.

Community facilities also have a strong social justice dimension. Less advantaged members of a community may have a higher need to use community facilities and low-cost spaces and services; as such, they provide an important service to people in need, as well as the wider community. Meeting spaces and community centres can provide accommodation to groups and organisations that operate as support networks and sources of resilience for the community.

The challenges that Council faces in its portfolio, including aging building stock and high costs of land acquisition, are shared by many local governments located in inner city and metropolitan areas.

A review of current literature and local government practice has identified a number of trends and 'best practice' guidelines in the provision and design of community facilities. These are detailed below.

### An increased recognition of the role of community facilities

There is a growing awareness that the design and provision of community facilities has an important role to play in community-building. Facilities can help achieve outcomes of social integration and shared identity through urban design and "placemaking" techniques, community outreach events, and bringing a range of groups into a common space. The use of a common architectural 'language' or colour schemes can promote awareness of Council's role in the provision of facilities.

### Multi-purpose, co-located and integrated community facilities, and community hubs

As a minimum community facilities – particularly community centres and meeting space – should be physically located alongside other facilities with compatible uses such as recreation centres, parks or service providers. Unless necessary for certain groups (such as youth), spaces should be flexible enough to accommodate a range of uses and groups, possibly with movable internal configurations.

Beyond this however co-located functions and/or services often has strong positive benefits for the users of the spaces and the quality of service provided, which can lead to increased utilisation rates.

Examples of this kind of facility integration can include links between a library and

childcare/OSHC services, or sporting facilities and a youth centre working together to organise sporting events for young people; the provision of office space for government service providers such as Centrelink or Medicare in a well-used community centre or adjacent to a library is likely to have time-saving benefits for users and may increase facility usage rates.

A third model of integration/co-location is the 'community hub' model, which brings together a wider range of facilities and uses under one roof; this may include sporting facilities, libraries, child care centres, service providers, and/or space for general use by the community.

The co-location of different services or facilities is also likely to bring benefits through encouraging interaction and the sharing of spaces between different groups of the community, helping to build a common identity.

Careful consideration should be given to the types of community facilities to be co-located or integrated. It is important that facilities complement each other, instead of just being physically proximate, and sharing arrangements should be identified in advance and flexible enough to change over time as required.

Co-location provides the opportunity for integrated service models to be developed that can take a range of management forms.

### Staffing

Staffed community centres are generally better used, and provide a better quality service, than unstaffed centres.

Staff at facilities help to manage bookings, ensure use protocols are maintained, address any inappropriate use of facilities or incompatible bookings, and may help to organise events. Importantly a staffed centre can be proactive in arranging referrals and promoting integrated service delivery models.

Staffing may be provided through facility partnership with a community-based organisation, although usage rights for the wider community should be maintained under such a model.

The costs associated with staffing centres are likely to be prohibitive for smaller facilities; staffing is more compatible with larger, multi-purpose facilities with a range of spaces available for use simultaneously.

### An increased recognition of the importance of location

Better-located community facilities are better used, and available to a broader section of the community; facility location may also have social justice dimensions.

Facilities should be located in areas that are already well-used such as town centres or near transport hubs, with a high degree of accessibility by a range of transport methods including public transport and cycling. Access by public transport is likely to be more important for disadvantaged sections of the community.

Facilities that are likely to be used regularly on a 'drop-in' basis (such as libraries) in particular should be located within town centres.

A location close to a range of public transport options is likely to be appreciated by users of childcare facilities who drop off children on their way to work.

An area's accessibility for people living with a disability should also be a part of decision making; obstacles such as high gutters, broken footpaths or steep gradients may make even BCA-compliant facilities difficult to get to.

### Sustainability

Sustainability is increasingly a design consideration across a range of community facilities. Sustainability encompasses not only environmentally-sustainable building design (including natural lighting and ventilation, and indoor and outdoor areas) but may also include sustainability programming and spaces such as community gardens.

### Appropriate design and provision of facilities

Facilities provided should be relevant to the needs of the community that they will serve. This will require careful consideration not only of the catchment area's demographics, but the existing patterns of socialisation and community organisation prevalent in the area. Facilities should seek to build upon pre-existing social capital and ways of living, rather than approach with a pre-conceived notion of what an area should want.

Community facilities should be of a high architectural standard. This not only makes the interior spaces more usable, but also sends a message to the community that it is valued. The attractiveness and accessibility of a well-designed community facility is also likely to increase visitation and utilisation rates.

Recent trends in community facility design place a greater emphasis on the urban design of a facility, and its connection with the space around it. A facility that is visible from the outside, and extends into streets or parks, and is accessible, is more likely to encourage use by a broad cross section of the community.

## **2.6 Conclusion**

The policy context for facilities planning and management in Marrickville at sub-regional to national levels, and as summarised above, provides a range of guidelines, constraints, responsibilities and opportunities within which Council operates. Wherever relevant each of these has been taken into consideration in the analysis and recommendations provided in this Study. The trends and best practice outlined in this section have informed the assessment of community facilities in this report, and can provide guidance to the provision of any community facilities in the future.

## **CHAPTER 3: THE COMMUNITY PROFILE**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter considers resident and working population of the Marrickville LGA now and in 2031, in order to assess the current levels of provision of community facilities and to be able to predict the future population's needs for community facilities. The demographic data contained in this chapter forms the basis of the analyses of community needs contained in Chapters Six and Seven. It analyses trends in the demographic characteristics of the community and key target groups using Council's community facilities.

This data is drawn from several sources, including the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, the Bureau of Transport Statistics, the 2006 Census, The Public Practice's Community Projector 2011 to 2031 and information provided by Council on the distribution of future residential development expected as a consequence of the recently gazetted Marrickville Local Environmental Plan 2011 (MLEP).

While the Marrickville LGA already has a significant level of development, its population is expected to both grow and change over the next twenty years. Growth is likely to occur in the existing town centres and in selected redevelopment areas in line with the MLEP, with significant new infill housing developments and higher-density developments predicted. Demographic change is expected as longer-term residents, often migrants or lower-income earners are replaced by younger couples and families. Changes are also expected in the shape and size of the local workforce. Marrickville Council's community facility provision will need to evolve to ensure its population's needs are met.

This chapter first considers Marrickville's population growth in general, before outlining its key characteristics including the location of growth and future age structure. Key changes in the area's workforce growth are discussed and the implications of these changes for the provision of community facilities.

### **3.2 Population Growth**

#### **3.2.1 Past Trends**

The estimated resident population of Marrickville declined from 79,900 in 1996 to 75,500 in 2006, a reduction of 4,400 residents or 6.0 per cent. The declining trend changed around 2004 with the population growing since that time and projected to continue. The most recent estimates available from the ABS place the LGA's population at 79,215 in 2010, an increase over the 2006 census population of 75,500 of some 5 per cent.

The ABS estimated resident population and census dwelling counts and occupancy rates are presented in Table 8.

**Table 8 – Past Population Change**

	Population	Dwellings	Occupancy Rate	Median age
1996	79,900	31801	2.51	33
2001	76,700	32105	2.39	34
2006	75,500	33053	2.28	35
2010	79,215	-	-	-

### 3.2.2 Population Projections

Projections of population growth at the local government area level have been made by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) taking into account findings from the 2006 Census and the available data and expertise on fertility, mortality and migration (Table 9).

**Table 9 – Department of Planning Population Projections (2010)**

	Total
2006	75,500
2011	79,000
2016	81,700
2021	83,500
2026	84,800
2031	86,300

These projections were released in April 2010 and are based on 2008 State and regional projections, breaking these down to the local level, along with projecting demographic changes in areas covered by regional or subregional strategies.

It is noted that the DoPI projection of population in Marrickville in 2011 is lower than the more recent ABS estimated resident population for 2010 of 79,215 suggesting that the projections are in the lower range with the next round of revisions likely to revise projections upwards.

The DoPI projections are not targets and do not necessarily reflect local and State policy positions and may well differ from policy targets expressed in the Department of Planning's Sub-regional Strategies and the Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036 Strategy. These land use strategies include an element of urban consolidation with dwelling targets identified as a guide to the land use planning instruments such as the recently adopted Marrickville Local Environmental Plan 2011. Consequently

adjustments can be made to the projections to take account of Marrickville’s response to these land use planning strategies and planning instruments.

Demographic consultants, The Public Practice, have provided a range of projections for Council taking into account various land use scenarios for redevelopment potential which has enabled the DOPI projections to be refined. This has resulted in a more accurate projection of future population based on potential housing infill developments resulting from Marrickville LEP, which have not been reflected in the DOPI projections. Revised population projections based on future dwelling developments are shown in Table 10. Council advises that Marrickville’s total population in 2031 is projected to be 89,974 persons, 10,974 or 13.9 per cent higher than projected population in 2011.

**Table 10 – Marrickville Population Projections<sup>11</sup>**

	Population	Population increase from 2010
2006	75,500	
2010	79,215	
2011	79,000	
2021	87,054	10.1%
2031	89,974	13.9%

### 3.3 Key Characteristics of Growth

#### 3.3.1 Location of Growth

Given the current high degree of urbanisation and the long history of development in Marrickville, growth and development is expected to take place in larger urban renewal sites and redevelopment sites together with smaller infill developments throughout the LGA.

The majority of new dwellings will be located in eight urban centres spread throughout the LGA. These sites for the potential future housing development correspond to urban centres identified in Marrickville Council’s Urban Strategy (2007). The potential new dwellings are shown in Figure 2, and the location of potential new residents by suburb is shown in Table 11. These figures are based upon projections provided by Council’s demographic consultants, *The Public Practice*.

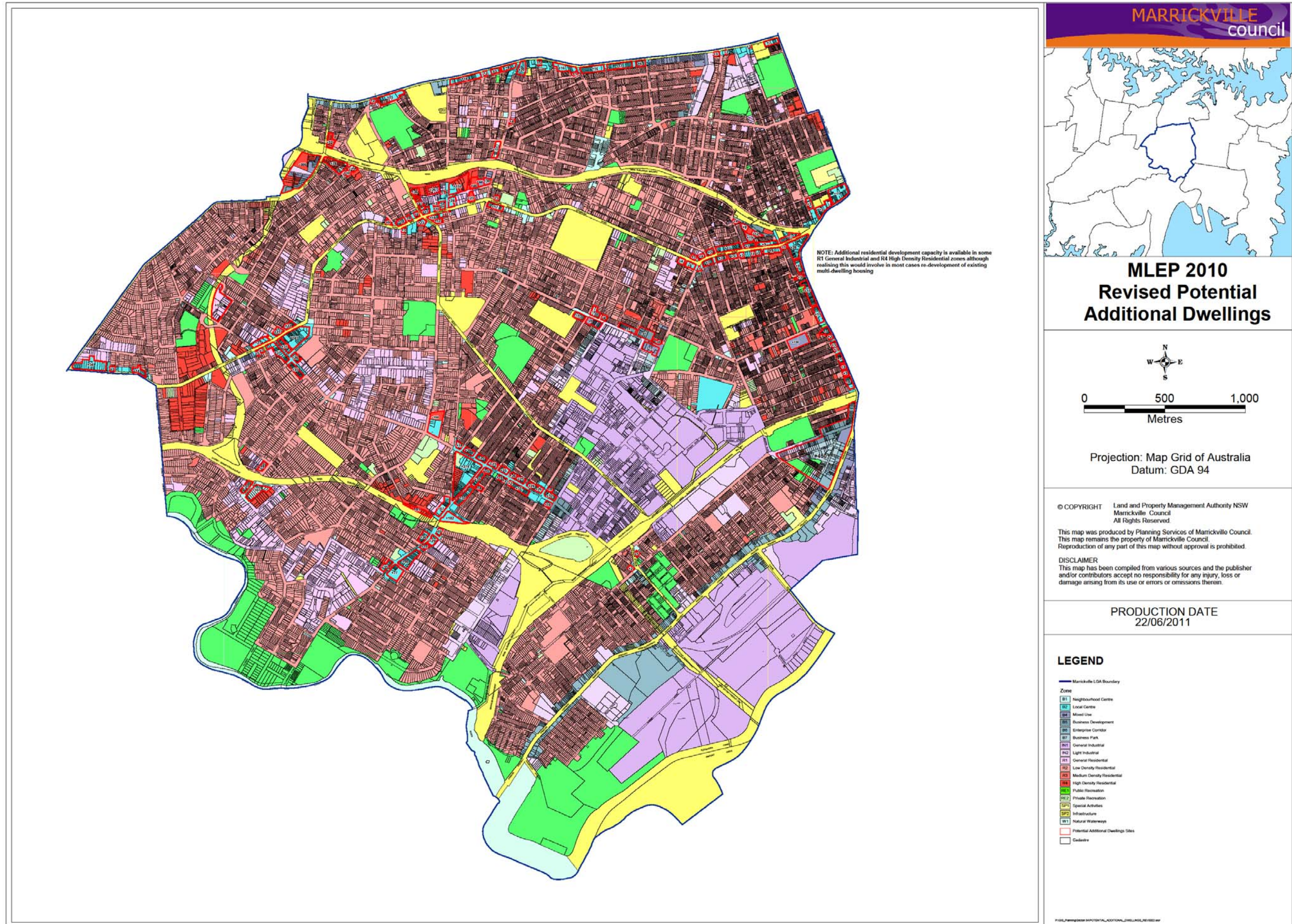
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<sup>11</sup> The 2021 figures are based on the assumption of a linear rate of new dwelling development

**Table 11 – Projected Population Growth by Suburb**

	2011		2021		2031		Change 2011-2031	
Camperdown	2826	3.6%	3275	3.8%	3417	3.8%	592	20.9%
Dulwich Hill	13519	17.1%	15015	17.2%	15626	17.4%	2107	15.6%
Enmore	3716	4.7%	4159	4.8%	4222	4.7%	506	13.6%
Lewisham	3100	3.9%	3506	4.0%	3710	4.1%	609	19.6%
Marrickville	15854	20.1%	17304	19.9%	17809	19.8%	1955	12.3%
Newtown	7072	9.0%	7641	8.8%	7792	8.7%	720	10.2%
Petersham	7333	9.3%	7790	8.9%	7789	8.7%	456	6.2%
South Marrickville	10041	12.7%	10755	12.4%	10974	12.2%	933	9.3%
St Peters	2973	3.8%	3494	4.0%	3731	4.1%	758	25.5%
Stanmore	7721	9.8%	8230	9.5%	8360	9.3%	639	8.3%
Sydenham	1272	1.6%	1818	2.1%	2174	2.4%	902	71.0%
Tempe	3574	4.5%	4069	4.7%	4369	4.9%	795	22.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79000</b>		<b>87054</b>		<b>89974</b>		<b>10974</b>	<b>13.9%</b>

Figure 2: Potential Additional Dwellings in the Marrickville LGA



The proportion of the LGA that resides in each area is set to change slightly, although this change is not likely to have any significant effects; the major changes are Sydenham’s population increasing by almost 70 per cent, and its proportion of total LGA population increasing by 0.8 per cent, and Tempe’s share of total LGA population increasing by 0.4 per cent.

Major potential estimated dwelling sites include:

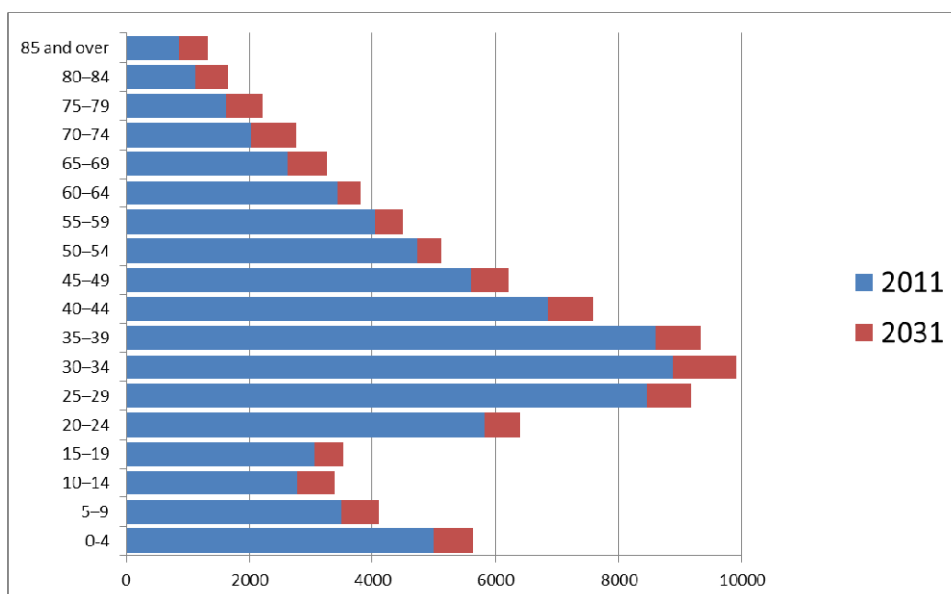
- St Peters Urban Design Study Masterplan (450 potential dwellings);
- Old Canterbury Road area, Lewisham (300 potential dwellings);
- Old Marrickville Hospital Site (150 potential dwellings);
- Alice Street, Newtown (130 potential dwellings).

### 3.3.2 Age and Life Stages

An understanding of changes in the age of the population and various age groups is important for community facilities planning. Trends in population in various life stages is discussed in this section.

The age trends of the population of Marrickville are expected to differ significantly from those of the broader population. In contrast to the generally aging population of wider Sydney, the median age of the Marrickville LGA’s population is expected to remain unchanged at 36. This is a result of inward- and outward-migration, likely caused by constraints on family size and lifestyle caused by the dwelling stock in the LGA. Detailed age-structure breakdowns are available in the Department of Planning’s population projections for the Marrickville LGA. These are shown in Figure 3 and Appendix 4 as applied to the population projections presented in Section 5.2.2; key groups are shown below in Table 12.

**Figure 3 – Predicted current and future population by age group**



**Table 12 – Key age group projections**

	Marrickville LGA						Sydney SD					
	2011		2031		Change		2011		2031		Change	
0-4	4990	6.3%	5640	6.3%	650	13.0%	301,120	6.6%	357,570	6.3%	56,450	18.7%
5-9	3500	4.4%	4097	4.6%	597	17.1%	281,560	6.2%	345,890	6.1%	64,330	22.8%
10-14	2780	3.5%	3388	3.8%	608	21.9%	278,800	6.1%	340,380	6.0%	61,580	22.1%
<i>School age (5-14)</i>	<i>6280</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>7485</i>	<i>8.3%</i>	<i>1205</i>	<i>19.2%</i>	<i>861,480</i>	<i>18.9%</i>	<i>1,043,840</i>	<i>18.4%</i>	<i>125,910</i>	<i>14.6%</i>
15-19	3060	3.9%	3524	3.9%	464	15.2%	295,590	6.5%	350,400	6.2%	54,810	18.5%
Over 65	8250	10.4%	11228	12.5%	2978	36.1%	577,380	12.7%	976,050	17.2%	398,670	69.0%
Total population	79,000	-	89,974	-	10,974	13.9%	4,550,300	-	5,688,600	-	1,138,300	20.0%

### Pre-school

Marrickville is experiencing a baby boom. Between 2006 and 2010, the ABS estimate that the number of children aged 0-4 increased by 18.6 per cent or 823, the highest of any age cohort and higher than the increase in the number of people over 65 over that period (619 persons).

In 2011, Marrickville had the same proportion of pre-schoolers (6.6 per cent) as Sydney as a whole which is a change since the 2006 Census.

Since 2005 there has been a steady and consistent increase in births. In 2010, Marrickville had the fourth highest number of births per head of population of all Councils in NSW. Other nearby LGAs such as Canterbury and Leichhardt also experienced high birth rates, indicative of a general trend in inner west areas for increasing births.

Over the next 20 years, available population projections suggest the number of children between the ages of 0-4 will increase by 650, which is significantly below the growth experienced between 2006 and 2010. This may change if projections are revised after the 2011 census results are available.

The increase in births and young children has implications for the demand for child care services including long day care centres, pre-schools and before and after school care as children move through the age cohorts.

### School Aged Children

Population projections are only available on specific age cohorts that do not align totally with primary and secondary school ages. As can be seen from Table 12, the number of children aged 5-9 increased by 5 per cent between 2006 and 2010 and is projected to increase by 17 per cent between 2011 and 2031 largely as a result of the recent increase in births passing through the age groups. Strong growth is also expected in the 10-14 year and 15-19 year age groups. The demand for before and after school care will continue to grow as a consequence.

In 2010, Marrickville had a lower proportion of school aged population (7.5 per cent) than Sydney as a whole (12.3 per cent) although this is expected to change as the increase in babies move through the age cohorts.

### **Youth and Young Adults**

Between 2006 and 2010, youth in Marrickville remained relatively stable in numbers with a slight decline in the 15-19 age group. Young people are expected to increase in the future with an increase of about 600 persons between the ages of 10 and 14 and 1,050 persons between the ages of 15 and 24, due mainly to the progression of children through the age groups as discussed above.

Young adults (19-25 year age group) will also grow although at a rate lower than the LGA average of 13.9 per cent between 2011 and 2031.

### **Working Age Groups**

Adults between the ages of 25 and 39 (generally birthing age) are expected to experience moderate growth between 2011 and 2031 (between 4 per cent and 7 per cent), less than the LGA wide level. The absolute number of residents in the age group remains strong representing about 31 per cent of the total population in 2031 indicating that the number of births will remain strong.

In 2010, Marrickville had a higher percentage of population in this age group than Sydney as a whole again indicating that the number of births will remain strong.

### **Older people**

Consistent with Australia wide trends, there will be growth in older people in Marrickville with the population aged 65 and over increasing by 619 or 7.9 per cent between 2006 and 2010. It is expected that the number of persons over 65 will increase by nearly 3,000 or 36 per cent between 2011 and 2031. About one third of these will be 80 and over indicating a significant increase in the need for frail aged services in Marrickville.

The proportion of Marrickville population aged 65 and over is similar to Sydney as a whole. However the rate at which its population will age is predicted to be significantly lower – Sydney SD is expecting an increase in people over 65 of almost 70 per cent between 2011 and 2031.

### **3.3.3 Other Relevant Characteristics**

Several other characteristics of the LGA's population are relevant to community facility needs, now and into the future. These characteristics include the CALD population, ATSI residents, income levels and home ownership rates. Given the specificity and unpredictability of some of these characteristics, the detailed predictions that would be required for a fine-grain analysis are not available. Instead these characteristics are based on 2006 Census data, with updated information noted where available. Appendix 4 contains key demographic characteristics in full, compared to those of the Sydney Statistical District and NSW as a whole.

### **Cultural Diversity**

Marrickville's population comes from a diverse cultural and linguistic background

with 26.1 per cent of residents having been born in a country where English is not the primary language, close to double the State average. The two most common CALD backgrounds at the time of the 2006 census were Greek (3.1 per cent of residents) and Vietnamese (2.0 per cent). 32.7 per cent of the LGA either answered that they spoke a language other than English at home (both in addition to English, or exclusively), or did not specify any language spoken at home.

However the non-English speaking proportion of Marrickville's population has been declining in relative size over the past decade and there is a possibility that this trend will continue into the future; earlier generations of immigrants are aging and first generational cultural diversity is decreasing. It is considered that these trends will continue.

### **Aboriginal Australians**

The LGA's indigenous population at 2006 (1.5 per cent) is slightly lower than the State as a whole (2.1 per cent), but slightly higher than Sydney as a whole (1.1 per cent); between 2001 and 2006 it increased very slightly (from 1.4 per cent to 1.5 per cent).

### **Household Income**

The mean individual and household incomes in the Marrickville LGA in 2006 (\$595 and \$1,160 respectively) were slightly higher than the Sydney average (\$518 and \$1,154) and significantly higher than that of the state as a whole (\$461 and \$1,036). Rising house prices in Marrickville and anecdotal evidence of gentrification suggest the parts of Marrickville are becoming increasingly affluent, albeit with significant mortgages. However there are significant disadvantaged sections of the community, particularly in the suburb of Marrickville. The average individual income in Marrickville Suburb, at \$463, is just above the NSW average and significantly lower than the LGA as a whole. Such mixed demographics suggest that community facilities be carefully located, with reference to the groups that are most likely to have a need.

### **Vehicle ownership**

Vehicle ownership is lower in Marrickville than the Sydney SD. At the time of the 2006 census twenty three per cent of households in Marrickville had no car, compared to only 13 per cent in Sydney; only 24 per cent of households owned two or more vehicles, against a Sydney average of 44 per cent. It is expected that public transport usage is higher compared to Sydney as a whole.

### **People living with a disability**

The *Marrickville Council Stocktake Report - Stage 1 - Review of 2004 DDA Action Plan and Access Policy* presents a demographic summary of people living with a disability in the Marrickville LGA. The report notes that an accurate profile is difficult given sensitivities involved, but identifies that it is generally accepted around 20% of any population is likely to be living with a disability.

Independent estimates commissioned by Council suggest that approximately 11,516 LGA residents (16.04%) live with some form of disability. 3,661 (5.10%) have a mild disability, 1,907 (2.66%) have a moderate disability, and 2,898 (5.04%) of the LGA's residents live with a profound/severe disability. The Marrickville Suburb was notably overrepresented in terms of the distribution of people with a disability - 47.13% of LGA residents with a disability live in the suburb, although the suburb made up only

32.25% of the LGA's population.

An estimated 686 LGA residents (0.95%) identified as having communication difficulties, 2,898 (4.03%) as having self-care difficulties which may include difficulties showering or bathing, dressing, or eating, and 3,889 (5.4%) identified as having mobility restrictions.

### Health and Wellbeing

The Ministry of Health collects a range of Health data which while relevant to Marrickville is not always specific to Marrickville but is often grouped with data from surrounding LGAs as this matches health collection areas. For example Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Leichhardt, Marrickville, Strathfield are all part of the local government areas that come under the Central Sydney Division of General Practice (CSDGP) and for which combined health data is collected. Using this data, collected between 2005-2007, provides some indication of the health status of Marrickville residents and those in surrounding LGAs compared to the State as a whole. For example people in CSDGP (which includes Marrickville) compared to the State of NSW were less likely to:

- Self rate their health as excellent, very good, or good (79.6 per cent compared to 80.07 per cent)
- Be overweight (16 years and over) (41 per cent compared to 50.5 per cent)
- Be obese (12 per cent compared to 17.4 per cent)
- Have natural teeth missing (2.7 per cent compared to 5.2 per cent)
- Experience diabetes (6.2 per cent compared to 7.4 per cent).

And more likely to:

- Experience adequate levels of physical activity (61.0 per cent compared to 53.6 per cent) (16yrs+)
- Experience high & very high levels of psychological distress (12.5 per cent compared to 11.5 per cent).

Specific health indicators indicate that the Marrickville community has higher than the State average for alcohol-attributable deaths, cardio-vascular disease (118.7 compared to a state average of 100), but a lower average for smoking related deaths (114 compared to 100).

**Table 13 - Population Characteristics and Facility Needs and Demands**

Population Characteristics	Facility Needs and Demands
Population Size:  79,215 people in the LGA in 2010.	1. The population is large enough to support a range of community facilities including the existing provision of community facilities taking in to account the provision of the new Marrickville library the release of the space in the old library building and the use of existing vacant buildings
Population Growth:	2. Any increase in the population implies corresponding increases in need and

<p>There has been growth of 5 per cent per annum rise between 2006- 2010 with a forecast continuation at a slightly lower rate (0.7 per cent per annum) to 2031.</p>	<p>demand for community facilities</p>
<p>Age Structure:</p> <p>A below Sydney average proportion of children aged 0-14 years but a local 'baby boom' increase in child birth rates. Between 2006 and 2010, the ABS estimate that the number of children aged 0-4 increased by 22.2% or 823, the highest of any age cohort</p> <p>A below Sydney average proportion of youth (aged 15-19 years)</p> <p>A well above Sydney average proportion of young adults 20-34 and adults 35-49 years</p> <p>A below Sydney average proportion of older people (with only 25.6 per cent of Marrickville's population aged over 50 years in 2006, compared to 29 per cent in Sydney as a whole)</p>	<p>3. There is evidence of a baby boom an increase in birth rates and children 0-5 which will require additional servicing by child care facilities</p> <p>4. consistent with Australia as a whole, there will be an increase in older people</p> <p>5. the increase in population of all aged, particularly the young results in a continued diversity in population age structure and a range of facility and service needs</p>
<p>Family Type:</p> <p>A low proportion of couple families with children and a below NSW average proportion of one-parent families</p> <p>Very high proportions of lone person and group households</p>	<p>6. Family type has little direct impact upon facilities utilisation apart from childcare for households with dependent children which while being lower than the state average still require servicing through long day care, preschool and OOSHC (see above)</p> <p>7. Some consideration should be given to the needs for social opportunities for lone person households if the residents are in any way socially isolated</p>
<p>Income:</p> <p>Higher than average individual and household incomes.</p>	<p>8. The above-average incomes imply that those higher income bracket residents will have an above-average capacity to pay for facilities, subject to levels of disposable income after mortgage payments</p> <p>9. Those on low incomes - at least 12 per cent of households are in this category - are more likely to be restricted to local, lower cost and home-based activities</p> <p>10. Careful consideration needs to be given to a flexible and transparent pricing policy and community based exemptions for people on low incomes</p>

<p>Cultural diversity:</p> <p>Relatively high (but decreasing) level of cultural diversity – with 25.2 per cent of residents born overseas in CALD countries (compared to 23.9 per cent for Sydney). Down from 30.5 per cent in 2001.</p>	<p>11. Intercept data suggests that older CALD residents are higher than average users of community facilities for social and health and wellbeing programs</p>
<p>Aboriginal Australians:</p>	<p>12. While small in number this important community group has requirements for Aboriginal specific community meeting space/cultural space</p> <p>13. Provision of general facilities need to be accessible but more importantly culturally inclusive through use of design and Aboriginal cultural imagery</p>
<p>Vehicle Ownership:</p> <p>A below average number of cars per dwelling with only 24 per cent of households having 2 or more cars, compared to 44 per cent for Sydney</p>	<p>14. Vehicle ownership is an important issue with respect to access to community facilities</p> <p>15. Facilities need to be centrally located near public transport nodes or have high levels of walkability</p> <p>16. Locating facilities in urban hubs or service 'clusters' can improve accessibility for car less households</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing:</p> <p>Some health and wellbeing indicators are lower than the state average, others higher, however overall differences are generally not large. Without interventions, levels of non-communicable 'lifestyle' health problems such as obesity and overweight, diabetes, heart disease and mental health issues, such as depression, are likely to continue to increase.</p>	<p>17. Participation in community activity and engagement has significant positive effects on community well being</p> <p>18. This requires the provision of 'spaces and places' where activity and engagement can occur over and above and public open space</p> <p>19. Engaging in community activity promotes social engagement and reduces isolation for all age groups.</p> <p>20. In leasing and hiring facilities Council needs to pay attention to a balance of age groups, cultural groups and gender specific activities in their planning</p> <p>21. Accessible community facilities that are low cost and well maintained are an important element in the provision of services to the community that lead to increased wellbeing such as, dance and other programs, social groups and networks and local organisations that increase social inclusion</p>

### Home Ownership

Levels of home ownership in the Marrickville LGA were considerably lower in the 2006 Census than elsewhere. 53.1 per cent of LGA residents either owned or were in the process of buying their home, compared to 65.0 per cent in Sydney as a whole and 66.7 per cent in the State. This may reflect the area's status as a temporary base for students or young professionals at the beginning of their career, who are more likely

to rent a property before moving out of the area at a later time. The rental profile of the Marrickville suburb is again different, with higher proportion of residents in public housing – 5.1 per cent of all dwellings, as opposed to 2.9 per cent for the LGA and 4.7 per cent of the state.

### **Dwelling Occupancy**

The average occupancy rate of the LGA is lower than both the Sydney as a whole and State averages (2.39 in 2006 as opposed to 2.7 for both larger areas), likely caused in part by the size of dwelling stock available in the LGA. There are also several possible demographic explanations for this smaller household size – there may be a higher proportion of students or elderly in the neighbourhood, or more couples with no children. With the exception of a higher proportion of elderly residents, these reasons are likely to be mitigating factors in the demand for community facility provision. The Public Practice has predicted a slight increase in the average occupancy rate by 2031, increasing to 2.4.

### **Spatial Distribution of Disadvantage**

The Marrickville LGA contains significant variances between levels of advantage and disadvantage, as would be expected in a previously working-class area undergoing processes of gentrification. Some parts of the LGA have a higher proportion of young professional families, while other areas are home to relatively disadvantaged sections of the community. The spatial distribution of advantage and disadvantage may be a factor in assessing the need for community facilities, and inform the location of future service and facility provision.

The ABS has developed a set of indices to identify relative levels of advantage and disadvantage called the Socio-economic Indexes for Areas. Each indicator is developed around a mean of 1,000; importantly, SEIFA scores do not indicate an area's absolute advantage or disadvantage but rather measures it against other areas. As such the decile into which an area falls is a useful indicator of its position.

Median household incomes and SEIFA scores and deciles for each suburb in the Marrickville LGA are indicated in **Table 14**. Two SEIFA scores are displayed – socio-economic advantage/disadvantage, and socio-economic disadvantage. The index of socio-economic disadvantage considers only the sources of disadvantage in an area, while the advantage/disadvantage indicator also considers sources of advantage. Both these indicators should be considered when assessing an area. A low disadvantage score but an average or high advantage/disadvantage score may indicate a mixed area, with significant disadvantage offset by a better-off section of the population, or alternatively can indicate a relatively homogenous population that contains characteristics representing both advantage and disadvantage.

**Table 14 – Indicators of disadvantage by suburb**

Suburb	Seifa – A / D	Advantage-disadvantage decile (state)	Seifa - disadvantage	Disadvantage decile (state)	Median household income
Stanmore	1124	10	1068	8	1442
Marrickville	1016	7	952	3	1,048
Lewisham	1072	9	1004	6	1138
Petersham	1091	9	1035	7	1269
Dulwich Hill	1053	8	1002	5	1121
St Peters	1090	9	1033	6	1316
Tempe	1041	8	993	5	1157
Sydenham	1029	7	1016	4	1153
Enmore	1094	9	1036	7	1158
<b>Marrickville LGA</b>	<b>1065</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1160</b>

These figures should be interpreted with caution. The data employed to construct the SEIFA scores above is from the 2006 census, and it is likely the area has undergone significant change since this time.

The information suggests that the Marrickville LGA is generally fairly well off, being in within the top 10% of LGAs on the advantage/disadvantage index, and the top 20% on the disadvantage index. However within the LGA some suburbs are more disadvantaged than others. The Marrickville suburb in particular has a low Index of Disadvantage score, suggesting there are significant pockets of deprivation within the area; several census collection districts (CD; the smallest statistical unit available for the SEIFA index) within South Marrickville are within the worst 20% of CDs in the state. This supports comments from Council officers that South Marrickville has a significant disadvantaged population, in part due to the presence of social housing. Other suburbs performing poorly on the index of deprivation are Sydenham and Tempe.

### **3.4 Workforce Projections**

Marrickville LGA is expected to see a small increase in the number of jobs located within the LGA between 2011 and 2031, although as with residential dwellings there is a significant disparity between different methods of calculating the future working population. Two data sources have predicted the LGA's future workforce; the first, has been prepared by Council and includes several large developments likely to provide a number of ongoing jobs in the area. This is attached as Figure 4. The second is the Bureau of Transport Statistics employment forecasts, which act as a 'baseline' scenario, and do not account for any significant deviations from existing trends.

At the time of the 2006 Census, Journey to Work data indicates a total of 23,082 people worked in the Marrickville LGA. 5,371 (23.3 per cent) of these workers were also resident in the Marrickville LGA, with 17,711 (76.7 per cent) workers non-resident. Other LGAs whose residents made up a significant proportion of Marrickville's workforce include Canterbury (11.0 per cent), Rockdale (5.1 per cent), Sydney City (5.1 per cent), Bankstown (4.8 per cent) and Sutherland (4.7 per cent).

Council has predicted a total 1,871 additional jobs within the LGA from 2011 levels, including a loss of 186 jobs in the Lewisham and Stanmore area. The predicted number of workers in the Marrickville LGA in 2031 is 29,907. A predicted 1200 new workers will be employed at a large development in the St Peters Station area, and a further 450 at the east end of Marrickville Road. 164 additional jobs are predicted in the South Marrickville area. Estimates are not available for the resident and non-resident working population.

The Bureau of Transport Statistics issues forecasts detailing the total number employed, by travel zone. These figures suggest an increase in workers of 1,920 by 2031, to 29,957. Full employment forecasts by travel zone are shown in Appendix 5 and also Figure 4 over page. The travel zones with the highest proportions of jobs in 2011 are generally located around train stations, and include:

- Stanmore - Northumberland Av & Great Western Hwy (5.2 per cent of total jobs in the LGA);
- Petersham Station (South) (4.4 per cent);
- Sydney Steel (15.4 per cent);
- Marrickville Metro (4.8 per cent);
- Marrickville Station (North) (5.1 per cent);
- Sydenham Station (West) (6.0 per cent);
- St Peters Station (South) (7.3 per cent).

Using data from 2006 JTW, approximately 23.3% of additional jobs would be taken by residents with the remaining 1,435 travelling from outside the LGA. By 2031, new jobs will comprise some 6.3% of the workforce.

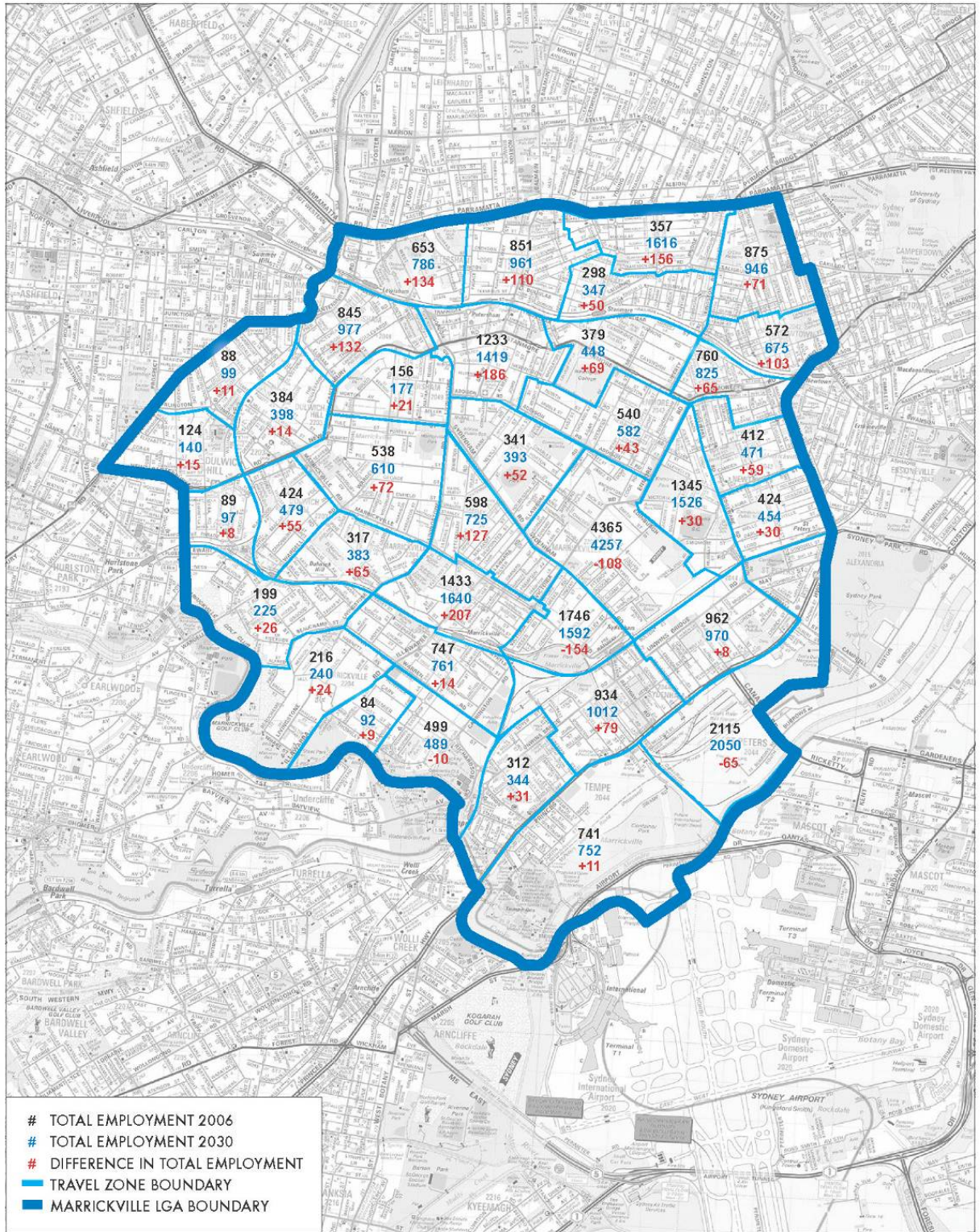


IMAGE SOURCE: SYDWAY 2012



**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS BY TRAVEL ZONE**  
 (FIGURES SOURCED FROM BUREAU OF TRANSPORT STATISTICS)



Some minor changes in the location of employment are predicted. In particular Sydenham Station area is predicted to fall from 6.0 per cent of jobs to 5.3 per cent and St Peters Station (South) from 7.3 per cent to 6.8 per cent. Minor relative increases are predicted in the areas around Lewisham Station.

SGS Economic and Planning<sup>12</sup> noted that falling jobs affected by the decline in manufacturing sectors with traditional industries relocating through decentralisation and industry restructuring. Airport and port related industries are growing as are retail and commercial sectors with increased office and business use of industrial lands.

The Draft South Subregional Strategy and Marrickville Council strategies seek to:

- *Encouraging and strengthening core employment lands;*
- *Encouraging creative industries;*
- *Providing jobs as well as housing;*
- *Improving the quality of industrial land public domain to attract a wider range of employment;*
- *Allowing intensification of employment land uses in appropriate locations.*

The following general strategies were recommended by SGS:

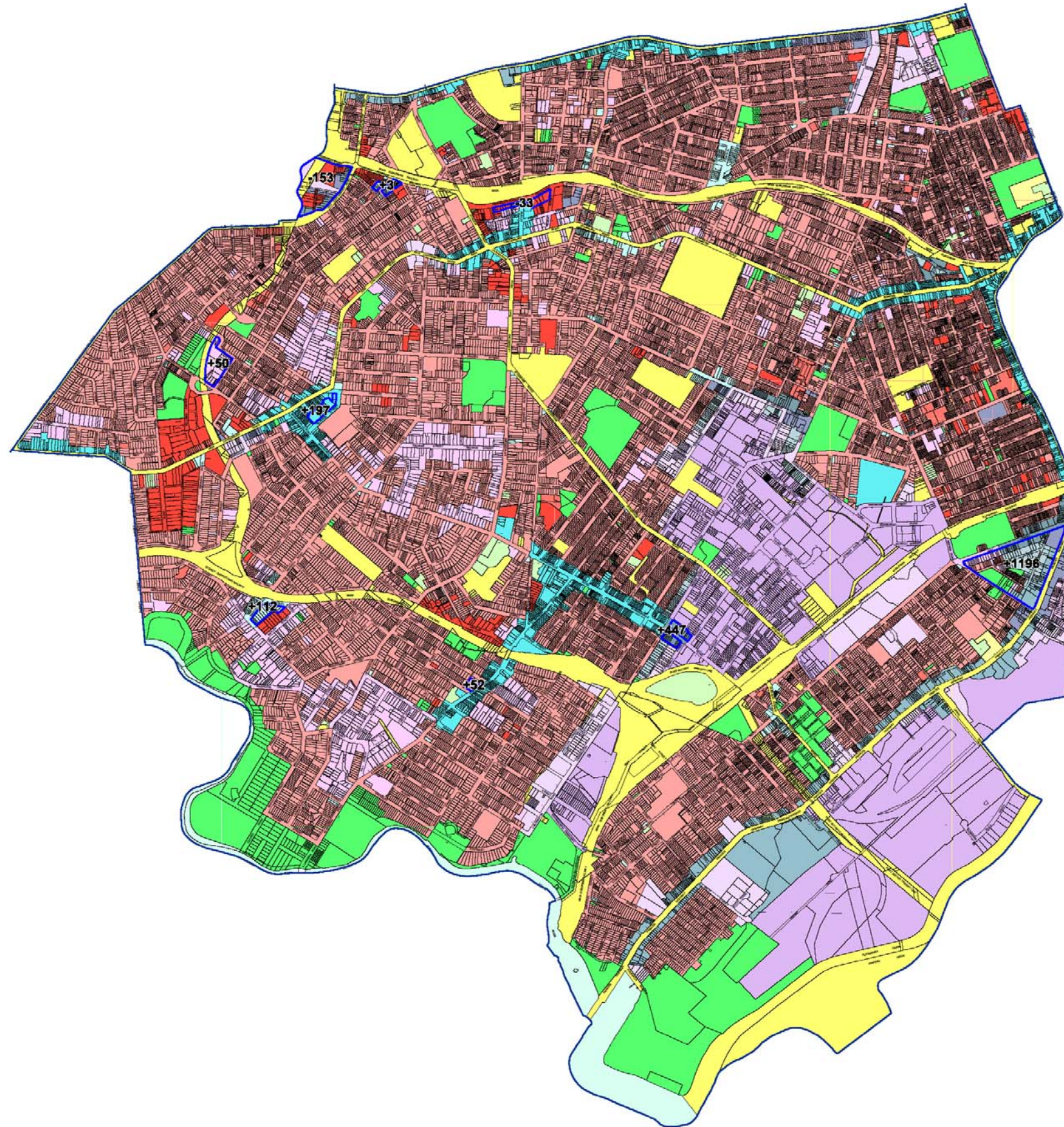
- *Preserve current employment lands in the core employment lands and in proximity to the Airport in recognition of their important to freight and logistics sectors and local industrial land needs.*
- *Intensification of employment land use on fragmented employment land sites and appropriate sections of the core employment lands (Certain sites and Victoria Road Corridor, long term redevelopment of Bedwin Street Precinct).*
- *Turning over isolated industrial lands to mixed use land uses in the large fragmented employment land and land located within centres (McGill Street and Alice Street).*
- *Provide guidance through development control and economic development frameworks.*

The increase and change in the Marrickville LGA's working population is relatively small when compared to the likely residential population increase. Unless there is a significant shift in the patterns of resident- and non-resident workers, approximately one quarter of these workers will also live within the LGA. Nonetheless, the additional working population will use local community facilities such as child care and libraries and are relevant for assessing the community facility needs into the future.

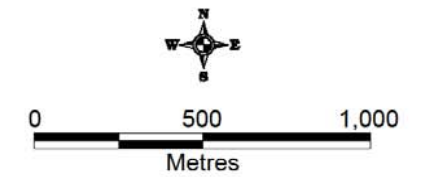
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<sup>12</sup> SGS Economics and Planning (2008) *Marrickville Employment Land Study Final Report April 2008* for Marrickville Council

Figure 4: Projected Change in Worker



**MLEP 2011  
Projected Change in  
Worker Population V4**



Projection: Map Grid of Australia  
Datum: GDA 94

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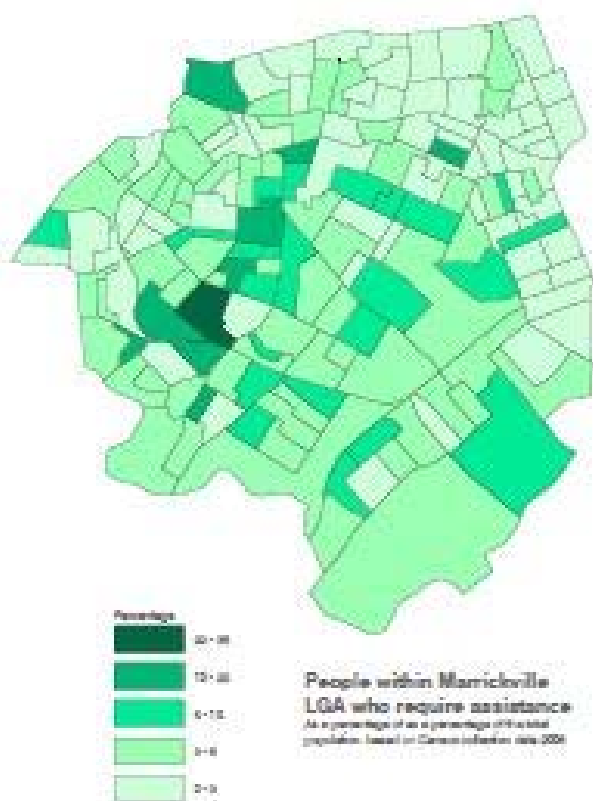
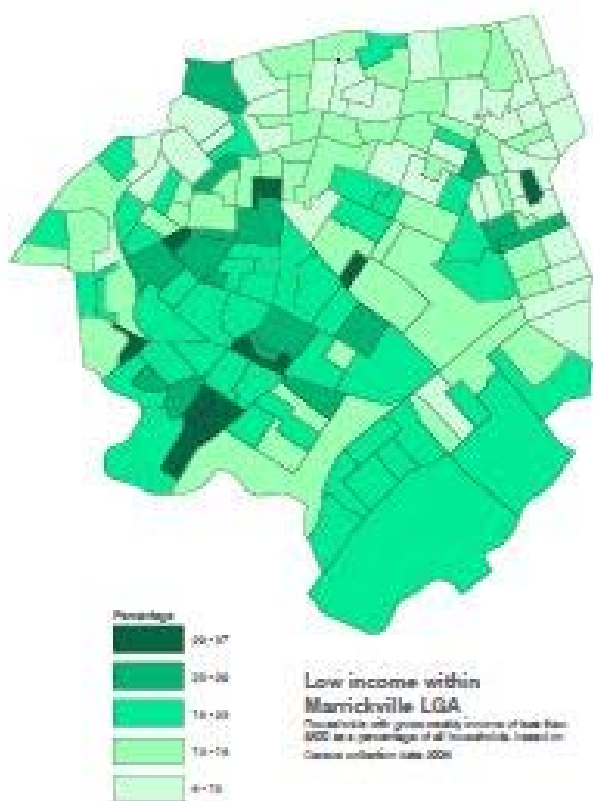
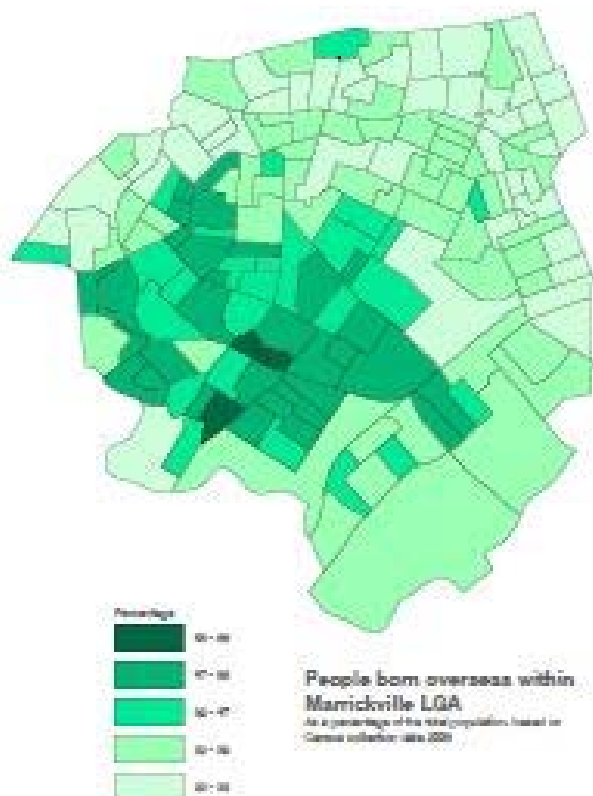
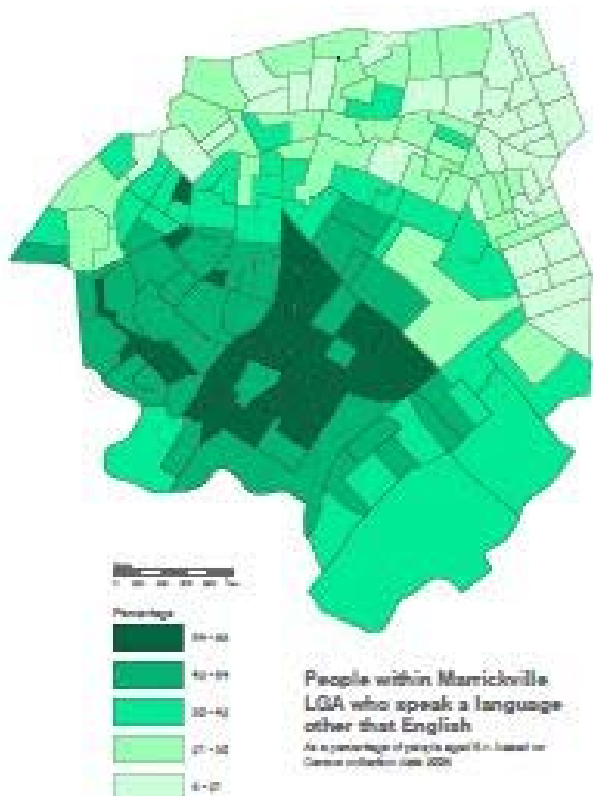
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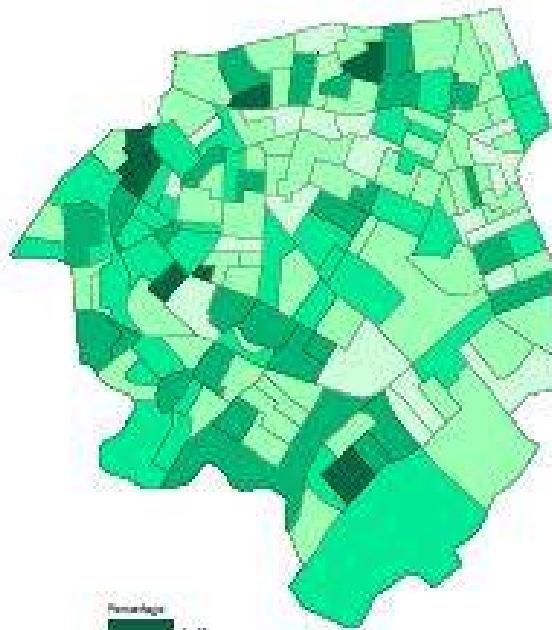
**LEGEND**

- Marrickville LGA Boundary
- Zones**
- [BT] Neighbourhood Centre
- [LC] Local Centre
- [MU] Mixed Use
- [BD] Business Development
- [EC] Enterprise Corridor
- [BP] Business Park
- [GI] General Industrial
- [LI] Light Industrial
- [GR] General Residential
- [LD] Low Density Residential
- [MD] Medium Density Residential
- [HD] High Density Residential
- [PR] Public Recreation
- [PR] Private Recreation
- [SP] Special Amenities
- [INF] Infrastructure
- [NW] Natural Waterways
- Projected Change in Worker Population
- Cadastral

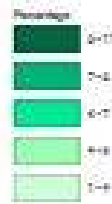
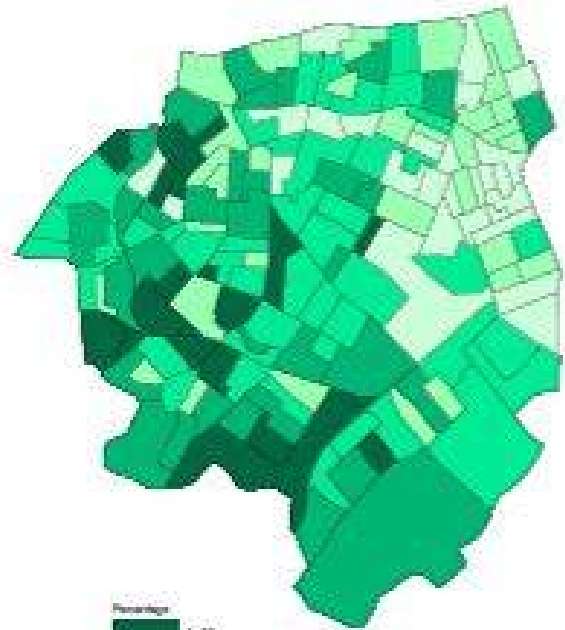
# Marrickville LGA Census Data



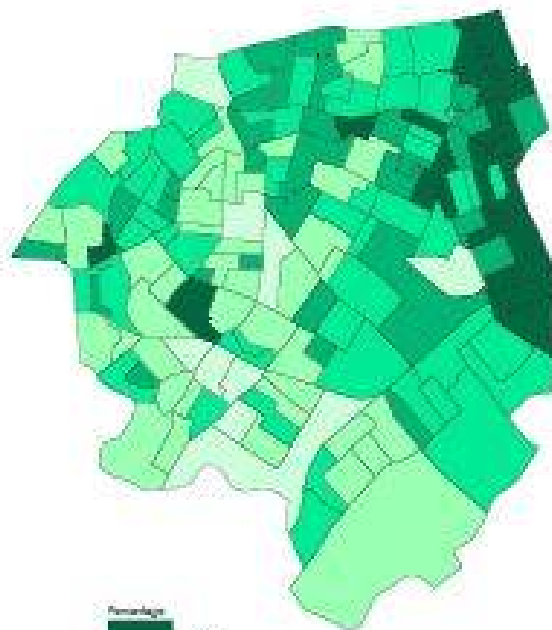
# Marrickville LGA Census Data



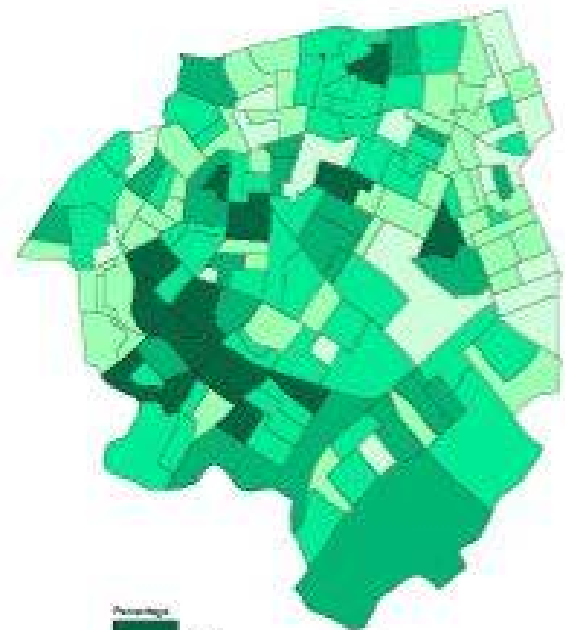
**People within Marrickville LGA aged between 0 - 4 years old**  
As a percentage of the total population based on Census collection date 2001.



**People within Marrickville LGA aged between 5 - 14 years old**  
As a percentage of the total population based on Census collection date 2001.

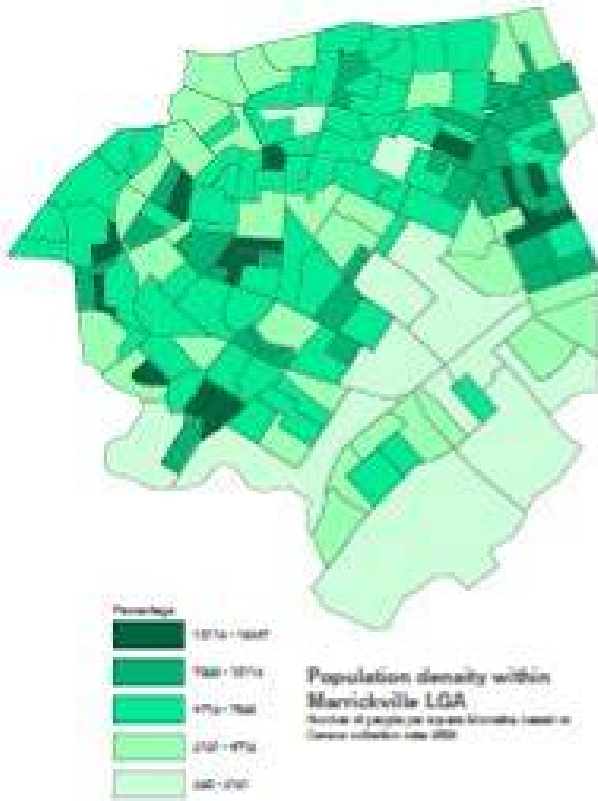


**People aged 25 - 54 years old within Marrickville LGA**  
As a percentage of the total population based on Census collection date 2001.



**People aged 65-74 years old within Marrickville LGA**  
As a percentage of the total population based on Census collection date 2001.

## Marrickville LGA Census Data



### 3.5 Implications for Community Facility Planning

Trends in population size and structure are the major determinant of the demand for community facilities. Key recent trends include:

Population is expected to grow by about 13.9 per cent or 10,974 persons between 2011 and 2031;

Workforce is expected to grow by about 6.7% or 1,870 workers between 2011 and 2031;

There has been a steady and consistent increase in births leading to a significant increase on the number of children. Between 2006 and 2010, the ABS estimate that the number of children aged 0-4 increased by 18.6 per cent or 823, the highest of any age cohort and higher than the increase in the number of people over 65 over that period (619 persons);

It is expected that the number of persons over 65 will increase by nearly 3,000 or 36 per cent between 2011 and 2031. About one third of these will be 80 and over indicating a significant increase in the need for frail aged services in Marrickville;

There will be steady growth in the middle age groups, including people in child bearing ages, although at less than the state average;

Whilst the population will be getting older, there is also expected to be a push for a younger population through increasing birth rates;

The population will remain culturally diverse with a reduction in first generational migrants and greater diversity on cultures and cultural mix;

Housing is becoming more expensive leading to reduced levels of home ownership and housing affordability;

The nature of employment lands is changing with a corresponding change in the nature of jobs and businesses in the area. Airport and port related industries are growing as are retail and commercial sectors with increased office and business use of industrial lands;

Jobs in the LGA are not predicted to increase at the same rate as residents;

The number of women in the labour force has increase from 51 per cent in 1996 to 58.6 percent in 2006 and is expected to grow in the future.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AUDIT**

### **4.1 Introduction**

An audit of existing Council owned community facilities was undertaken in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current supply of community facilities provided by Council in Marrickville. The audit involved the following:

- An inventory of community facility assets from Council records;
- Review of previous council reports including the 2004 Facility Audit;
- Review of Council's works program for implementation of recommendations of 2004 Facility Audit;
- Inspections of Council owned community facilities (external inspections of child care centres);
- A review of land use zoning, heritage status, property description data and land classification.

The audit of community facility assets has been provided to Council in spreadsheet format with summary information presented in this report. Inventory sheets for each facility summarising key information are included as Appendix 7.

The inventory contains items such as:

- Type of facility;
- Description of functions and services provided at each facility;
- Target groups served / user profile;
- Location;
- Access to public transport services;
- Proximity to urban centres;
- Access to pedestrian and cycle networks;
- Access for people with disability (based on available information and previous audit conducted 2004);
- Catchment area served;
- Capacity (e.g. seating capacity, number of child care places);
- Current level of use (e.g. at or below capacity, percentage occupancy);
- Planning controls (zoning and heritage status);
- Development/ expansion potential or opportunities;
- Ownership (Council, State, community-sector, private);
- Management details.

### **4.2 Inventory of Council-owned and operated facilities**

Marrickville Council provides an extensive range of community facilities, some of which are operated by Council with others operated by non-government organisations occupying Council-owned facilities. Council also lease facilities for the provision of community services. Many of these facilities are used for a number of purposes.

A summary of the community facilities within the scope of the audit is provided in

Table 15 indicating the key functions in each building. There are sixteen Council-owned buildings containing services managed by Council, and ten facilities run by community organisations. Council also operates some community facilities on non-Council land. Facilities and services that Council operates from non-Council-owned sites (seven in total) are presented in Table 17.

Council-operated facilities fall into four main categories:

- general-purpose space to be used by the community on a short term basis or occupied by community groups;
- childcare facilities including long day care and before and after school care<sup>13</sup>;
- libraries; and
- arts and cultural facilities.

This chapter details the provision of these facilities, as well as services and facilities provided to two particular sections of the community, youth and older people. The locations of facilities are provided on the following pages.

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<sup>13</sup> Before and after school care is also known as Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) and Out of Hours School Care (OOSH)

**Table 15 – Council-owned Community Facilities**

Facility / Location	Current Role	Management	Functions of space	Core Activities / Uses	Capacity utilisation
Marrickville Town Hall 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville	Community space for hire	Council - Venues Officer Community Facilities portfolio	Large spring-floor hall Tables and seating Industrial kitchen	Ballroom dancing CALD groups Religious groups	Medium
	Central library	Library services	Central library functions, including staff offices Two meeting rooms for community use	Borrowing services Computer access Periodicals	Maximum
Petersham Town Hall 107 Crystal Street, Petersham	Community space for hire	Council - Venues Officer Community Facilities portfolio	Large spring-floor hall Tables and seating Commercial kitchen	Ballroom dancing CALD groups Religious groups	Medium
	Artist residence	Council - Arts and Culture	Three bedrooms Living room Kitchen Outdoor terrace	Accommodation for visiting artists, 1-3 months	Maximum
	Council offices	Council	-	Community Services Division staff	-
St Peters Town Hall, 39 Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters	Branch library	Council - Library services	Branch library	Borrowing services Computer access Periodicals	Low
	Community space for hire	Council - Venues Officer Community Facilities portfolio	Upstairs - Medium-sized hall - Tables and chairs  Downstairs - Small meeting room - Desks and chairs - Basic AV equipment	Ballroom dancing Religious groups Political meetings	Low
	Non-government organisation offices (Metro Migrant Resource Centre, Sydney Multicultural Community Services, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre)	3 separate NGOs	Upstairs - 2 x offices  Downstairs - Small office with attached kitchenette	Public-facing migrant support office  Backroom functions for: - General neighbourhood centre - Multicultural service provider	-
Newtown Town Hall 1 Bedford Street, Newtown	Staffed neighbourhood centre (Newtown Neighbourhood Centre)	NGO - Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	3 x large office rooms (1 used for reception) Counselling room	Provides range of community services, including - Accommodation Services - Drug, Alcohol, and Other Addiction Services - Essential Services - Family Services	-

Facility / Location	Current Role	Management	Functions of space	Core Activities / Uses	Capacity utilisation
				- General Community Services	
	Community space for hire	NGO - Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	Medium-sized hall Medium-sized meeting room	Special interest groups	Low
Jarvie Park Hall Yabsley Avenue, Marrickville	Staffed youth centre ( <i>Marrickville Youth Resource Centre</i> )	NGO - Marrickville Youth Resource Centre	Upstairs - 4 Staff offices - Doctor's office Downstairs - Dance studio - Computer & music room	Range of services for youth 14-24, including - Health services - Education services - Sport and recreation services - Drop-in centre	High
	Community space for hire	NGO - Marrickville Youth Resource Centre	Large hall	Youth groups Classes run by Youth Resource Centre	Medium
Seaview Street Group (3 buildings) 12-14 Seaview Street, Dulwich Hill	Hall - Community space for hire	Council - Venues Officer Community Facilities portfolio	Small hall	Older people groups CALD groups	High
	Branch library	Council - Library services	Branch library	Borrowing services Computer access Periodicals	Maximum
	Former Early Childhood Health Centre - Temporarily vacant offices (termite damage)	Council - Community Facilities	5 x rooms of varying sizes	Previously provision of healthcare services to young children	-
Herbert Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Street, Marrickville	Community space for hire	Council - Venues Officer Community Facilities portfolio	Medium size hall	CALD groups Older people groups Political groups	High
Australia Street Complex 24a Australia Street, Camperdown	Community-run museum ( <i>Portuguese Ethnographic Museum</i> )	NGO - Portuguese Ethnographic Museum	Small hall housing extensive collection of Portuguese artefacts	CALD community - Portuguese	Low
	Artists residence ( <i>Art Camp</i> )	Council - Arts & Culture	2 x artist studios	Artists residence and mentoring Studios occasionally open to public	High
	Vacant offices	Council - Community Facilities	Large meeting room	-	-
	Vacant hall	Council - Community Facilities	Small hall	-	-
Chrissie Cotter Gallery Mallett Street, Camperdown	Art gallery	Council - Arts and Culture	Small entrance atrium & storeroom Gallery space	Holds exhibitions of LGA and Inner West artists' work	Maximum
ESP Gallery 228-230 Illawarra Road, Marrickville	Art gallery ( <i>ESP Gallery</i> )	NGO - ESP Projects	Three medium and one large room used as gallery space	Holds exhibitions of Inner West artists' work	High

Facility / Location	Current Role	Management	Functions of space	Core Activities / Uses	Capacity utilisation
Stone Villa Artists 24 Railway Road, Sydenham	Artists residence ( <i>Stone Villa Artists</i> )	Council - Arts and Culture	5 x rooms used as studios Garage used as studio Kitchen & bathroom	Residence for seven artists	-
Innari Housing 100a Silver Street, Marrickville	Non-government organisation offices ( <i>Innari Housing</i> )	NGO - Innari Housing	1 x large room used as office 2 x small rooms	Women's community housing provider, and office	High
Pathways Early Childhood Intervention Yabsley Avenue, Marrickville	Early childhood intervention centre for disable and severely disabled children	NGO - Pathways Early Childhood Intervention	2 x large group rooms 3 x individual consulting rooms 3 x staff offices Garden	Range of therapy Playgroup Preschool	High
Stanmore Branch Library Stanmore Reserve, Douglas Street, Stanmore	Branch library	Council - Library services	Branch library	Borrowing services Computer access Periodicals	Medium
Livingstone Road Cottages 182, 184 and 186 Livingstone Road, Marrickville	Vacant houses	Council - Community Facilities	Around 8 x vacant rooms of varying sizes in each house	-	-
Tom Foster Community Centre 11-13 Darley Street, Newtown	Staffed older people services facility	Council	2 x large meeting spaces with chairs and tables Outdoor garden with seating Small kitchenette Hirable transport bus	Regular older people meeting groups Excursions CALD older people meeting groups	High
	Meals on Wheels provision	Council	Industrial kitchen Meals on Wheels administration office	Meals on wheels preparation for the Marrickville and Leichhardt LGAs Commercial multicultural meals preparation	-
	Social Support Service administration	Council	Staff offices	Administration of HAC services	
Enmore Resource Centre Cnr Enmore Road & Victoria Road, Marrickville	Family day care-affiliated facility	Council - Children and Families Service	-	Training for family day care providers Family day care playgroup Enmore Park Playgroup	Medium
KU Crusader Kindergarten (Jarvie Park) 53 Malakoff Street, Marrickville	Preschool	Non-council - Kindergarten Union (non-profit)		Preschool for children aged 3-5	Maximum
KU Petersham Kindergarten	Preschool	Non-council - Kindergarten Union		Preschool for children aged 3-5	Maximum

Facility / Location	Current Role	Management	Functions of space	Core Activities / Uses	Capacity utilisation
92a Brighton Street, Petersham		(non-profit)			
SDN Marrickville 247-259 Illawarra Road, Marrickville	Long day care	Non-council – SDN (non-profit)		Care for children 0-5 Preschool	Maximum
Deborah Little Early Learning Centre 1 Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill	Long day care	Council – Children and Families Services		Long day care for children 0 – 6	Maximum
May Murray Early Learning Centre 35 Premier Street, Marrickville	Long day care	Council – Children and Families Services		Long day care for children 2 – 6	Maximum
Enmore Early Learning Centre 305 Enmore Road, Enmore	Long day care	Council – Children and Families Services		Long day care for children 0 – 6	Maximum
Cavendish Street Early Learning Centre 42 Cavendish Street, Stanmore	Long day care	Council – Children and Families Services		Long day care for children 0 – 6	Maximum
Tillman Park Early Learning Centre 79 Unwins Bridge Road, Tempe	Long day care	Council – Children and Families Services		Long day care for children 0 – 6	Maximum

**Table 16 – Council-operated facilities on non-Council sites**

Facility / Location	Current role	Occupancy details	Core activities	Capacity utilisation
Globe-Wilkins Preschool McRae Street, Marrickville	Preschool	Occupies part of Wilkins Public School (DET owned)  Preschool run by Council's Children and Families Services	Preschool for children 2-6	Maximum
Addison Road Long Day Care Centre Addison Road, Marrickville	Long Day Care	Located in community centre  Site owned by State Government  LDC run by Council's Children and Families Services	Long day care for children 0 – 6	Maximum
Camdenville OSHC Camdenville Public School Wells St, Enmore	Out of school hours care	Located in Camdenville Public School	Out of school hours care	Maximum
Ferncourt OSHC Ferncourt Public School, Premier St, Marrickville	Out of school hours care	Located in Ferncourt Public School	Out of school hours care	Maximum
Stanmore OSHC Stanmore Public School Cnr Holt and Cavendish St, Stanmore	Out of school hours care	Located in Stanmore Public School	Out of school hours care	Maximum
Wilkins OSHC Wilkins Public School McRae St, Marrickville	Out of school hours care	Located in Wilkins Public School	Out of school hours care	Maximum
Marrickville West OSHC Marrickville West Public School Beauchamp St, Marrickville	Out of school hours care	Located in Marrickville West Public School	Out of school hours care	Medium

**Table 17 – Council-operated facilities on non-Council sites**

Facility / Location	Current role	Occupancy details	Core activities	Capacity utilisation
Globe-Wilkins Preschool McRae Street, Marrickville	Preschool	Occupies part of Wilkins Public School (DET owned)  Preschool run by Council's Children and Families Services	Preschool for children 2-6	Maximum
Addison Road Long Day Care Centre Addison Road, Marrickville	Long Day Care	Located in community centre  Site owned by State Government  LDC run by Council's Children and Families Services	Long day care for children 0 – 6	Maximum
Camdenville OSHC Camdenville Public School Wells St, Enmore	Out of school hours care	Located in Camdenville Public School	Out of school hours care	Maximum
Ferncourt OSHC Ferncourt Public School, Premier St, Marrickville	Out of school hours care	Located in Ferncourt Public School	Out of school hours care	Maximum
Stanmore OSHC Stanmore Public School Cnr Holt and Cavendish St, Stanmore	Out of school hours care	Located in Stanmore Public School	Out of school hours care	Maximum
Wilkins OSHC Wilkins Public School McRae St, Marrickville	Out of school hours care	Located in Wilkins Public School	Out of school hours care	Maximum
Marrickville West OSHC Marrickville West Public School Beauchamp St, Marrickville	Out of school hours care	Located in Marrickville West Public School	Out of school hours care	Medium

Key findings of the audit are contained in the following sections.

## **4.3 Venues, meeting rooms and space provided to service providers**

### **4.3.1 Provision of Facilities**

A range of Council-owned spaces throughout the LGA are available to the groups and the public for short periods for general community use, and to community-based service providers or NGOs for longer periods as office space or provision of services. The majority of these spaces are in Council-owned and operated halls throughout the LGA.

Spaces available to the community and community organisations are outlined in Table 18 below. Council provides a total 3466m<sup>2</sup> space for short-term uses such as hall hire or meeting rooms, and an additional 4106m<sup>2</sup> used by the community for a range of purposes including specific purpose facilities (a older people centre, community-run galleries and a youth centre), Newtown Community Centre and space made available to community organisations for the provision of services to the community.

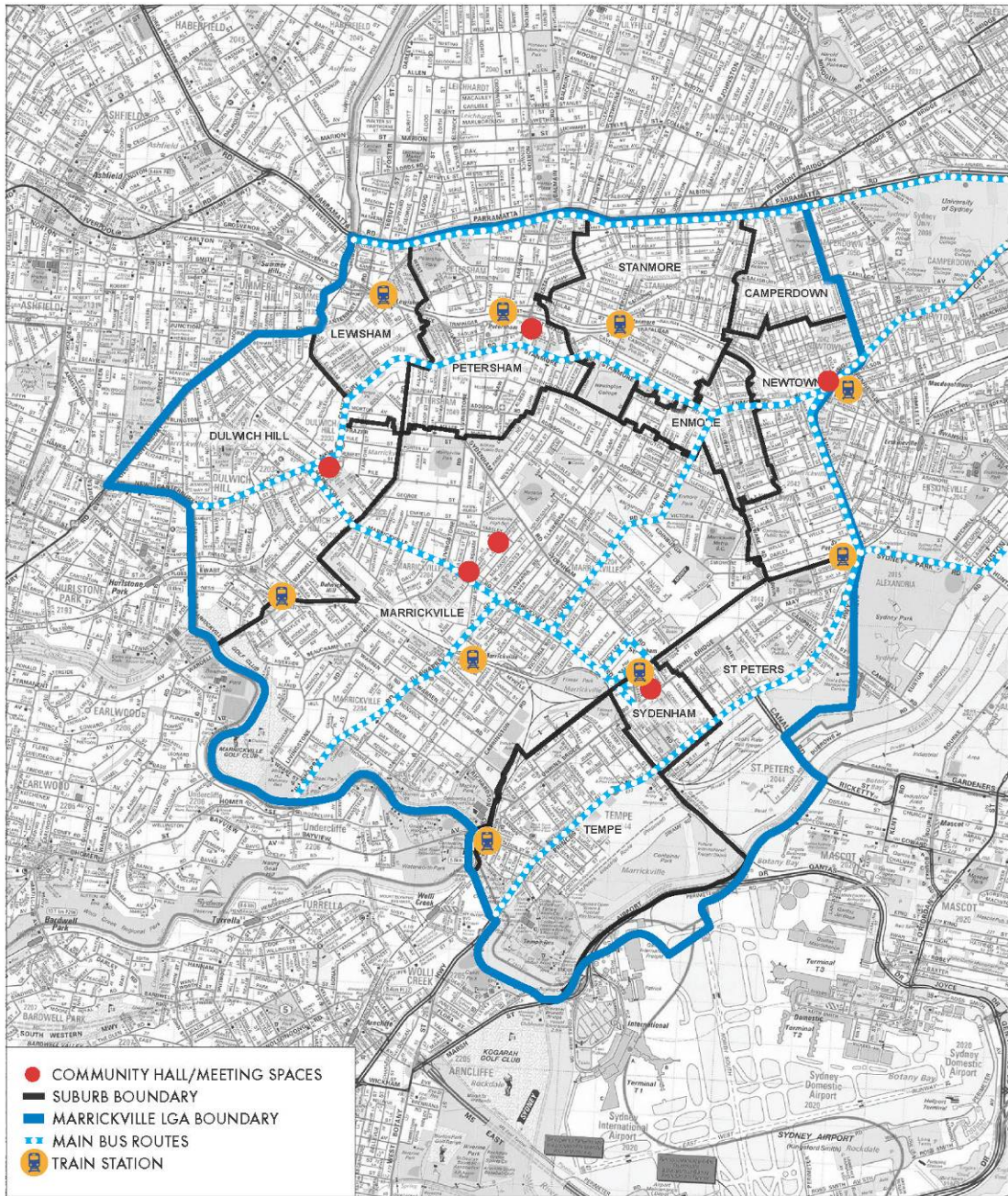
In addition there is a further 940m<sup>2</sup> of currently vacant space that has been recently vacated and will be used in the future to meet the needs of existing residents.

Combined, there is a total supply of floorspace for the provision of community services of 8,512m<sup>2</sup>. Given the consolidated nature of the urban area and historical manner of single, small, property acquisitions, Council's facilities are spread across the City in a number of separate buildings or in small groups of buildings such as at Australia Street and Seaview Street.

Council-operated venues and meeting spaces are available for use for up to one day, and are available from 8am to 11pm or midnight, depending on the facility. Council places few restrictions on the purposes of hall hire, but avoids making them available to youth events due to possible damage or alcohol-related incidents. Space owned by Council but administered by community organisations is available to the community in the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC), and the Marrickville Youth Resource Centre (MYRC).

Space is booked by the community through the venue manager – the NNC (online booking form), the MYRC, or Council's Venues Officer (both manually). All facilities charge differential rates, based on whether the hiring group/organisation is a not-for-profit organisation.

Community-based service providers occupy three offices in the St Peters Town Hall, as well as nine buildings (including two halls) located throughout the LGA. Services are provided in a range of areas, including CALD and migrant services, childcare and preschool, housing services, early childhood intervention, and youth services. A total of ten organisations are housed in Council facilities.



- COMMUNITY HALL/MEETING SPACES
- ▬ SUBURB BOUNDARY
- ▬ MARRICKVILLE LGA BOUNDARY
- ▬ MAIN BUS ROUTES
- 🚊 TRAIN STATION

SOURCE: SYDWAY 2012



**COMMUNITY MEETING SPACES**



**Table 18 – General Purpose Community Spaces**

Facility	Building	Management	Floor Area	Capacity (persons)	Number of regular hirers	Utilisation rate	Utilisation by regular bookers (hours per week)	Average bookings per day
Marrickville Town Hall	Marrickville Town Hall	Council	1200 m <sup>2</sup> (ground floor)	560	6	60.5%	26.5	1.2
Petersham Town Hall	Petersham Town Hall	Council	1130 m <sup>2</sup> (foyer, hall and kitchen)	440	6	53.3%	26	1.4
Herbert Greedy Hall	Herbert Greedy Hall	Council	280 m <sup>2</sup>	100	15	51.2%	39	1.7
Seaview St Hall	Seaview St Complex	Council	195 m <sup>2</sup>	80	18	63.8%	41.25	2.6
St Peters Town Hall meeting room & hall	St Peters Town Hall	Council	245 m <sup>2</sup>	110	7	59.2%	26	2.2
Newtown Town Hall & meeting room	Newtown Town Hall	Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	236 m <sup>2</sup> (hall and meeting room)	150	N/a	N/a	50.5 (all bookers)	N/a
Jarvie Park Hall	Jarvie Park Hall	Marrickville Youth Resource Centre	180 m <sup>2</sup> (hall only)	100	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Total short-term hire space	7		3466 m <sup>2</sup>	1597			203 hours / week	
Space for specific community uses, including space let to community groups	10		4106 m <sup>2</sup>					
Temporarily vacant space to be used by the existing community in the future	6		940 m <sup>2</sup>					
Total space provided for community use	20		8512 m <sup>2</sup>					

Notes: Utilisation rate is for the period July 2011 to Jan 2012. Utilisation by regular bookers for council-venues is for November 2011. Utilisation rates for spaces in the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre are calculated from a sample four-week period, from 4 March to 31 March, and include regular and non-regular hirers. Utilisation rates are calculated on the basis of 100 per cent utilisation being eight hours per day, seven days a week

Facilities included in the 4106 m<sup>2</sup> of space for specific community uses are:

- St Peters Town Hall (community organisation offices)
- Newtown Town Hall (service provider offices)
- ESP Gallery
- Stone Villa Artists
- Innari Housing
- MYRC (service provider offices)
- Portuguese Ethnographic Museum
- Chrissie Cotter Gallery
- Tom Foster Centre (not including office- and kitchen-space)
- Enmore Resource Centre (shared with FDC services)
- Pathways Early Childhood Intervention.

#### **4.3.2 Utilisation & Catchment**

The spaces provided to community groups for short-term hire on a regular or occasional basis cater to a range of interest groups, with a differences between larger halls (Marrickville Town Hall and Petersham Town Hall), and smaller halls. The groups regularly using the larger halls are predominantly dancing groups (4 of 8), while smaller halls have a greater diversity. A breakdown of regular hirers by type is provided over the page in Table 19.

Utilisation of Council's community facilities is generally high with facilities well patronised and appreciated. Across all five facilities managed by Council, there were an average 9.1 bookings per day between July and August 2012.

Amongst the council-operated spaces, cultural and religious groups make up the majority of regular hirers, with dancing and older people groups also high users of the halls; dancing groups are the sole regular hirers of Petersham Town Hall, while Seaview Street Hall and Newtown Neighbourhood Centre both have a diverse user base.

Council-operated facilities classify hirers according to their location, for fee calculation. Overall, 44 out of 56 (78.6 per cent) groups that regularly use Council-operated spaces classified for local fee paying status, indicating that they were either a group based in the LGA or that over half their members were resident in the LGA; this figure is 84.7 per cent for the smaller halls. This suggests that the hireable spaces have a fairly close catchment area, attracting users from the Marrickville LGA rather than the wider inner west.

**Table 19 – Type of users**

	M'ville TH	P'sham TH	St Peters Hall	St Peters Meeting Room	Herb Greedy	Seaview St Hall	Newtown TH (Hall + room)	Total
Dancing	2 33%	4 100%		1 17%				7 13%
Exercise						3 17%	4 18%	3 5%
Performing arts	3 50%					1 5%	4 18%	4 7%
Older people	1 17%				2 13%	2 11%	1 5%	5 9%
Culturally diverse			1 14%		8 53%	3 16%	4 18%	12 21%
Political			2 29%	1 17%	2 13%	1 5%	1 5%	6 11%
Religious			2 29%	4 67%	2 13%	2 11%	1 5%	10 18%
Special Interest & support			2 29%		1 7%	4 22%	7 32%	7 13%
Playgroup						2 11%		2 4%
Total	6 10.7%	4 7.1%	7 12.5%	6 10.7%	15 26.8%	18 32.1%	22 39.2%	56

Note: User demographics for the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre are calculated from a sample four-week period, from 4 March to 31 March, and include regular and non-regular hirers.

The large halls (Petersham and Marrickville Town Halls) draw their users from a wider area because of the more formal nature of functions enabled by their size. These halls generally are used for a greater number of hours per week than smaller halls, and generally are booked for 3-5 sessions per week. About half the regular user groups of these halls were classified as local. The larger halls have more appeal to a wider catchment area, likely due to the fact that they are some of the few venues suitable for ballroom dancing and vigorous exercise in the inner west. Similarly Marrickville residents would also use facilities located in adjoining LGAs in the inner west.

The spaces with the highest levels of use are smaller halls located in densely populated areas, which are booked by regular users for up to 40 hours per week. The users of these halls are generally locally-based community organisations, such as older people groups (including culturally-specific older people groups) and special interest groups; older people groups are much more likely to use the facilities during the day. These facilities play an important role in facilitating regular interaction between segments of the community that may otherwise be at risk of social isolation, by providing a space to allow such groups to come together. The smaller halls play an important role in the community life of Marrickville, and are likely to do so into the future as the with the LGA's predicted age profile.

Larger halls have lower levels of utilisation, with fewer groups using the facilities more intensively each week. These groups are more likely to come from outside the LGA with half regular users being non-local, and use the facilities primarily for ballroom dancing. The larger halls however have a higher level of occasional use than the

smaller halls, and are hired by non-regular users approximately six times per month. They are often used for cultural and religious ceremonies, and formal events such as weddings. The utilisation of these larger more iconic facilities (both of which have heritage qualities) may respond to initiatives to improve awareness.

The facilities located in the St Peters Town Hall had some of the lowest levels of use across the portfolio by regular bookers; even when considered together, they are booked for fewer hours per week than other facilities. However Council staff have advised that St Peter's Town Hall has a high number of non-regular booking per week, as suggested by its high utilisation rates. Lower utilisation rates are likely to be the result of several factors, including poor internal accessibility and aircraft noise.

Council staff, particularly Community Development, need to use meeting space on a regular basis in the course of their daily work to hold meetings and workshops, both internally and with members of the public. Recent changes in the configuration of Council office space mean that council staff increasingly need to use community spaces (i.e. Council venues) for meetings. This means that these spaces become less available to the wider community.

#### **4.3.3 Space used by community organisations on ongoing basis**

Council provides low-cost space for the provision and administration of community services and facilities to ten organisations throughout the LGA. These are shown in Table 20.

**Table 20 – Space occupied by community organisations**

Tenant	Facility	Space occupied	Service provided	Public (client)-facing/office space	Capacity	Term of lease
Metro Migrant Resource Centre	Upstairs office, St Peters Town Hall, 39 Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters	Large room	Low-income and migrant services	Client-facing	One staff member and clothes storage	Expires May 2013
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre – offices	Upstairs office, St Peters Town Hall, 39 Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters	Medium-sized office room	None (office for general service provider)	Offices	2 staff members	Expires Nov 2012
Sydney Multicultural Services	Downstairs office, St Peters Town Hall, 39 Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters	2 small offices	None (office for CALD service provider)	Offices	2 staff members and small kitchen space	Expires Jan 2013
Marrickville Youth Resource Centre	Jarvie Park Hall, Yabsley Avenue, Marrickville	Hall with 5 attached offices on upper level	Youth	Client-facing	Hall capacity of 100, approximately 8 staff members	Expired June 2000, on holdover provision at peppercorn rent
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	Newtown Town Hall, 1 Bedford St, Newtown	Town hall including large meeting room and hall on upper level and offices on ground floor	General service provider	Client-facing	Meeting capacity for 190, approximately 10 staff members	Expired March 2004, on holdover provision
Innari Housing	100a Silver Street, Marrickville	Small single-story building	Office for women's housing provider	Offices	5 staff members	Expires April 2012
ESP Projects	228 Illawarra Road, Marrickville	Single-story building (converted childcare centres)	Art gallery	Public-facing	Can exhibit up to 4 artists' work at one time	Expires June 2013
Stone Villa Artists	18 Railway Road, Sydenham	Two-story house	Art studios	Artists studios (no public contact)	7 artist studios	Expired April 2005; EOI to be

						conducted after LEP
Portuguese Ethnographic Museum	21 Australia Street, Camperdown	Small hall	CALD	Public-facing	Hall can accommodate approximately 70 people	No lease
Pathways Childhood Intervention	Early Jarvie Park, Yabsley Avenue, Marrickville	Childcare centre	Children with disabilities	Client-facing	Not available	Expired Feb 2012

The target groups and types of services provided for these facilities are:

- Low income and general service provision – 31 per cent
- Childcare – 23 per cent
- CALD groups – 15 per cent
- Arts and culture – 15 per cent
- Youth – 8 per cent
- People with disabilities – 8 per cent

The levels of usage of these facilities varies according to the type of service offered and whether the space is used for public-facing or administrative functions. Some facilities are open only by appointment, while others operate more than 40 hours per week.

#### **4.3.4 Planning Data**

Table 21 presents relevant planning information on the general purpose community facilities. Facilities are generally well located in relation to public transport being near town centre hubs in accessible locations. Park based facilities such as those in Jarvie Park are more removed from activity centres and public transport, but in the case of the youth facility, is close to a high school.

Facilities are on land generally classified as operational and with a zoning that allows alternative uses compatible with the character of the surrounding area. Facilities located in public reserves are generally classified as community land.

Many of the facilities are heritage items requiring careful consideration to retaining heritage significance in adapting spaces for on-going community use. Council has prepared Conservation Management Plans for these heritage items.

**Table 21 – Short-term Community Spaces Planning Data**

Facility & address	Lot / DP	Zoning	Community / operational land	Site area (approx.)	Distance to urban centres	Proximity to transport	Parking	Accessibility
Marrickville Town Hall 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville	Lot 1, DP 804376	R2;	Operationa l	2820 m <sup>2</sup>	250m to Marrickville	Routes 426 and 418 - Sited directly on routes Marrickville Station - 550m	Some on-street parking, 80- space off-street carpark 200m distance.	Internal – Partial External – Partial
Petersham Town Hall 107 Crystal Street, Petersham	Lot 1, DP 905358; Lot 1, DP 724300; Lot 52, Section 56, DP 976735	SP2	Operationa l	1898 m <sup>2</sup>	400m to Petersham	Routes L28, 444, 445 and 412 - 100m Petersham Station - 250m	On-street car parking available on Crystal Street and side streets; approx. 40 space off street car park directly opposite, used by council staff during business hours.	Internal – Partial External – Yes
Herb Greedy Hall 79 Petersham Road, Marrickville	Lot B1, DP 327400	R2	Operationa l	294 m <sup>2</sup>	200m to Marrickville	Routes 426 and 418 - Sited directly on routes Marrickville Station - 550m	Some on-street parking, 80- space off-street carpark 200m distance.	Internal – Partial External – Partial
Seaview Street Hall 12-14 Seaview Street, Dulwich Hill	Lot 122, DP 1006040	B2	Operationa l	2400 m <sup>2</sup> (site shared with other facilities )	Located within Dulwich Hill	Routes 426, 418, 428, L28, 444, 445 - 160m Dulwich Hill Station - 850m	Adjacent to 48-space offstreet carpark	Internal – Partial External – Partial
St Peters Town Hall 39 Unwin's Bridge Road, St Peters	Lot 1, DP 976769; Lot 2, DP 976769	R2	Operationa l	1037 m <sup>2</sup>	150m to Sydenham neighbourhood centre	Routes 357, 418 and M30 - 200m Sydenham Station - 160m	On-street parking available, approximately 20 off-street spaces available 70m from venue	Internal – No External – Yes
Jarvie Park Hall (Marrickville Youth Resource Centre) Jarvie Park, Yabsley Avenue, Marrickville	Lot 1, DP 947178	RE1	Community	2550 m <sup>2</sup> (shared site)	330m to Marrickville	Route 412 – 200m Routes L23, 423, 426 and 418 - 420m Marrickville Station - 780m	On-street parking	Internal – Partial External – Partial
Newtown Town Hall (Newtown Neighbourhood Centre) 1 Bedford Street, Newtown	Lot 1817, DP 996797	B2	Operationa l	506 m <sup>2</sup>	Located within Newtown	King Street / Enmore Road routes - Sited directly on route Newtown Station - 100m	Very limited on-street parking	Internal – Yes External – Yes

Note: Accessibility ratings have been taken from the 2004 Community Facilities Condition Assessment; facilities rated with partial accessibility are those assessed as compliant with many but not all BCA criteria

**Table 22 – Community Organisation Space Planning Data**

Facility & address	Lot / DP	Zoning	Community / operational land	Site area (approx.)	Distance from transport	Parking	Heritage	Accessibility
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre / Newtown Town Hall Newtown Town Hall, 1 Bedford Street, Newtown	Lot 1817, DP 996797	B2	Operational	506 m2	Sited directly on bus routes 100m to Newtown Station	Very limited on-street parking	Heritage listed	Internal – No External – No
St Peters Town Hall 39 Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters	Lot 1, DP 976769 Lot 2, DP 976769	R2	Operational	1037 m2	200m to buses 160m to Sydenham Station	On-street parking available, approximately 20 off-street spaces available 70m from venue	Heritage listed	Internal – Partial External – Yes
Portuguese Ethnographic Museum, 24a Australia Street, Camperdown	Lot 3, DP 175973 Lot 1, DP 724199	RE1	Community	2743m2	200m to buses 160m to Sydenham Station	Very limited on-street parking	Camperdown Park heritage-listed	Internal – No External – No
Jarvie Park Hall / Marrickville Youth Resource Centre, Corner of Yabsley Avenue and Northcote Street, Marrickville	Lot 1, DP 947178	RE1; adjacent to zones R3 and R4	Community	2540m2	200m to buses 160m to Sydenham Station	On-street parking	No	Internal – Partial External – Partial
Innari Housing, 100a Silver Street, Marrickville	Lot 2, DP 455188	R2	Operational	145m2	200m to Parramatta Road buses 1.1km to Newtown Station	On-street parking	No	Internal – Partial External – No
Stone Villa Artists Inc, 19 Railway Road, Sydenham	Lot 3, DP 878225	RE1		5466m2	420m to main bus routes 780m to Marrickville Station	Very limited on-street parking; 10 space off-street carpark (shared with car workshops) approximately 100m distant; vacant land could be converted to car park if required	Heritage listed	Internal – No External – No
ESP Gallery, 228-230 Illawarra Road, Marrickville	Lot 68, Section 1, Plan DP 1483  Lot 12, DP 1718	R2; in close proximity to B2 and a substantial amount of predicted future dwellings	Operational	362m2	50m to buses 500m to Marrickville Station	2 spaces at rear of building, very limited parking on Illawarra Road	No	Internal – Partial External – Yes
Pathways Early Childhood Intervention, Yabsley Avenue, Jarvie Park, Marrickville	Lot 1, DP 947178	RE1, adjacent to zones R3 and R4	Community	2550 m2 (shared site)	50m to buses 500m to Marrickville Station	On-street parking	No	Internal – Yes External – Partial

Note: Accessibility ratings have been taken from the 2004 Community Facilities Condition Assessment; facilities rated with partial accessibility are those assessed as compliant with many but not all BCA criteria

#### 4.3.5 Fit for Purpose & Other Issues

Spaces made available to the community for use are generally fit for purpose, although the larger venues (Marrickville and Petersham Town Halls) are large enough to discourage their use for small- or medium-sized meetings. Smaller, well-located halls – particularly Herbert Greedy and Seaview Street hall – are ideally suited to the uses that they are put to.

Generally all buildings are old, typical of most of the built form in this inner west location. Buildings have been adapted over time to suite the emerging needs of the community and trends in community facility provision. The high utilisation rate of most facilities indicate that they serve the needs of the community. However the age of buildings result in an on-going liability for maintenance and adaptation to current standards in building services, sustainability and disabled access.

Very few facilities are co-located, thus inhibiting pooling of resources, the ability to staff facilities, integrated service delivery and the creation of a community hub that is accessible and fosters social interaction. Multi-purpose staffed spaces which provide integrated service delivery alongside a range of facilities are likely to better utilised by the community<sup>14</sup>.

There is a disjuncture between the supply and demand of community space. Council has a generous provision of large 'venue-style' space (the large town halls), while there is a strong demand for smaller, neighbourhood-scale meeting rooms.

The hall in St Peters Town Hall is located on the upper floor and accessed only via steep stairs; this is likely to discourage many of its potential users who may have restricted mobility. Aircraft noise at this facility has been reported by some stakeholders as causing severe disruptions to meetings.

Where PA systems exist, they are out dated and difficult to use, with many hirers opting to bring their own PA equipment. All facilities except the St Peters Towh Hall meeting room lack basic presentation equipment such as a projector and television / DVD player.

The furniture in some venues, particularly Marrickville Town Hall, is heavy and cumbersome, which can be problematic to hirers and raises occupational health and safety concerns.

#### Maintenance and operational issues

Consultation identified a general need across all hireable venues to implement more effective management and maintenance protocols, with users of the halls and Council staff singling out hirer's handling of kitchen equipment as particularly problematic. Building- or equipment-related problems can go for an extended period of time before being reported to council, which makes it difficult to identify groups which may have caused damage.

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<sup>14</sup> Landcom (2008), *Community Centre Guidelines*

Facility audits and discussions revealed several relatively easy to address issues that impact upon the ability of each facility to satisfy the needs of the community to its full potential. These issues may not necessarily affect utilisation rates, but reduce the functionality of the facilities. They include:

- The organisation and administration of meeting rooms and halls is currently administered by several departments of Council and community service providers, creating inconsistency between venues and difficulties for both users and staff. The current booking system does not meet fully the requirements of staff and the community. A centralised, coordinated booking system that includes all spaces run by different services (including the library, venues and community organisations and also potentially spaces in recreation facilities) would make the location, booking and administration of facilities much easier; automated booking systems that allow users to reserve and pay for spaces online in particular would simplify booking and allow Council staff to be more involved in service provision and maintaining venue standards. Appropriate venue management software will also provide information on latent demand and utilisation.
- A need for more effective management and maintenance protocols, particularly with regards to kitchen equipment. Building- or equipment-related problems can go for an extended period of time before being reported to council, making it difficult to identify groups which may have caused damage. This applies mainly to the facilities that are not staffed on a regular basis.
- At present there is no directory of all community facility spaces available for use by community groups. The establishment and maintenance of a database of all community facilities in the LGA (Council, other community organisations and private facilities) will help users whose requests have been denied due to capacity restraints, and may help to predict demand and need for council-run facilities.
- Unstaffed venues have resulted in space management issues –facilities are often left in a disorderly state (i.e. not in the standardised council setup), which impacts upon time allotted to subsequent users; it can also be difficult for groups such as older people to rearrange the hall. Council staff currently have no way to enforce, monitor or restore standard room set-ups.
- There is a lack of permanent storage space for regular hall hirers at most venues.
- Co-location of inappropriate venue uses in buildings housing Council employees (particularly Petersham Town Hall) is disturbing staff working conditions.
- Council staff feel that there is a lack of awareness of the facilities available to the general public. Some of these issues may be easily solved, such as signposting the Dulwich Hill Hall; other issues may require more extensive effort, including better marketing of the existing large halls as destination venues (within permitted usage constraints).

Air conditioning and lack of storage space at the Herbert Greedy Hall, and poor carpeting at Seaview Street Hall, were identified as specific issues in the community consultation phase of the project.

### **4.3.6 Accessibility**

#### Transport accessibility

Short-term community spaces and space provided to community-based service providers is generally well located. Most facilities are located within a reasonable distance of urban or neighbourhood centres, increasing their convenience to LGA residents who may want to combine their use with another purpose.

Facilities are generally well-served by bus routes, with almost none located more than 200m distant. Proximity to trains however is less ideal, with many facilities located close to 1km from a station.

None of the facilities have dedicated off-street parking (with the exception of two spaces available to staff at ESP Gallery), although shared car parks are available in some cases. On-street parking can be very limited at facilities located in or close-to busy town centres.

Parking at venues was frequently raised as an issue by respondents in the consultation process.

Of the facilities considered in this chapter, transport accessibility is particularly problematic for Marrickville Town Hall which is served only by two bus routes, is located over 500m from a station, and has been identified by council staff and the public as having inadequate parking. These limitations should be considered when planning for the future of the existing library site and proximate Livingstone Road cottages.

#### Accessibility for people living with disabilities

Accessibility across the spaces made available to community groups is mixed, with most venues having only partial accessibility; very few of the venues are completely internally and externally accessible. In some situations where efforts have been made in the past to improve accessibility, the modifications have been only partially successful – examples include ramps leading to doors that are frequently locked, or heavy doors that people with physical disabilities are unlikely to be able to open alone, and ramps at facility's rear entrances that may not be wide enough to accommodate electric wheelchairs.

Notable exceptions include Newtown Town Hall which has recently been made fully accessible with the installation of a lift, and Seaview Street Hall which reportedly works well. Accessibility is poor in St Peters Town Hall, with facilities on the upper floor (the Hall and two community organisation offices) only accessible via a steep staircase.

### **4.3.7 Sustainability**

Space available for community use is generally well-serviced by public transport, reducing the car-dependency of its users.

Smaller halls examined in the energy audit generally had some sustainability features installed, with energy efficient lighting and timers in use on appliances such as air

conditioning and hot water systems. The larger halls – Petersham and Marrickville – were not equipped with environmental features.

Sustainability across halls and venues is being addressed through Council's ECO\*STAR program, which targets "low hanging fruit" through the progressive introduction of energy saving features such as lighting and air conditioning with a high energy efficiency rating.

#### **4.3.8 Potential for Expansion**

Most facilities providing space to be used by the community on a short- or long-term basis are constrained by site limitations, with little room for expansion. Some of the facilities (including the large halls) are also heritage-listed, further limiting opportunities for expansion. Other facilities such as the youth centre and several buildings occupied by community organisations are located within parks, and zoned as recreation areas. Whilst there is room for alterations and additions to these facilities, any such expansion would be at the expense of recreational space.

The Seaview Street complex, housing Seaview Street Hall, is located in a town centre and on a lot with a 48-space council-owned car park. Areas around the site are likely to undergo significant development in the short to medium term. This represents a significant opportunity for expansion or redevelopment of these facilities.

The Stone Villa, an artist-run collective, operates on land provided by the council located alongside Sydenham Green. The lot it sits on is largely vacant, due to the demolition of surrounding houses as a result of excessive aircraft noise. There is an opportunity here for redevelopment or the construction of new facilities, but the proximity to Sydney Airport and location directly underneath a flight path precludes this site from most uses.

Aircraft noise also limits the potential for expansion at St Peters Town Hall, with some stakeholders claiming that the venue is unusable due to noise levels.

The majority of the Australia Street complex is located in Camperdown Park, and zoned accordingly as RE1; however there is a potential here for adaptive reuse and possible expansion in light of the current vacancies on site subject to constraints of trees and heritage buildings. This facility is close to new residential development under construction or recently completed.

#### **4.3.9 Implications of Audit**

- Existing Council- and non-Council-operated meeting spaces and halls are generally well located, well used and suited for the purposes they are put to, and are used by a diverse cross-section of the community.
- Cultural/older people and religious groups are most frequent users.
- Many of the existing issues in council-operated facilities related to the dispersed management of these facilities, the fact that they are unstaffed, or the quantity and quality of the equipment provided.

- Smaller-scale meeting spaces and halls with a capacity of less than 100 have the highest level of demand, while larger, formal, regional-scale meeting places are less well utilised and draw half their regular users from outside the LGA.
- There is a disparity between the supply and demand of community spaces, with a high provision of large spaces and smaller facilities often booked to capacity.
- St Peters Hall and meeting room underperform relative to the other facilities, with low levels of use despite good accessibility via public transport.
- The age condition design and construction of facilities requires a commitment to on-going maintenance and in some cases limits the use to which buildings can be put.
- The design and construction of facilities is inflexible in a number of cases, with the use of spaces 'programmed' by the buildings they are housed in. This can restrict use by some groups and for some purposes. Access for people with disabilities in particular is limited at some facilities by site constraints and building design.

#### 4.4 Childcare facilities and services

Council-operated services include six long day care centres, one preschool, five before and after school care (OSHC) services and three vacation care services operating from OSHC centres. There are also a range of privately- and community-operated LDC centres and LDC centres in the LGA. Council currently provides 421 LDC places (42.3 per cent of the LGA total) including family day care, and 330 OSHC places. In addition to the 421 LDC places currently provided, the construction of a multi-purpose childcare facility – including 50 LDC or preschool places and OSHC services – in West Marrickville has been identified as one of Council's major projects. Funds have been allocated by Council in 2006 for the implementation of this project. The completion of this childcare facility will address the existing unmet demand for childcare in the LGA, evidence by lengthy waiting lists at Council early learning centres. It is estimated that with the completion of the Marrickville West centre council will provide a total 45.1 per cent of the LDC places in the Marrickville LGA.

A summary of Council's child care facilities is provided in Table 23 and the number of places available in the LGA is shown in Table 25. A detailed listing of childcare services provided by Children and Families Services is provided in Appendix 6.

**Table 23 – Council-operated LDC, FDC and preschool services**

Facility	Address	Age	Type of care provided	Capacity	Children resident in LGA	Council's role
Cavendish Street ELC	142 Cavendish Street, Stanmore	6 weeks – 6 years	Long care day	40	92.3%	Council owned & operated
May Murray ELC	35 Premier St, Marrickville	2 – 6 years (no 0-2)	Long care day	24	79.1%	Council owned & operated
Deborah Little ELC	1 Macarthur Pde, Dulwich Hill	6 weeks – 6 years	Long care day	59	80.7%	Council owned &

						operated
Tillman Park ELC	79 Unwins Bridge Road	6 weeks – 6 years	Long day care	48	77.0%	Council owned & operated
Addison Road ELC	Addison Road, Marrickville	6 weeks – 6 years	Long day care	45	84.4%	Council-operated on state land
Enmore ELC	305 Enmore Road, Enmore	0 – 6 years	Long day care	40	87.0%	Council owned & operated
Globe-Wilkins preschool	McRae Street, Marrickville	2-6 years (no babies)	Preschool	50	85.4%	Council operated on DET land
Family Day Care	Homes of approved FDC Educators and Enmore Resource Centre	0-12 years	Full time, part time, before & after, and emergency care	165	Not available	Administered by council and operates some functions in council facilities

Council also operates a Family Day Care Scheme (FDC), under which registered educators throughout the LGA provide home-based care to children 0-12. There is no upper limit or fixed cap on total places provided by the Scheme, however under national regulations, individual FDC educators may care for up to 5 children 0-6 years and up to 7 school aged children at any one time. Some educators are able to provide care outside standard childcare hours. Care is provided for 260 children under the FDC Scheme, which has a capacity equivalent to 165 centre-based places.

Childcare services are also provided in centres operated by non-profit organisations, in buildings and sites owned by council. These services are shown below in Table 24. A total 133 childcare places are provided in facilities owned but not operated by Council.

**Table 24 – Non-council Childcare Services in Council-owned Facilities**

Facility	Address	Age	Type of care provided	Capacity	Council's role
KU Crusader Preschool	53 Malakoff Avenue, Marrickville	3-6 years	Preschool	40	Operates from council-owned centre
KU Petersham Preschool	35 Premier St, Marrickville	3-6 years	Preschool	40	Operates from council-owned centre
SDN Marrickville	1 Macarthur Pde, Dulwich Hill	0-5 years	Long day care	53	Operates from council-owned centre

In addition to Council operated facilities, the private sector is active in the provision of child care centres.

**Table 25 – Childcare provision (places) in the Marrickville LGA**

Suburb	LDC			Preschool			OSHC		
	Council operated	Private / comm.	Total	Council	Private / comm.	Total	Council	Private/ comm.	Total
Marrickville	119	321	390	50	40	90	165	85	250
Newtown		38	38		20	20		25	25
Stanmore	40		40		24	24	120	25	145
St Peters					27	27			
Petersham		113	113		40	40		30	30
Dulwich Hill	59		59		57	57		175	175
Enmore	40	52	92				45		45
Tempe	48	50	98					25	25
Family Day Care	165								
<b>Total</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>695</b>

Note – OSHC places refer to after school care; LDC places assume the completion of the Marrickville West Childcare Facility, providing an additional 50 LDC places

#### 4.4.1 Utilisation & Catchment

All Council-run early learning centres are operating at full capacity, and have extensive waiting lists. Consultation with council staff suggests that this is likely to be due to the high reputation of council-run childcare services, rather than price – Council’s fees are within the normal range of what is charged by community based and private providers in the area. The private sector is also running at close to capacity, with many private long day care centres in the LGA reporting that they are full with waiting lists.

The majority of children attending Council-run long day care are residents of the LGA – 84 per cent across all centres. This data is provided on a centre-by-centre basis in Appendix 6. Some of the families using the facilities that are not residents of the LGA include Council staff members and other workers in the LGA. Information supplied by the ABS from the 2006 census shows that there were 729 mothers with at least 1 child aged 0-4 who worked in Marrickville but lived outside Marrickville. Of the 1,640 working mothers with at least 1 child aged 0-4 living in Marrickville, 327 also worked in Marrickville.

There are likely to be some residents of the LGA who use child care facilities outside of Marrickville, typical of most inner city local government areas. There is no clear delineation of ‘catchment areas’ on a centre-by-centre basis. While centres have a higher level of enrolments from families resident in the same suburb, this is not exclusive and usually not a majority. Consultation with council staff has suggested that physical location is generally not a determining factor in families’ choice of early childhood centre (long day care or preschool); rather, they are likely to attend the centre that best suits their needs and that they judge to be of the highest

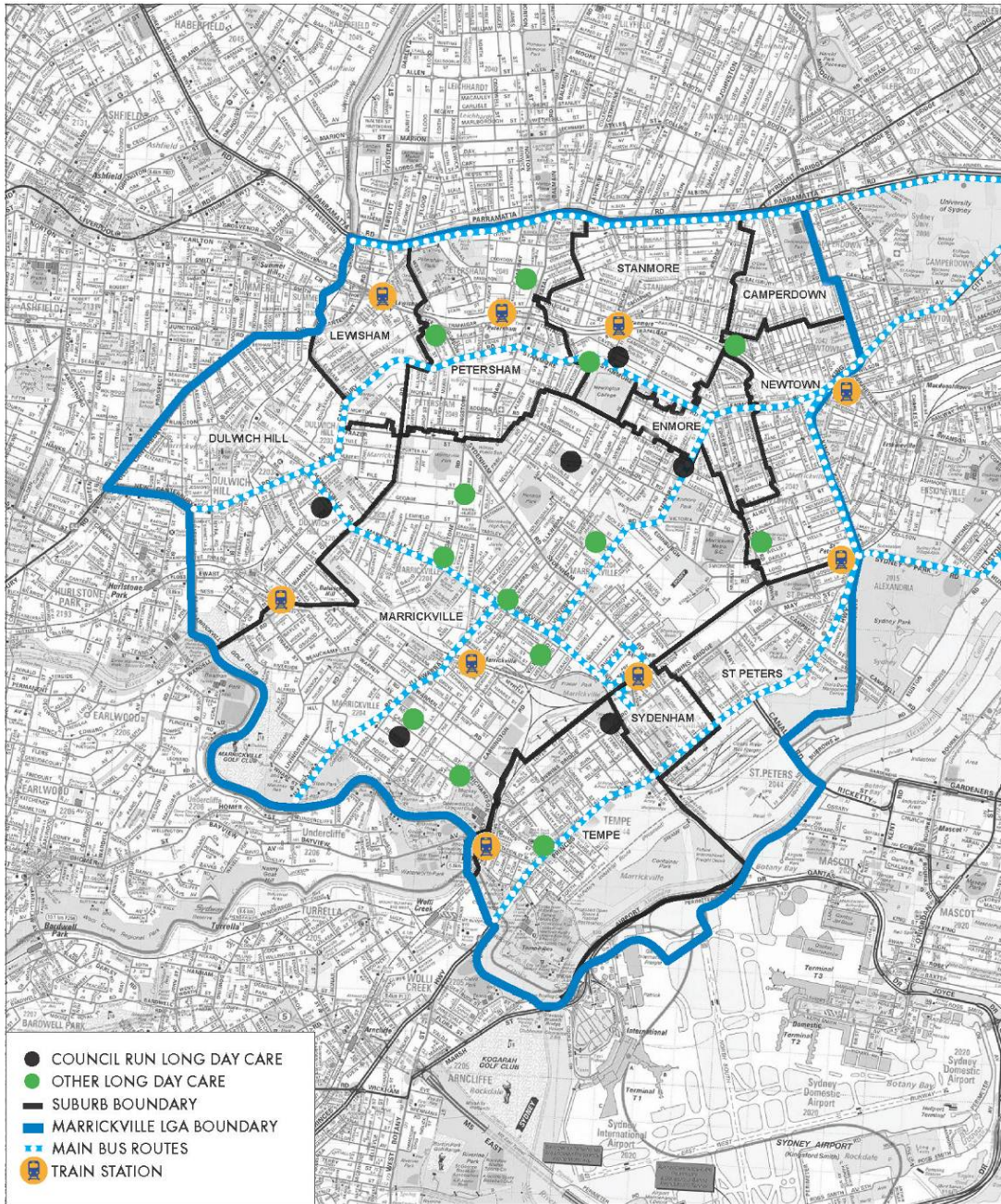
standard, and are willing to travel to the centre. The small size of the LGA supports this observation. As a result the locations of future centres are not critical to their success; if a future council-run centre is of a high standard it is likely to attract families from across the LGA, and relieve pressure upon other facilities.

Demand is strongest in the 0-2 age group which is a need met to a greater extent by Council facilities than private facilities.

#### **4.4.2 Planning Data**

Table 26 presents relevant planning information on the childcare facilities owned by Council (Council- and non-Council managed). Facilities are generally well located in relation to bus transport, but can be distant from train stations. Most are located outside town centre locations; discussions with Council staff indicate that this is not a major problem, as parents are prepared to travel to their chosen childcare centre. Approximately half the facilities are park-based.

Facilities are divided between land classified as operational and as community, with a zoning that allows alternative uses compatible with the character of the surrounding area.

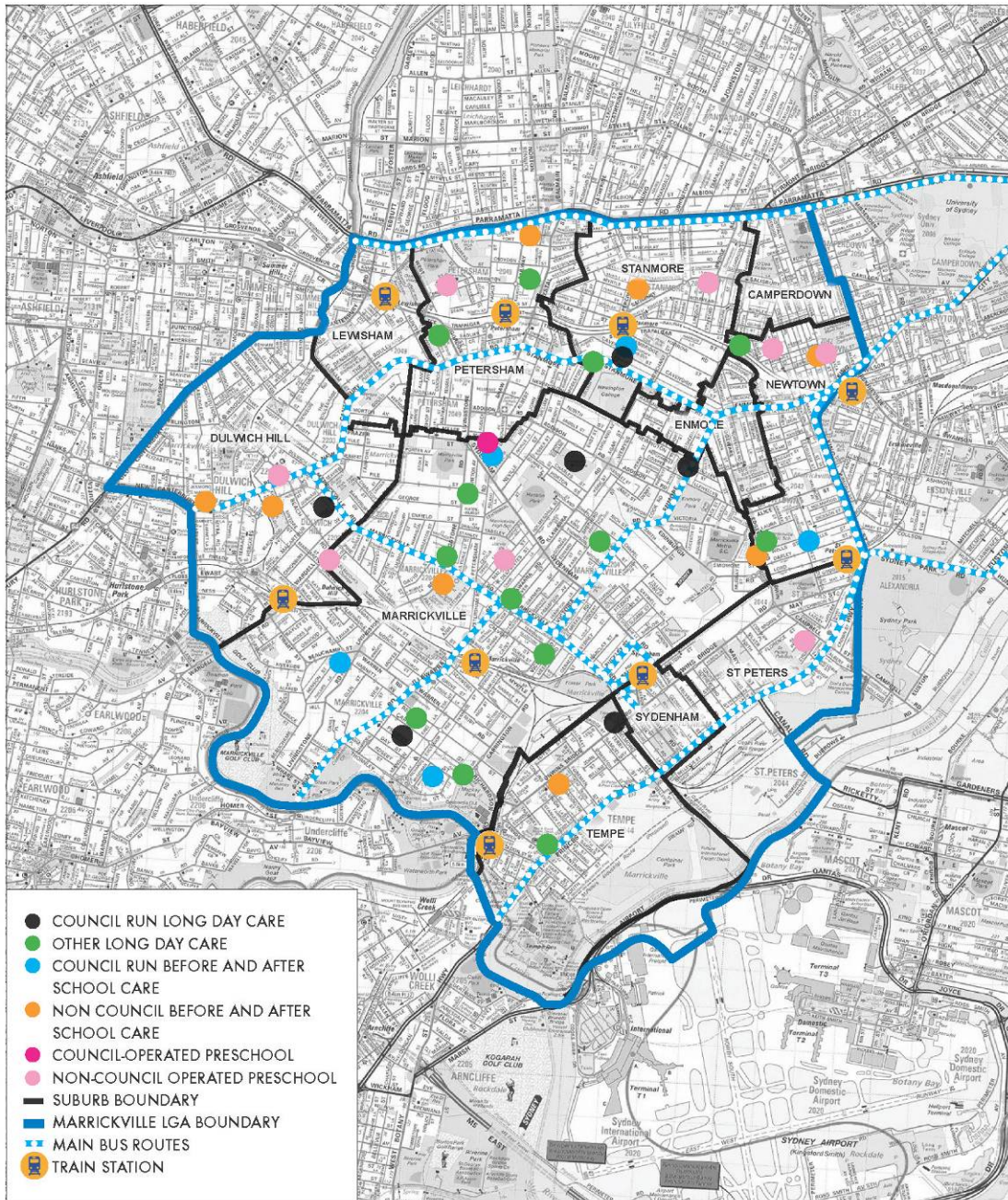


SOURCE: SYDWAY 2012



**LONG DAY CARE SERVICES**





- COUNCIL RUN LONG DAY CARE
- OTHER LONG DAY CARE
- COUNCIL RUN BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE
- NON COUNCIL BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE
- COUNCIL-OPERATED PRESCHOOL
- NON-COUNCIL OPERATED PRESCHOOL
- SUBURB BOUNDARY
- MARRICKVILLE LGA BOUNDARY
- MAIN BUS ROUTES
- TRAIN STATION

SOURCE: SYDWAY 2012



**CHILDCARE FACILITIES**



**Table 26 – Planning data for council-owned childcare facilities**

Facility & address	Lot / DP	Zoning	Community / operational land	Site area (approx.)	Distance from urban centres	Distance from transport	Parking	Heritage	BCA Accessibility Compliance (2004 audit)
Deborah Little Early Learning Centre, 1 Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill	Lot 16, DP 8101	R2; immediately adjacent to local centre expecting an additional 368 dwellings	Operational	1240 m2	Located within Dulwich Hill	Sited directly on bus routes 700m to Dulwich Hill Station	Limited on-street parking	No	Internal – Partial External – Yes
May Murray Early Learning Centre, 35 Premier Street, Marrickville	Lot 1, DP 530291	R2	Operational	400 m2	650m to Marrickville Station neighbourhood centre	250m to single bus route 700m to Marrickville Station	Limited on-street parking	No	Internal – Partial External – No
Enmore Resource Centre, Cnr Enmore and Victoria Roads, Enmore	Part of Lot 7024, DP 93582  On same Lot Enmore Park, Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre	RE1	Community	4 ha (shared)	00m to Enmore Road Shops neighbourhood centre	Sited on bus routes 1.1km to Sydenham Station	On-street parking, 36 parking bays (on-street)	Enmore Park Heritage listed	Internal – Partial External – Partial
Enmore Early Learning Centre, 305 Enmore Road, Enmore	Lot 11, DP 620654	RE1 Immediately adjacent to B1 86 additional dwellings expected 300m distant	Operational	1830 m2	430m to Enmore Road Shops neighbourhood centre	Sited on bus routes 1000m to Stanmore Station	9-space carpark at rear (accessed via Fotheringham Lane)	No	Not available
Cavendish Street Early Learning Centre, 42 Cavendish Street, Stanmore	Lot 1, DP 602105	R2	Operational	840 m2	200m to Stanmore neighbourhood centre	250m to single bus route 750m to main routes 200m to Stanmore Station	On-street parking	Heritage listed	Internal – No External – Yes
Tillman Park Early Learning Centre, 79 Unwins Bridge Road, Tempe	Lot 52, DP 622628	RE1	Community	1990m2	300m to Sydenham neighbourhood centre	300m to buses 320m to Sydenham Station	15-space off-street carpark shared with Tillman Park	No	Internal – Partial External – Partial
KU Crusader Kindergarten, 53 Malakoff Street, Marrickville	Lot 603, DP 884296	RE1: adjacent to R1, R2 and R3	Community	3223m2	300m to Marrickville neighbourhood centre	420m to main bus routes 780m to Marrickville Station	On-street parking	No	Internal – Partial External – Yes
KU Petersham Preschool, 92a Brighton Street, Petersham	Lot 7025, DP 1060136	RE1	N/A	4.543 ha (shared site)	350m to Petersham neighbourhood centre	450m to main bus routes 380m to Petersham Station	On-street parking	No	Internal – Partial External – Yes
SDN Childcare - Marrickville Nursery, 247-259 Illawarra Road,	Lot 54 Section 2, DP 826 Lot 55 Section 2, DP 826 Lot 56 Section 2, DP 826	RE1	Operational	1251m2	Located within Marrickville urban centre	50m to buses 500m to Marrickville Station	On-street parking	No	Not available

Marrickville	Lot 57 Section 2, DP 826 Lot 60 Section 2, DP 826 Lot 1, DP 455188 Lot 1, DP 127449 Lot 1, DP 1102654								
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Note: Accessibility ratings have been taken from the 2004 Community Facilities Condition Assessment; facilities rated with partial accessibility are those assessed as compliant with many but not all BCA criteria

#### **4.4.3 Fit for Purpose & Other Issues**

There are no significant 'fit-for-use' problems with any of childcare facilities that are both owned and operated by council. The Childcare Facility at Tillman Park requires careful staff deployment to effectively manage child supervision due to the layout of the facility. Cavendish Street Childcare Centre has been identified as one of the most popular centres and functions very well. Changes to regulations regarding operation and design of child care centres requires on-going consideration of improvements and upgrading of facilities to meet new licensing and accreditation standards. Council has identified changes required to ensure compliance with current standards at its centres.

#### **4.4.4 Accessibility**

##### Transport accessibility

In general council-owned childcare facilities (including those run by community organisations) are not well located from a transport accessibility perspective, relative to other types of facilities. Two thirds of these facilities are 300m or more from town centres, and approximately half the facilities are more than 200m from bus routes. Accessibility by train is generally poor, with two thirds of facilities located more than 500m from a station. Only Enmore ELC has off-street parking.

Consultation with Council staff has suggested that this is not a significant problem, with families prepared to travel to their childcare centre of choice, presumably often by private transport. However the location of child care centres likely has an impact upon convenience for their users and may also have a social justice dimension – disadvantaged families are less likely to have access to private transport, and therefore are better served by facilities located close to transport hubs. It is noted that the construction of a childcare centre at Marrickville West Public School currently identified as one of Council's major projects will likely serve and be convenient to disadvantaged residents living in South Marrickville.

It is also noted that in cases where venues are poorly serviced by one public transport mode (bus or train), they are usually in close proximity to the other.

##### Accessibility for people living with disabilities

Accessibility across childcare facilities that are both owned and operated by council is mixed, with many having only partial accessibility; few of the venues are completely internally and externally accessible.

Most facilities, and particularly those run by community organisations, are fully externally accessible. Although externally accessible it will likely be difficult to increase internal accessibility at Cavendish and Deborah Little early learning centres as the centres occupy two floors.

#### **4.4.5 Sustainability**

Childcare facilities that are both owned and operated by Council are generally well equipped with energy efficiency devices such as time delay features on air conditioning, energy efficient lighting and water saving devices. Some facilities

(Tillman Park and Deborah Little) are also equipped with solar systems, generating some of their own energy.

#### 4.4.6 Potential for Expansion

Existing council-owned childcare facilities are constrained in their capacity for expansion. All facilities are at the limits of what can be provided on site under the national regulatory framework. Compliance with regulations prevents expansion of facilities on existing sites. Some centres are located in public parks (Tillman Park, Jarvie Park, and Petersham Park) which provides some opportunity for expansion.

Efficiencies in the provision of child care services requires a balance between children under care, the physical capacity of a centre and required staffing levels. In some instances centres may not operate to the limit of their physical capacity. The higher staffing levels and resources required for the 0-2 age group often mean that spaces in privately operated centres are limited for this age group with a greater expectation that Council centres will cater to this demand.

#### 4.4.7 Before and After School Care & Other Children’s Services

In addition to the childcare centres and preschools outlined above, Council provides services directed towards supporting families with young children. These services include the Magic Yellow Bus (mobile play group), before and after school care, and vacation care programs. Marrickville Library Service also operates several programs and collections directed at children, including “story time” sessions. The services operate from locations throughout the Marrickville LGA, and are displayed below in Table 27.

**Table 27 – Council-operated Out of School Hours Care Centres and other children’s services**

Facility	Location	Service provided	Capacity
Wilkins OSHC	Wilkins Public School, Marrickville	BSC & ASC	75
Ferncourt OSHC	Ferncourt Public School, Marrickville	BSC, ASC and vacation care	60
Camdenville OSHC	Camdenville Public School, Enmore	BSC, ASC and vacation care	45
Stanmore OSHC	Stanmore Public School, Stanmore	BSC & ASC and vacation care	120
Marrickville West OSHC	Marrickville West Public School, Marrickville	BSC & ASC	30
Magic Yellow Bus	Parks throughout the LGA	Mobile playgroup DoCS-funded, and Council operated and subsidised	-
Children’s library services	Central and branch libraries	Story time, baby rhyme time, school holiday activities	-

Marrickville Council provides a total of 330 OSHC places at five public schools throughout the LGA. These centres are generally operating at close-to capacity. The Marrickville West OSHC service has recently been expanded by a unanimous resolution of Council on the basis of social justice.

An additional 365 places are provided at eight non-council OSHC locations in the

Marrickville LGA; these centres generally reported to be operating at between 80-90 per cent of capacity.

The catchment area of council-run OSHC centres is quite local, with 85.7 per cent of children attending the centres resident within the LGA. Children generally attend the OSHC centre at their school to reduce the need for transport between the primary school and the centre.

Marrickville Council is proactive in the provision of OSHC, and has been provides services that go towards meeting demand.

#### 4.4.8 Implications of Audit

- Council provides a high-quality childcare service that, including Family Day Care, provides 45 per cent of the long day care within the LGA.
- The majority of children enrolled in LDC services are residents of the LGA, with LGA workers' children likely making up much of the remainder.
- There are no strong 'catchment areas' within the LGA for each centre, with parents prepared to travel to centres other than their closest.
- All LDC centres are currently operating at capacity, with extensive waiting lists, and are often the preferred choice of parents in the LGA.
- In addition to LDC, Council operates services affiliated with local schools on DEC land (one preschool and five OSHC centres). These facilities operate well, with OSHC centres responsive to changes in demand.
- Changes to regulations and accreditation standards at child care centres requires a commitment to facility upgrade best achieved through site asset management plans to identify works, funding sources and programming.

#### 4.5 Libraries

##### 4.5.1 Provision of Facilities

Council's library service provides services at one central library, located in the basement of Marrickville Town Hall, and three branch libraries throughout the LGA at Dulwich Hill, Stanmore and St Peters. Library administration staff are located in offices above the central library in Marrickville Town Hall. Existing library facilities are shown in the Table below.

Council is currently investigating the possibility of constructing a new central library on the Marrickville Hospital site. The new central library would house all the library functions currently located in the Marrickville Town Hall with the current premises available for use to meet other service needs of the existing community.

**Table 28 – Library facilities**

Facility	Address	Size (estimated GFA)	Average loans per month	Average door count per month	Loans: door count ratio
Marrickville Central Library	Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville	1170 m2	33152	11921	2.8:1

Dulwich Hill Branch Library	12-14 Seaview St, Dulwich Hill	192 m2	4404	7242	0.6:1
St Peters / Sydenham Library	St Peters Town Hall, 39 Unwins Bridge Rd, St Peters	206 m2	2042	3087	0.7:1
Stanmore Branch Library	Stanmore Reserve, Douglas Street, Stanmore	176 m2	5572	3260	1.7:1

Additional services provided include computer and internet access, book delivery services, CALD collections, homework help and story readings.

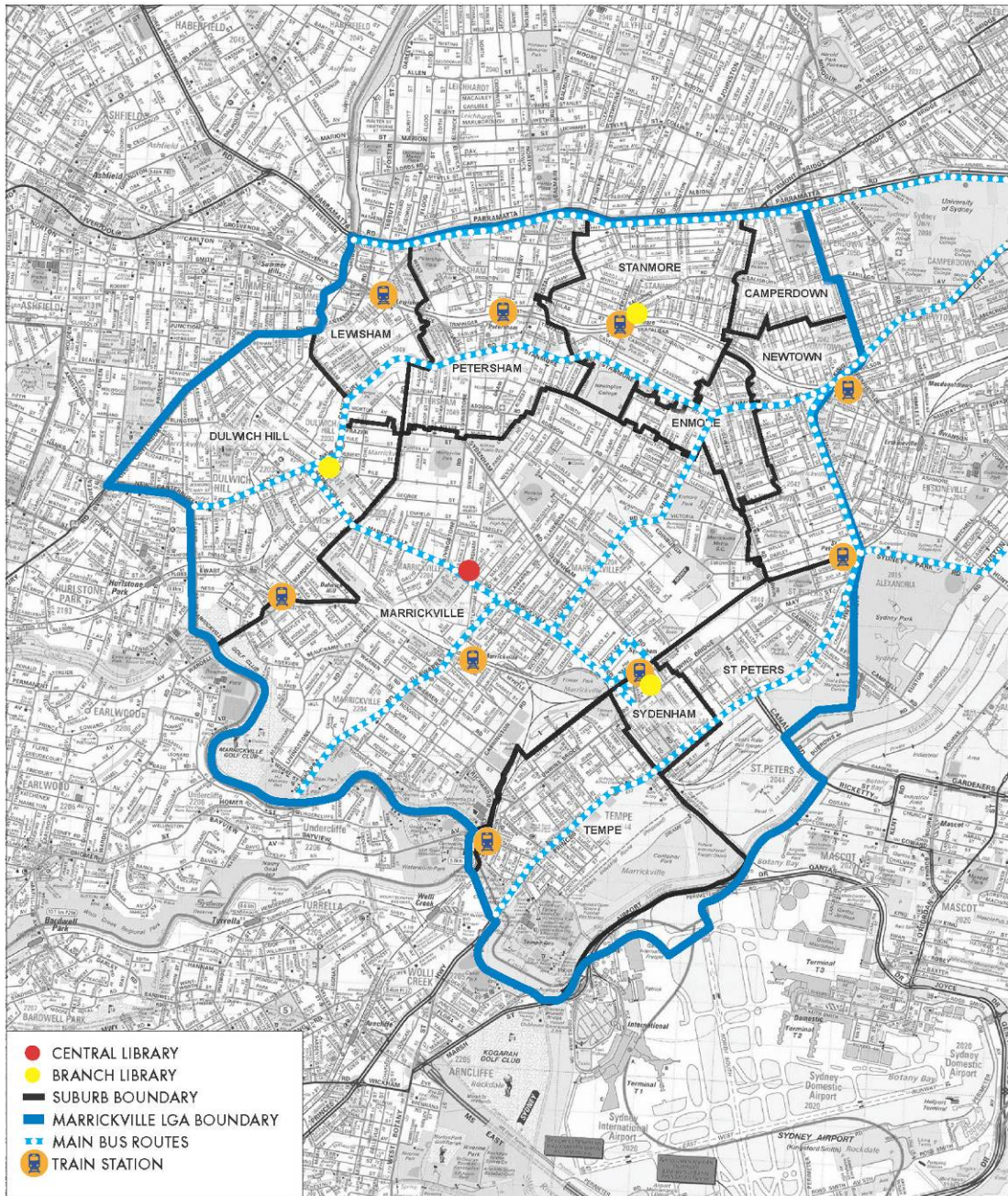
Approximately two thirds of library members are resident in the LGA (69.0 per cent). Library membership is broken down into five categories: adult (under 65), adult (over 65), young adult (13-18 years), junior (0-12 years), and community group / institution. In 2009/10 the membership was as follows:

- 6.6 per cent adults over 65
- 75.6 per cent adults under 65
- 3.7 per cent young adult
- 13.3 per cent junior
- .08 per cent community groups.

The library's services are currently in a period of transition, as the traditional role of a library evolves in response to new technologies including social media. Libraries today are becoming 'community living rooms', rather than the lending services they have typically been, and places of collaborative learning as well as quiet individual reading (*People Places* 3rd ed.). Library collections are increasingly moving to digital, and electronic resource access is part of the expanded role of the neighbourhood library. Spaces are provided for study, interaction and discussion with opportunities for integration with the arts and culture.

In this context, demand for Marrickville's Library Service has been declining over recent years; total library visits fell from 412,056 in 2006-2007 to 348,167 in 2009-2010, a decline of 15.5 per cent. Over the same period the library's collection size shrank by 17.5 per cent. A new library will likely lead to an increase in visitor numbers, but these figures suggest that emerging trends may make predicting future levels of library demand difficult.

Consultation with library staff has suggested several reasons for declines in membership. These include accommodation and location issues, including parking, and the changing demographics (particularly median age) of the LGA identified earlier in this report. Library usage patterns are also changing, with an increased emphasis on remote access and computer skills training needs – while library visitations and loans have decreased, library staff workloads have increased in response to the more labour-intensive demands placed upon libraries. Library staff have reported that there is a trend towards increasing library usage rates globally, which reflects an identified link between economic hardship and increased use of social services including libraries.



SOURCE: SYDWAY 2012



**LIBRARIES**



#### **4.5.2 Utilisation & Catchment**

It is difficult to accurately calculate the utilisation rates of library services given there is no hard 'upper limit' upon the amount of clients they can serve. However, consultation with Council librarians suggests that the overall levels of library utilisation are quite high, with some variance between locations. The biggest users of the library services are older people and parents with young children.

Marrickville Central Library is also well used by school children, and currently running at- or close-to capacity, primarily due to the size constraints imposed by the site, with the library becoming crowded at peak times (particularly from 3.00 – 5.30pm).

Dulwich Hill library is also very well used, and limited by size constraints; the library is used by different groups at different times throughout the day, but available seating spaces are almost always fully occupied. Dulwich Hill Library records more than twice as many monthly visits than the other branch libraries, but is of a similar physical size.

Library staff identified that Dulwich Hill library was well-used by school children from the adjacent Dulwich Hill High School, and older (often CALD) clients. The low ratio of door count to loans, with on average just over half of the trips to the library resulting in a borrowed book, suggest that the library is used more as a 'community living room' for people to spend time in, relative to the other libraries; Dulwich Hill Library receives two thirds as many visitors as Marrickville Central Library, but issues only 13 per cent of Marrickville's loans.

St Peters Town Hall library had both the lowest number of visits per month, and the fewest books borrowed; consultations have suggested that mothers with young children constitute this facility's largest user group.

Feedback from young people discussed in the next section indicate that while they are not great users of libraries they do have clear ideas about what they would like to see in the new library and how libraries could be made more accessible to them and better meet their needs.

#### **4.5.3 Planning Data**

Table 29 presents relevant planning information on Council branch and central libraries. Facilities are well located in relation to both bus and train transport, are within town centres, and generally have some on- or off-street parking available, although parking has been identified as a problem during consultations.

**Table 29 – Library Planning Data**

Facility & address	Lot / DP	Zoning	Community / operational land	Site area (approx.)	Distance from urban centres	Distance from transport	Parking	Heritage listing	Accessibility (2004 audit)
Dulwich Hill Branch Library, 12-14 Seaview Street, Dulwich Hill	Lot 122, DP 1006040	B2	Operational	2400m2 (shared site)	Located within Dulwich Hill	160m to buses 850m to Dulwich Hill Station	Adjacent to 48-space offstreet carpark	No	Internal – Yes External – Yes
Stanmore Branch Library, Stanmore Reserve, Douglas Street, Stanmore	Lot 2, DP 622864	RE1	Community	1820m2	Within Stanmore neighbourhood centre	90m to local bus routes 640m to main routes 100m to Stanmore Station	Some on-street parking	No	Internal – Partial External – Partial
St Peters / Sydenham Library, St Peters Town Hall 39 Unwins Bridge Road, Sydenham	Lot 1, DP 976769 Lot 2, DP 976769	R2	Operational	1037 m2	150m to Sydenham neighbourhood centre	200m to buses 160m to Sydenham Station	Some on-street parking available, approximately 20 off-street spaces available 70m from venue	Heritage listed	Internal – Yes External – No
Marrickville Central Library, Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville	Lot 1, DP 804376	R2	Operational	2820 m2	200m to Marrickville	Sited directly on bus routes 550m to Marrickville Station	Some on-street parking, 80-space off-street carpark 200m distance.	Heritage listed	Internal – Yes External – Partial

Note: Accessibility ratings have been taken from the 2004 Community Facilities Condition Assessment; facilities rated with partial accessibility are those assessed as compliant with many but not all BCA criteria

#### **4.5.4 Fit for Purpose & Other Issues**

While libraries are well used and appreciated by the community, the library buildings are generally not suited to modern library service delivery.

Buildings in the library portfolio are not purpose-built, and have instead been occupied on an ad hoc basis as they become available.

As a result their internal layouts are often unsuited for library uses. Reading rooms, seating areas, computing sections and separate collections are made to fit into available spaces, sometimes leading to incompatible uses alongside each other (such as children's sections and reading areas in the Marrickville Central Library).

Library location can also impact upon the visibility and community awareness of services, as facilities may be difficult to identify as libraries from street level. In addition the entrance to Marrickville Library is located off the main road (Marrickville Road).

Dulwich Hill is problematic, with rooms of an older house converted into separate library sections. None of the branch libraries have sufficient 'back of house' operating space.

Space constraints imposed upon the central library by its site are severely impacting upon its operations, and the areas of all branch libraries are smaller than the minimum recommended size outlined in SLNSW publication *People Places*. In Marrickville Library there is insufficient space for library clients and collections, with staff describing a lack of room for collections that they would like to keep separate.

Collection renewal rate (the period for which stock is held in the library collection) is also faster than would be ideal, as shelf restrictions mean that only newer and more popular books can be kept on shelves. Dulwich Hill staff mentioned in particular that they would like to expand the community language collection but that this was not possible due to space limitations.

There is no running water to the library staff offices in Marrickville Town Hall, other than taps in the bathrooms.

Functional and operational issues with the existing central library are well documented and are an important justification for the new central library planned on the former Marrickville Hospital Site.

#### **4.5.5 Accessibility**

##### Transport accessibility

Library facilities generally have an adequate level of accessibility by public transport. All facilities are located in or in close proximity to (less than 200m) from

urban centres; this pattern of distribution is logical given that older people have higher levels of library use and make combine library visits with other tasks such as shopping.

Libraries are well-served by buses, with none being more than 200m away from routes. Dulwich Hill and St Peters / Sydenham libraries are in close proximity to train stations, although Marrickville and Dulwich Hill libraries are more distant.

Parking facilities vary between libraries. Dulwich Hill library is immediately adjacent to an off-street carpark, and on-street parking at Stanmore Library has not been identified as problematic. However consultation has suggested that parking is an issue at the St Peters / Sydenham and Marrickville libraries.

#### Accessibility for people living with disabilities

Library buildings generally have high levels of accessibility. All are at least partially externally accessible, with St Peters / Sydenham Library the only facility not to have at least partial internal accessibility.

This already high level of accessibility would likely be improved should plans for the new library at Marrickville proceed, with the proposed central library to be fully accessible.

#### **4.5.6 Sustainability**

Libraries generally perform poorly relative to other facilities in terms of sustainability, with a low level of environmental features. Dulwich Hill Library is reasonable well equipped, with energy efficient lighting and time delay switches on air conditioning. Stanmore Library and Marrickville Library are equipped with energy-efficient lighting.

#### **4.5.7 Potential for Expansion**

Of the four libraries, three are limited in regards to potential for expansion by site constraints – Marrickville Library is in the basement of the heritage-listed town hall, Dulwich Hill Branch Library is housed in a converted period house, and St Peters / Sydenham Library is housed on the ground floor of a heritage-listed hall. Stanmore Library is located in a small reserve so does not face the same site restraints; its construction however means that expansion of the existing building would likely not be practical.

Dulwich Hill Branch Library is however located in the Seaview Street complex; this complex is on the same lot as a 48-space council owned carpark in an area likely to see significant levels of development.

#### **4.5.8 Implications of Audit**

- Marrickville's library services are generally well located and well used, with a higher proportion of users in their working years than might be expected.

- The strongest users of library services are parents with young children, and older residents; school aged children are also high users of libraries.
- Due to the mixed demographic of users, libraries are busy throughout the entire day.
- Existing library buildings are currently operating at- or above-capacity, and limited by their physical size.
- Libraries are often used as places to spend time, rather than solely borrow books; this is particularly the case for Dulwich Hill and Marrickville libraries.
- St Peters / Sydenham Library is the least well used, in terms of both loans issued and visitors.

## **4.6 Arts and Culture**

### **4.6.1 Provision of Facilities**

Marrickville LGA is home to a wide range of arts and artists initiatives, many of which are run independently of Council (although they may be supported by Council's wider policies and staff). Marrickville Council currently provides two art galleries, two studios and one residence (Table 30). Additional arts-related services are provided by the Marrickville Library Service, which frequently host displays and circulating exhibitions.

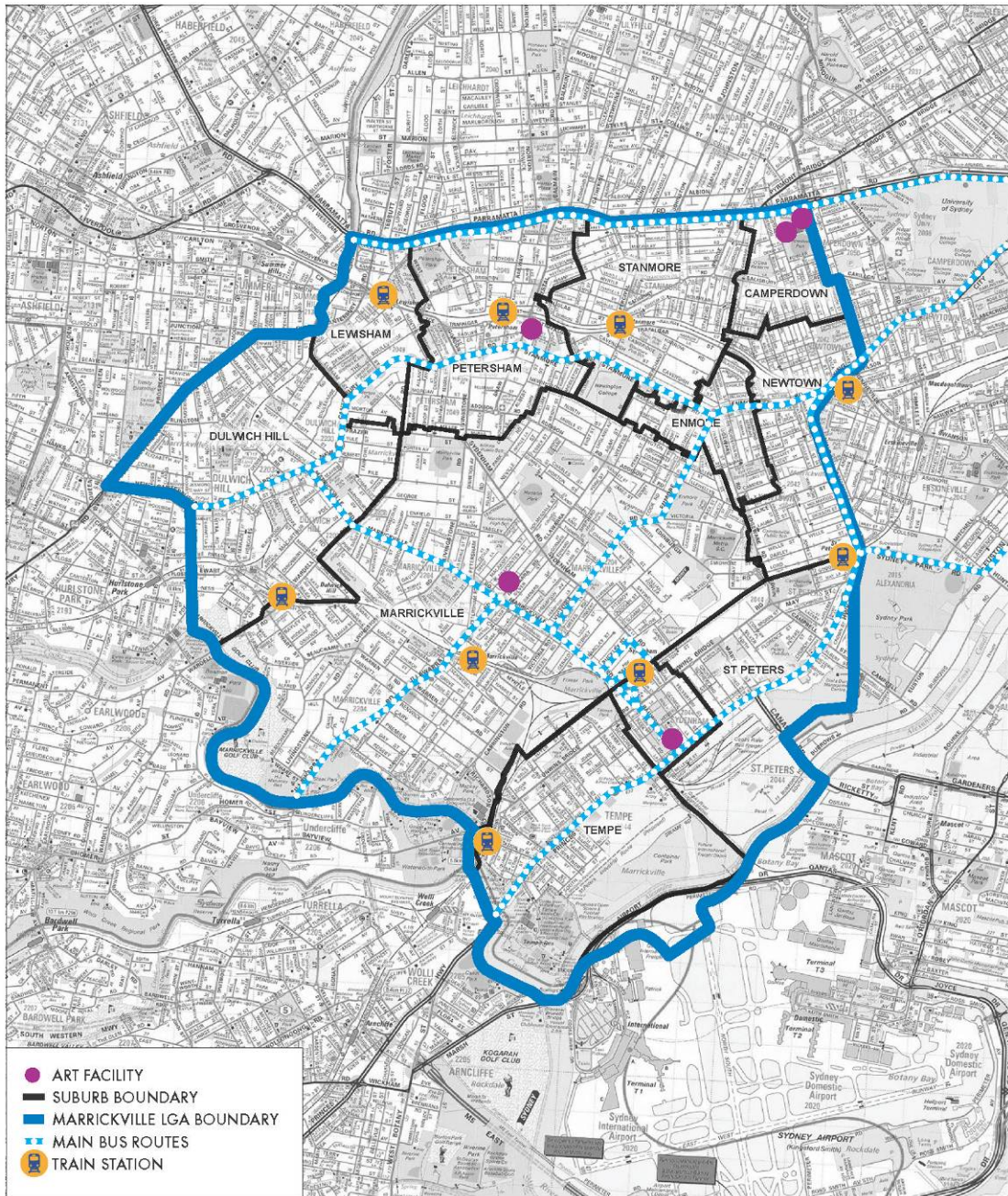
Specific arts and culture facilities venues operate with varying degrees of independence; Edith Artists is entirely managed by the tenants, an artist-run initiative, while the Chrissie Cotter Gallery is operated by Council.

The three residences are provided to artists to occupy. Petersham Town Hall is occupied for one-month periods, Art Camp for two years, and Stone Villa on an ongoing basis. The occupancy of these facilities is linked to community engagement activities, generally conducted once per month. Past outreach events have included:

- Art technique workshops
- Cataloguing local's 'favourite places' through photographs
- Exhibitions in local galleries
- Free tickets to theatre performances
- Open studio days
- Workshops with older people and youth.

**Table 30 – Arts and cultural facilities**

Facility	Type	Building area	Number of artists served	Management	Stated user group	Period of occupancy
Edith Artists	Art gallery	130 m2	Up to four at one time; approx. 12 exhibitions per year	Community group	Inner west artists	3-4 weeks
Chrissie Cotter Gallery	Art gallery	240 m2 (gallery area)	12 groups / artists per year	Council	Marrickville LGA artists	3 weeks
Petersham Town Hall artists residence	Short-term artists residence	130 m2 (residence area)	12 per groups / artists per year	Council	Interstate or international artists	1-3 months
Stone Villa	Artist studios (ongoing)	200 m2	Eight (seven permanent, one visiting)	Community group	Inner west artists	Ongoing
Art Camp	Artist studios and mentoring (two years)	90 m2	Two	Council	Marrickville LGA artists	2 years



SOURCE: SYDWAY 2012



**ARTS FACILITIES**



#### **4.6.2 Utilisation & Catchment**

All the arts-related facilities are likely to have a fairly wide catchment area, given the nature of their uses and people's willingness to travel to an arts event. Different facilities have policies that are more likely to orient them towards certain areas, of greater or lesser catchment size.

Art Camp and Chrissie Cotter Gallery both include artists being LGA-based or having made significant contributions to the LGA as evaluation criteria in determining occupants or exhibitors. Stone Villa and Edith Artists are both oriented towards the artists and art community of the Inner West. Petersham Town Hall residence operates at a different scale, by attracting notable artists from interstate or overseas to engage in community outreach events.

In general the venues have high utilisation rates. Edith Artists exhibits approximately 45 weeks of the year, with Petersham Town Hall residence and the Chrissie Cotter Gallery occupied for the entire year. Art Camp artists have a minimum 12 hour weekly requirement, but consultation with council has suggested that the actual usage is considerably higher. Utilisation rates are not available for Stone Villa Artists.

#### **4.6.3 Planning Data**

Table 31 presents relevant planning information on the Arts and Cultural facilities. These facilities generally occupy shared sites, with only ESP Projects and Stone Villa Artists occupying their own site; co-location generally occurs with space available to the community, shared with Petersham Town Hall or the Australia Street complex. Of the five facilities, three occupy land classed as recreational – Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Art Camp and Stone Villa.

Arts and cultural facilities are very well served by bus transport, but typically quite distant from train stations. Parking provision is poor, particularly for the facilities located in Camperdown Park (Art Camp and Chrissie Cotter). Three of the five facilities are either heritage listed or located on heritage listed ground.

**Table 31 – Planning data for Arts and Cultural Facilities**

Facility & address	Lot / DP	Zoning	Community / operational land	Site area (approx.)	Distance from urban centres	Distance from transport	Parking	Heritage listing	Accessibility (2004 audit)
Petersham Town Hall Artists Residence, Petersham Town Hall 107 Crystal Street, Petersham	Lot 1, DP 905358 Lot 1, DP 724300 Lot 52, Section 56, DP 976735	SP2; immediately adjacent to local centre expecting an additional 18 dwellings Occupied as caretakers facility; change of use requires change in consent	Operational	1898m2	400m to Petersham	100m to buses 250m to Petersham Station	On-street car parking available on Crystal Street and side streets; approx. 40 space off street car park directly opposite, used by council staff during business hours.	Heritage listed	Internal – No External – No
Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Pidcock Street, Camperdown	Lot 1, DP 1167802	RE1	Community	4.244ha (shared site)	900m to Newtown	200m to buses 1km to Newtown Station	Small amount of on- and off-street parking (off-street parking 100m distant, 15 car capacity)	No	Internal – Partial External – Yes
Art Camp, 24a Australia Street, Camperdown	Lot 1, DP 912305	RE1	Not available	507m2	950m to Newtown	200m to Parramatta Road buses 1.1km to Newtown Station	Very limited on-street parking	Camperdown Park heritage-listed	Internal – Partial External - Yes
Stone Villa Artists Inc, 19 Railway Road, Sydenham	Lot 3, DP 878225	RE1	Not available	5466m2	250m to Sydenham Neighbourhood Centre	Sited directly on bus routes 450m to Sydenham Station	Very limited on-street parking; 10 space off-street carpark (shared with car workshops) approximately 100m distant; vacant land could be converted to car park if required	Heritage listed	Internal – No External – No
ESP Gallery, 228-230 Illawarra Road, Marrickville	Lot 68, Section 1, DP1483  Lot 12, DP 1718	R2; in close proximity to B2 and a substantial amount of predicted future dwellings	Operational	362m2	Located within Marrickville	50m to buses 500m to Marrickville Station	2 spaces at rear of building, very limited parking on Illawarra Road	No	Internal – Partial External – Yes

Note: Accessibility ratings have been taken from the 2004 Community Facilities Condition Assessment; facilities rated with partial accessibility are those assessed as compliant with many but not all BCA criteria

#### **4.6.4 Fit for Purpose & Other Issues**

In general arts and culture venues are fit for purpose. Art Camp, having been recently renovated, is well suited to its use as a combined studio/display space and has a good relationship to the adjacent park. Similarly the Chrissie Cotter Gallery works well and has recently been made fully accessible with the installation of a lift. The Petersham Town Hall residence functions well as a temporary base for artists, although it has accessibility issues. Edith Artists has had extensive work carried out by the tenant, including the installation of hanging racks and plinths, and is reported to work well as a gallery. Stone Villa, a two-story heritage house, has been adapted for use as artists' studios. The use appears to fit the space, but the physical condition of the building is very poor, with severe cracking; the 2004 Condition Audit recommended disposal of this property on the basis of its condition.

#### **4.6.5 Accessibility**

##### Accessibility by transport

Ease of access to arts and cultural facilities by public and private transport is generally high.

Three of the five facilities are located in reasonable proximity to urban centres. Chrissie Cotter Gallery and Art Camp are both located adjacent to Camperdown Park, approximately 1km from the nearest urban centre.

The facilities are well-served by buses, with none more than 200m from routes. Accessibility by train is more restricted, with one facility less than 450m from a station.

Parking is problematic at several of the facilities. The Australia Street complex, including Art Camp, has been identified as difficult to park at due to time restrictions and insufficient on-street parking to meet the needs of the surrounding community and workforce. Similarly there limited possibilities for parking around the Stone Villa Artists facility and ESP Gallery.

##### Accessibility for people living with disabilities

Accessibility is generally poor across arts and cultural facilities, with none being fully externally and internally accessible. The most difficult facilities are Stone Villa Artists – accessed either via a steep flight of stairs at the front of the house, or via a broken and grassy uneven brick path to the rear – and Petersham Town Hall Residence, accessed by a two-story set of external fire stairs. Public-facing facilities (ESP Projects and Chrissie Cotter Gallery) provide a higher degree of accessibility, with both being externally accessible and having partial access inside. Chrissie Cotter Gallery is equipped with a lift to enable people with physical disabilities to access the lower level, where the gallery is located. Art Camp has been recently upgraded with improved accessibility.

#### **4.6.6 Sustainability**

The level of sustainability features is mixed across Arts and Culture facilities. Older facilities – Stone Villa Artists, Edith Artists and the Petersham Town Hall residence – are not equipped with any energy-efficiency devices. However newer facilities – Art Camp and Chrissie Cotter Gallery – are fitted with some energy-saving features such as water-saving taps and rainwater tanks.

Arts and Cultural facilities are located reasonably close to public transport, reducing car dependency.

#### **4.6.7 Potential for Expansion**

There is very limited potential for expansion in arts and cultural facilities. Petersham Town Hall Residence and Chrissie Cotter Gallery are both unable to expand in any way due to site constraints, being located in a small flat on top of the town hall and adjacent to tennis courts underneath a bowling club, respectively.

ESP Projects is located on a fairly generous site, and the existing building does not extend to the limits of this site – there is presently a small garden and provision for two cars to park. It will be difficult however to incorporate this additional space to the existing building, and would likely require site redevelopment.

There is some potential for redevelopment of the Stone Villa Artists Site, but proximity to Sydney Airport and flight paths limits potential uses of the site.

#### **4.6.8 Implications of Audit**

- Council has committed to a strong provision of arts and cultural facilities throughout the LGA, and operates both galleries, studios and a residence.
- These facilities have a good coverage of the LGA, being evenly spread throughout.
- The venues housing arts and cultural facilities are well suited to their purpose, generally in a good condition, and often located in or adjacent to town centres.
- Arts and cultural venues have a wider catchment area than the LGA, serving the population of the Inner West.

## **4.7 Facilities and Services to Target Groups**

### **4.7.1 Children and Families**

Facilities and services for children provided by Children and Family Services are discussed above in Section 4.4.

In addition to these Library Services provides the following:

- Homework Help
- YourTutor
- School Holiday Activities
- Baby Rhyme Time
- Story Time sessions

Pathways Early Childhood Intervention, located in Jarvie Park, operates from a council-owned facility. It provides family-centred services to children with disabilities aged 0-7 years and their families located in the Inner West and South East Sydney.

### **4.7.2 Youth**

Youth between the ages of 15 and 24 are an important group in the Marrickville LGA, constituting 12.0 per cent of the LGA's entire population at the time of the 2006 census; this proportion is likely to increase over time as the population born during the current Marrickville 'mini-baby boom' ages.

Council provides a range of services and assistance to young people to help achieve these goals, primarily through Community Development. The services for young people convened and supported by Community Development are often coordinated with other Council departments, government agencies or community organisations, and include:

- The Marrickville Youth Interagency, to build stronger networks between youth services and improve coordination.
- Working groups, to collaboratively address any identified needs or problems
- The Marrickville Youth Council, to help develop youth participation and a sense of ownership and advocacy
- The small grants scheme, which provides seed money for community organisations.
- The Midnight Basketball program, providing a free weekly basketball tournament, meals and education services

Marrickville Library also offers services for youth, including

- Homework help
- YourTutor
- HSC Seminars
- School Holiday activities
- Youth Week activities

Youth-accessible services are provided in several council-owned facilities which are leased and operated by community groups, namely Newtown Neighbourhood Centre (NNC) and Marrickville Youth Resource Centre (MYRC). MYRC operates services explicitly for young people. NNC does not offer any youth services, but the range of services it offers (including accommodation support assistance, health services, and courses and activities) are available to young people.

Council auspices delivery of services to youth of the area.

MYRC operates from Jarvie Park Hall, which contains a large hall, an upstairs area with offices and a doctor's visiting room, and a garage which has been converted to a dance studio. The centre offers a full range of youth services to people between 12 and 24 years of age, including:

- Links to Learning, a DET-administered program working with students at risk of leaving school early
- Afternoon drop-in and sports sessions
- Computer and internet facilities
- A music studio
- Youth workers
- Arts & craft workshops (including graffiti)
- Medical and counselling services
- Employment workshops
- Cooking classes
- Sports & martial arts classes

The centre is open for drop-in sessions five afternoons per week during term time.

Consultation with the centre has suggested that, while the facility is used by residents throughout the Marrickville LGA, the majority of its users are live in close physical proximity. Staff estimate that over 50 per cent of young people accessing the facility are students at Marrickville High School (located directly opposite the facility).

Two focus groups conducted at the MYRC with young people; one links to learning group and one open after school recreation group as part of the previous

recreation research study provided feedback on facilities as they related to their social and recreational needs:

Young people in these groups highlighted the need for the following additional facilities and services in Marrickville:

- Underage music and social venues
- Places for young people to go after hours and with late opening
- Longer opening hours for the MYRC
- Low or no cost options for sport and recreation
- More Wi-Fi in public places
- More festivals and community events
- More musical equipment at MYRC
- More skate venues and more free basketball courts

#### **4.7.3 Older people**

Older people are an important part of the Marrickville community, and are a high-needs group who are more likely to utilise community facilities. This section of the community constitutes a significant proportion of Marrickville's existing population (7,810 persons 65 and over at the time of the 2006 census), projected to increase to 11,230 by 2031, an increase of 43 per cent. Older groups place higher levels of demand on community facilities, a result of having increased leisure time and age-specific issues that need to be addressed in facility provision.

Older people in Marrickville are from a diverse range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and often socialise along these lines; many of the older people groups for example are cultural groups, such as the Arabic reading group at Marrickville Library or meetings for older Greek men at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre. It is important the community facilities provision for older people take account of this linguistic and cultural diversity, and ways of socialising.

Other categories of community facilities discussed in this chapter (particularly halls and meeting spaces, and libraries) are heavily utilised by older people despite not being specifically facilities for older people; smaller halls in particular provide places for local groups to come together for a low cost, and are heavily used by older people. Older groups also use the larger halls with some frequency, primarily for ballroom dancing. Any unmet demand in halls, or the provision of additional meeting facilities, is likely to be felt strongly by older residents.

Marrickville Library runs a range of services for or that may be used by older people. These include:

- A home library service;
- Computer access and computer classes;
- Family History Research Group; and

- Foreign-language books, periodicals, newspapers and book clubs.

In addition Community Development also offers a number of services for older people. These include:

- A range of social groups:
  - Men's social groups;
  - Women's social groups;
  - Multicultural social groups;
- Arts and crafts classes/groups ;
- Songs From Next Door Choir;
- Yoga Group;
- Gentle Exercise classes;
- Book clubs;
- Walking groups; and
- Healthy aging talks.

Council also operates the Tom Foster Community Care Centre. Tom Foster provides services to older people to assist them to remain in their own homes in the Marrickville and surrounding areas. The Tom Foster Centre provides:

- Food services, including meals on wheels;
- Organised in-house activities and outings;
- Space for externally-organised events; and
- Van transport.

The Tom Foster centre is very well-used, with staff reporting that at least one event or outing is being held at the centre daily. The Meals on Wheels service also operates throughout the Leichhardt LGA, as an agreement with Leichhardt Council. The Centre had 5105 clients in the financial year 2010-2011<sup>15</sup>; consultation with centre staff however has suggested that the majority of visitors to the centre are from the Marrickville LGA. The reputation of the facility is such that it draws from a City wide catchment.

#### 4.7.4 People living with disabilities

Marrickville Council is actively committed to increasing the equality opportunity for all members of the community to participate in all aspects of life in the LGA.

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<sup>15</sup> This figure includes only visitors to the centre, not those who used non-centre-based services such as the community bus.

In addition to the Marrickville Access Committee, Council runs several other initiatives to help increase opportunities for all members of the community to participate in its social and cultural life. These include:

- The local development of the Access Aware online database;
- The development of the Access Mobility kit, to provide guidance to development applications;
- An Accessible Public Transport information kit; and
- A accessibility guide for businesses.

Council also auspices and advocates for accessibility services with other governmental bodies.

Council has actively lobbied the State government about accessibility of public transport in the LGA and in particular in relation to the upgrade of stations in the Sydney metropolitan areas as several of Marrickville's train stations are particularly inaccessible for people with a physical mobility issue.

Feedback from Council stakeholders are that programming of services and activities commonly offered by Council in some of the major facilities such as exercise and recreation activities could be promoted in a more inclusive way. This would include the use of images that present people with a disability engaging in activities and also simple messages about people with a disability being welcome on flyers and brochures. Many people with a disability will decide not to attend activities if they believe that the venue is inaccessible or the event is catering to able bodied people and this may not always be the case.

Council's Access Officer works closely with relevant sections of Council to determine issues of accessibility and it is critical that this engagement be maintained to ensure that issues of accessibility, especially although not exclusively physical accessibility, are appropriately addressed.

This last point is especially important in light of the new accessibility standards for premises within the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). These standards, as they apply to Council facilities specify the need to ensure access for people with mobility issues to government and private facilities. Council is moving towards implementation of upgrades and improvements to existing facilities to ensure that facilities are accessible such as the renovations to the Newtown Community Centre. Some facilities like St Peter's Town Hall have clear accessibility issues.

Development of all new facilities will, by necessity be accessible and in line with the BCA and DDA standards.

Programming services and support to meet the needs of carers is also important for Council to keep in mind in its planning and programming of services and activities.

## 4.8 Vacant Space

A number of properties in Marrickville Council's portfolio are currently vacant due to damage or tenants leaving the premises. These include the Livingstone Road properties on the hospital site, the two buildings in the Australia Street complex, and one building in the Seaview Street complex. These vacant properties are shown in Table 32.

**Table 32 – Vacant space in the LGA**

Facility	Previous Tenant	Building / site area	Condition	Co-location	Future plans
182 Livingstone Road	Aboriginal welfare centre	260 / 435 m <sup>2</sup>	Good	New library site	None
184 Livingstone Road	Healthcare Facility	250 / 442 m <sup>2</sup>	Good	New library site	None
186 Livingstone Road		150 / 545 m <sup>2</sup>	Good; some damage to ceiling and external graffiti	New library site	None
Australia Street Hall offices	Portuguese Welfare Centre	80 m <sup>2</sup> (building area)	Good	Australia Street complex (Portuguese Ethnographic Museum, Art Camp, Hall)	Council to use to meet the needs of existing residents
Australia Street rear hall		80 m <sup>2</sup> (building area)	Reasonable; needs maintenance work to floor and paint to bring up to usable standards; possible termite damage	Australia Street complex (Portuguese Ethnographic Museum, Art Camp, offices)	Council to use to meet the needs of existing residents
Ex-Dulwich Hill Early Childhood Health Centre	Dulwich Hill Early Childhood Health Centre	130 m <sup>2</sup> (building area)	Average; some termite damage, needs painting	Seaview Street complex (hall, library, carpark)	Council to use to meet the needs of existing residents

These buildings vary significantly in condition, with some of a usable standard while others require paint work, floor carpeting / polishing or the repair of termite damage. None of the vacant facilities are in such a poor state as to make them irreparable, or the cost of repairs prohibitive.

The vacant facilities are generally well located, being in or close to town centres or other community facility hubs (the Livingstone Road Cottages are adjacent to the proposed new library site, and the former Dulwich Hill Early Childhood Health Centre is located in the Seaview Street complex). All are easily accessed by public transport.

These facilities have the potential to provide much needed meeting space offices for community groups or space for artists in the area.

## CHAPTER 5 - The Consultation Process

### 5.1 Introduction

An important part of the methodology for this research, in addition to the facility audits, was talking to the community and other stakeholders to find out what facilities people are currently using and why, whether they are satisfied with the quality of the facilities they use and what their expectations are for the future use of community facilities in Marrickville and any unmet need that they could identify.

The goals, objectives, actions and priorities described in this Report incorporate the views and issues expressed through the various consultations, as well as the collective knowledge and expertise of the Council staff and the consultants.

Stakeholders from whom information was sought regarding the needs and concerns included:

- councillors
- council officers
- residents of Marrickville and the general public
- individuals and organisations who regularly use, hire or lease community facilities
- specific community groups.

The consultation participation process engaged a total of 347 members of the Marrickville community and included the following methods:

- four surveys
  - online general public survey
  - intercept general public surveys at different types of venues
  - online regular hall hirer survey
  - online stakeholder survey
- face to face meetings and focus group consultations with specific groups and key Council stakeholders
- written submissions including email submissions
- consultations with Council staff.

The agreed target for the sample from the community for this project was 300. The final sample size was 321 including:

- Online general public survey
- Intercept general public survey
- Stakeholder survey
- Hall hirer survey.

The general public survey was administered in two discreet ways. A website version of the full survey was placed online for three month time frame (between late November 2011 and February 2012) and was linked from the Marrickville Council website. The survey timeframe was extended from the end of 2011 until February as the initial response rate was low due to the timing close to the end of the year. In addition to this, a shortened paper-based version was taken from the full survey for each venue category (e.g. libraries, community centres, town halls) and was

distributed at locations throughout the LGA.

**Table 33: All consultation contacts**

Type of contact	Number
Online general public survey	139
Intercept general public survey	88
Online hall hirer survey	27
Online stakeholder survey	68
Group consultations	14
Submissions (email and mail)	11
<b>Total contacts</b>	<b>347</b>

The two general public surveys (online and intercept), engaged 227 individuals. Around 77 per cent of these were Marrickville residents. The other 23 per cent of respondents, while living in surrounding suburbs and other areas of Sydney, had an interest in the Study due to their use of Marrickville-based facilities. The research team also received and reviewed feedback from written submissions and emails. These submissions have been integrated in to the general findings in the section that relates to their concern or issue.

The responses to the surveys and face to face consultations are very valuable as a means for guiding Council's goals and objectives for community facilities and are of enormous benefit to its understanding and evaluation of current successes, issues and future possibilities.

## 5.2 General public survey completion profile

A total of 227 people participated in the general public surveys with 139 people undertaking the online survey and 88 people completing intercept surveys at a variety of locations (See Table 35 for venues).

Table 34 shows the full breakdown of survey participation by the general public. Some online respondents chose to complete only parts of the survey and exited the online system before the final submission point, thus creating a partial completion.

**Table 34: General public survey completion**

Survey type	Partial completions	Full completions	Total
Online general public survey	50	89	139
Intercept general public survey	0	88	88
<b>Total general public survey</b>			<b>227</b>

Partial completions to the online survey (50) have been included in the analysis where relevant and are given weighting in the final numbers as most of the partial responses completed the majority of the survey questions.

It is important to keep in mind, when reviewing the findings of these consultations, that not all respondents answered all questions in the survey. So while there was a total 227 respondents for the general public surveys, the online and intercept surveys had a different number of questions and not all respondents within each survey type answered all questions in the survey they

completed.

With the online survey, for example, no one respondent answered all questions. Each issue discussed and analysed is therefore based upon the number of people who answered that particular question in that survey. The intercept survey was developed to reflect the intention of the large online survey but illicit a response specific to the venue where the intercept was conducted so many of the questions were the same for each venue type. Where possible, and relevant, this data has been combined.

**Table 35: Location of intercept surveys**

Venue	Type of group	Completions
Tom Foster Community Centre	Older people	15
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	General	4
Chrissie Cotter Gallery	Gallery exhibitors	6
Marrickville Town Hall	Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Questioning and Intersex (BLTQI) Club	2
	Music Society	1
Petersham Town Hall	Dancing group	11
Seaview St Hall	Playgroup	9
St Peters Town Hall	Political party	1
	Ministry	1
Herb Greedy Hall	CALD Social Group	12
Library: Marrickville	CALD Book Club	6
Library: Marrickville	General	2
Library: Marrickville	Lunar New Year	3
Library: Marrickville	Family history group	8
Library: Stanmore Branch	Parents/carers of children in workshop	5
Library: St Peters Branch	Parents/carers of children in workshop	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>88</b>

From the data gathered in the general public surveys the following profile can be given about people who answered the questions on culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, youth, older residents and gender. This may not reflect actual numbers but rather the people who answered these questions.

In general, the results are based on feedback from a significantly higher number of adult women than adult men and the largest age groups represented were the 25 - 39 and 40 - 54 year old age groups across both survey types.

### **Gender**

Of the 227 people who completed the general public surveys, 199 people reported their gender and 197 reported their age. 125 survey respondents (63 per cent) were women and 74 (37 per cent) were men.

The representation of men and women who participated in the intercept surveys was more balanced and was closer to parity (60 per cent women to 40 per cent men) than the online survey which had a greater gender difference (65 per cent women to 35 per cent men).

**Table 36: Gender of respondents**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Male	40	35%	34	40%	74	37%
Female	74	65%	51	60%	125	63%
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Age

Although the online survey was set up so that young people could complete it, the majority of respondents to the online survey were people in the 25 - 39 year old and 40 - 54 year old age groups, 56 (50 per cent) and 41 (37 per cent) respectively.

However, the majority of people who were participated in the intercept surveys were older with a much greater number of people, 47 in the 65 and over age group (55 per cent) compared to 1 (1 per cent) in the online survey.

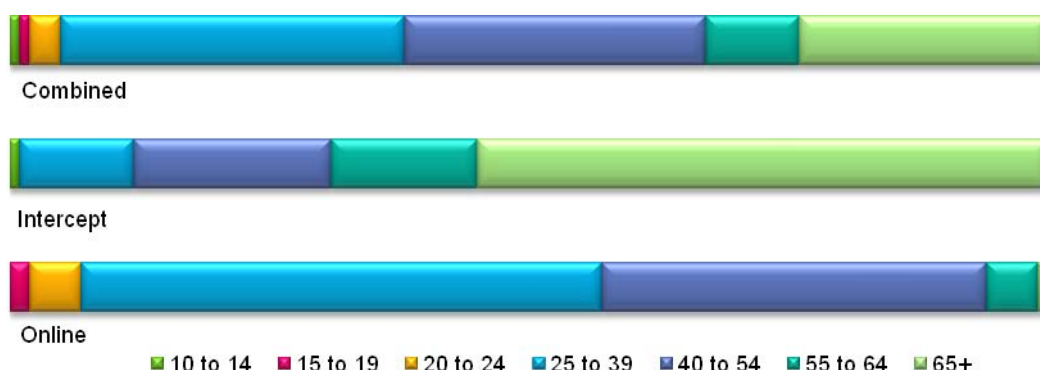
The combination of online and intercept surveys has provided data for a good range of respondents aged between 25 and over 65 years of age.

**Table 37: Age of respondents**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
10-14	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%
15-19	2	2%	0	0%	2	1%
20-24	6	5%	0	0%	6	3%
25-39	56	50%	9	11%	65	33%
40-54	41	37%	16	19%	57	29%
55-64	6	5%	12	14%	18	9%
65+	1	1%	47	55%	48	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>100%</b>

Given the small number of young people responding to the surveys or captured in the intercepts for this research the Council provided additional feedback based upon their own youth consultations (approximately 200 young people) and two youth focus groups (approximately 25 young people) conducted by the research team as part of the previous recreation research study. This reflects the fact that young people do not tend to be high users of current facilities apart from those that are programming opportunities specifically for young people including MYRC and the PCYC.

**Graph 5: Respondents' age**



### Diversity

Respondents were surveyed about their cultural background by asking about the main language spoken at home. Overall, just over one fifth (22 per cent) of respondents reported that they spoke a language other than English at home.

A much higher proportion of people who participated in the intercept surveys reported speaking a language other than English at home at 35 per cent compared to 8 per cent in the online survey.

**Table 38: English spoken at home of respondents**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Yes	73	92%	54	65%	127	78%
No	6	8%	29	35%	35	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the 35 respondents who speak a language other than English at home, the most reported language was Portuguese with 11 respondents (26 per cent) speaking this at home. This result is a reflection of the selection of intercept survey venues, as one group of town hall users was a Portuguese social club. Otherwise there was representation of respondents who speak Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese), Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Tongan, Tibetan, German, Polish, Ukrainian and Indonesian.

**Table 39: Language spoken at home of respondents**

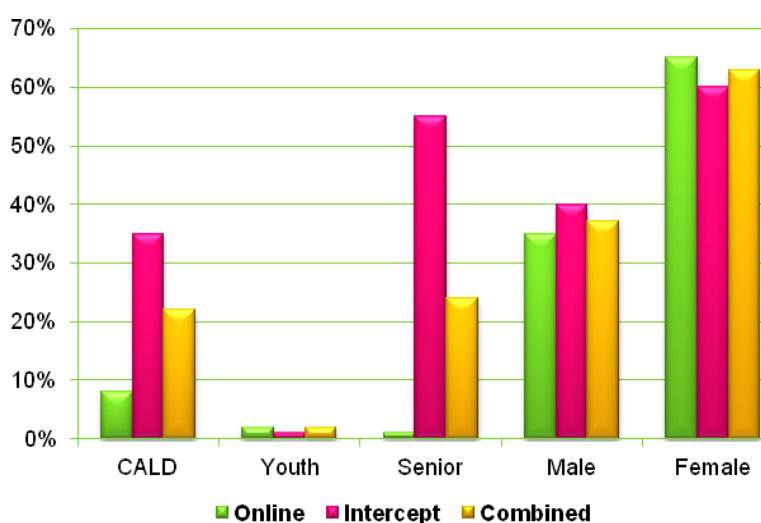
	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Arabic	1	9%	4	13%	5	12%
Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese)	0	0%	7	23%	7	17%

Greek	2	18%	2	6%	4	10%
Italian	0	0%	1	3%	1	2%
Portuguese	1	9%	10	32%	11	26%
Vietnamese	2	18%	1	3%	3	7%
Other	5	45%	6	19%	11	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 40: Profile of respondents

Group	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
CALD	6	8	29	35	35	22
Youth (10-19)	2	2	1	1	3	2
Senior (65+)	1	1	47	55	48	24
Male	40	35	34	40	74	37
Female	74	65	51	60	125	63

Graph 6: Profile of respondents



### Where Are People From?

Respondents to both the online and intercept surveys came from all suburbs in the LGA with the largest group (34 per cent) being from Marrickville (see Table 41 below). Respondents who live outside the LGA were the second largest group of respondents (23 per cent) and these people came from a range of neighbouring suburbs. Twelve respondents to the online survey came from suburbs outside the LGA while 35 respondents to the intercept survey came from other suburbs. This reflects the fact that people who were intercepted at venues were often there for specific events such as a book club, dancing or social club and had travelled into Marrickville to participate.

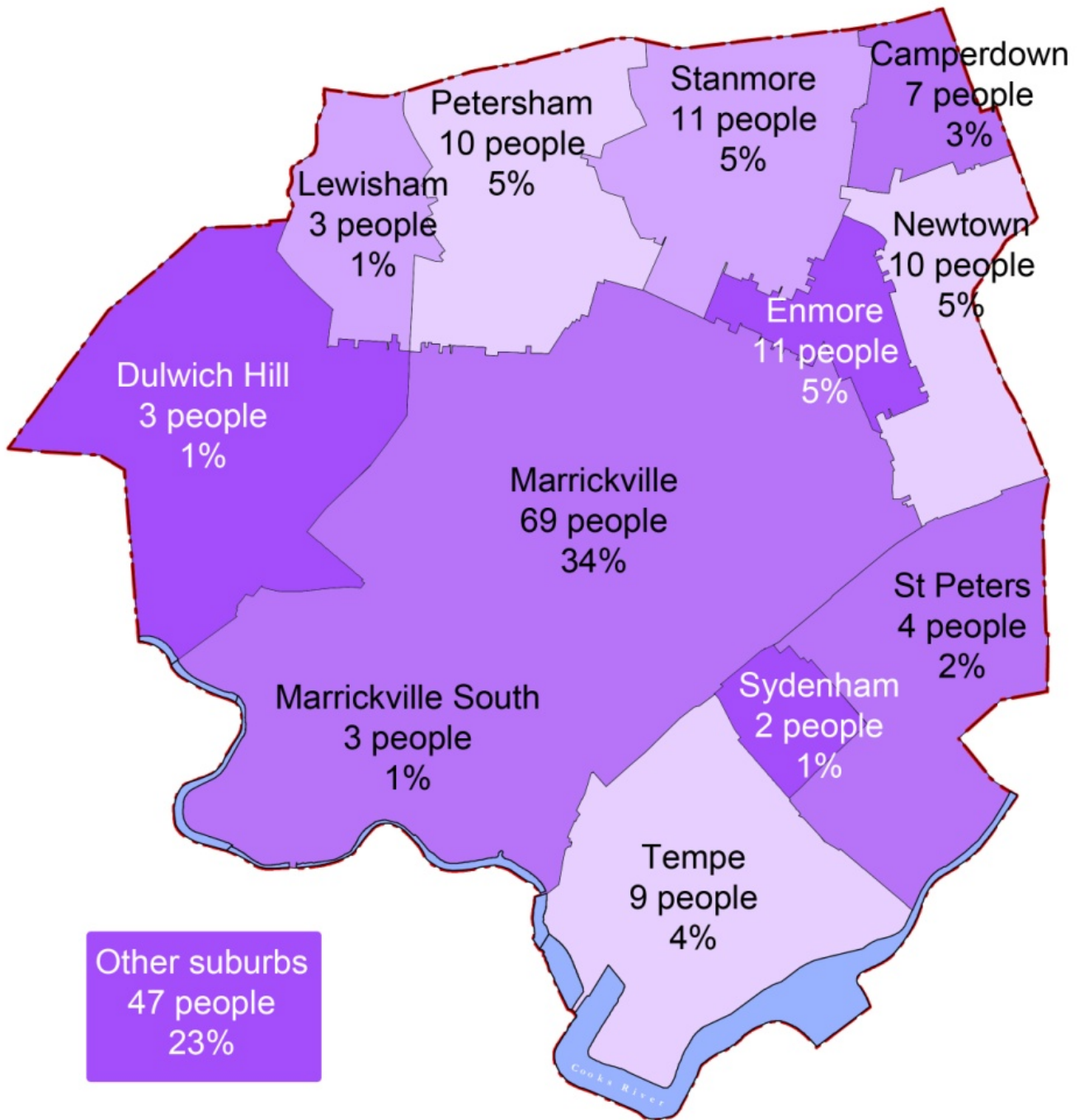
**Table 41: Home suburb of respondents**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Marrickville	57	49%	12	14%	69	34%
Other	12	10%	35	40%	47	23%
Dulwich Hill	8	7%	11	12%	19	9%
Enmore	5	4%	6	7%	11	5%
Newtown	7	6%	3	3%	10	5%
Petersham	8	7%	2	2%	10	5%
Stanmore	6	5%	5	6%	11	5%
Tempe	5	4%	4	5%	9	4%
Camperdown	2	2%	5	6%	7	3%
St Peters	3	3%	1	1%	4	2%
Lewisham	1	1%	2	2%	3	1%
Marrickville South	2	2%	1	1%	3	1%
Sydenham	1	1%	1	1%	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>100%</b>

The 47 respondents who live in other suburbs were from:

- Hurlstone Park (4)
- Earlwood (3)
- Alexandria, Ashfield, Campsie, Gosford, Roselands and St Marys (2)
- Annandale, Arncliffe, Auburn, Balgowlah, Bankstown, Belmore, Bronte, Canterbury, Connell's Point, Croydon, Glebe, Holsworthy, Hurstville, Lithgow, Maroubra, Mascot, Matraville, Meadowbank, Montery, Pagewood, Penrith, Randwick, Regents Park, Rockdale and Strathfield (1).

Figure 5: Home suburb of survey respondents



## Households

Survey respondents were asked to complete information about the characteristics of their households to assist Council to understand who was responding the surveys and usage patterns of facilities. These questions asked them for information about their household type, employment status, language background spoken at home and income.

The majority of respondents were couple families with or without dependent children (33 per cent and 22 per cent respectively), employed either full time or part time (37 per cent and 20 per cent respectively), from English speaking backgrounds (78 per cent) and who earned incomes across the range (less than \$30, 000 to over \$150, 000) (see Table 42, Table 43, Table 44).

**Table 42: Household type of respondents**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Couple family with dependent children	30	39%	22	28%	52	33%
Couple family without dependent children	21	27%	14	18%	35	22%
One parent family with dependent children	2	3%	3	4%	5	3%
Live alone	8	10%	25	32%	33	21%
Group household (e.g. flatmates)	10	13%	1	1%	11	7%
Other	6	8%	14	18%	20	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>100%</b>

Respondents selecting the other option describe their living situations as:

- Gay and Lesbian couples
- Sole parents
- Full time carers
- Separated parent - non primary carer
- De facto - children grown up
- Grandmother with children
- Couple family with non-dependent children

**Table 43: Employment status of respondents**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Full-time work	46	58%	12	15%	58	37%
Home or family duties	3	4%	9	12%	12	8%
Part-time / casual work	18	23%	13	17%	31	20%
Full-time student	5	6%	1	1%	6	4%
Retired or not looking for work	3	4%	35	45%	38	24%
Unemployed, looking for work	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%

Other, please describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Semi retired</i></li> <li>• <i>Part time perm</i></li> <li>• <i>Sole trader artist with intermittent paid employment.</i></li> <li>• <i>Semi-retired artist</i></li> <li>• <i>Home based small business</i></li> <li>• <i>Retired</i></li> <li>• <i>Pensioner</i></li> <li>• <i>Retired because of age</i></li> <li>• <i>Carer</i></li> <li>• <i>Pensioner</i></li> </ul>	4	5%	7	9%	11	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 44: Household income of respondents**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Less than \$30,000	5	7%	27	45%	32	25%
Between \$30,000 and \$50,000	8	12%	12	20%	20	16%
Between \$50,000 and \$80,000	16	24%	9	15%	25	20%
Between \$80,000 and \$120,000	16	24%	6	10%	22	17%
Between \$120,000 and \$150,000	11	16%	5	8%	16	13%
Over \$150,000	12	18%	1	2%	13	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Disability**

Respondents were asked if they had a disability and whether their access to Council facilities was limited. Overall, 15 per cent of respondents reported having a disability with a significantly higher proportion of intercept respondents (26 per cent) having a disability compared to online respondents (4 per cent).

This reflects the fact that people who were intercepted at venues were often there for specific events such as a book club, dancing or social club, and were often older people and therefore more likely to report they have a disability (see Table 46). Older people across both surveys reported a higher level of disability (39 per cent) than other age groups.

Almost one quarter of respondents (23 per cent) who have a disability reported that their access to Council facilities was limited.

- *Public transport. I live in Glebe and work in Petersham, I would love to swim at the Enmore Pool, but public transport is too bad.*
- *Limited by working full time with no access to a car.*
- *Toilets.*

**Table 45: Disability of respondents**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Yes	3	4%	20	26%	23	15%
No	76	96%	58	74%	134	85%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 46: Disability and age of all respondents**

Disability		Age						
		10-14	15-19	20-24	25-39	40-54	55-64	65+
Yes	22	0	0	0	2	2	2	16
	14%	0%	0%	0%	5%	4%	12%	39%
No	131	1	2	4	40	44	15	25
	86%	100%	100%	100%	95%	96%	88%	61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>41</b>

**Table 47: Limited accessibility to Council facilities**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Yes	2	14%	7	28%	9	23%
No	12	86%	18	72%	30	77%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 5.3 Findings

The results of all forms of the consultation process (online public survey, intercept public survey, regular hall hirer survey, stakeholder surveys, written submissions and face-to-face consultations) have been grouped overall and by venue type where applicable. That is for:

- Town Halls (hall hire and use)
- Childcare centres
- Cultural and community centres
- Libraries.

### 5.3.1 Overall Findings

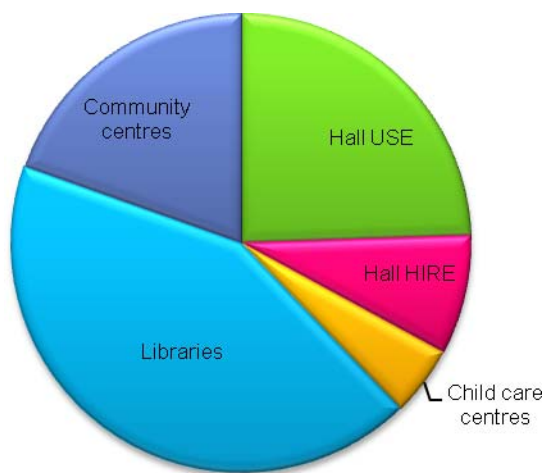
To determine the most popular venue type with the community the general public online survey has been used as the basis of analysis. The intercept survey responses skew the data as they were venue specific and have boosted the results for particular venues. The response from the online general public survey shows that the most popular type of venue used by respondents is libraries. 61 per cent of respondents said that they use libraries, 42 per cent used Halls<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>16</sup> Halls as a category refers to both the three Town Halls and Herbert Greedy and Seaview Street.

**Table 48: Venue use (online general public survey)**

Venue type	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Hall use	41	35%	75	65%	116	100%
Hall hire	15	12%	112	88%	127	100%
Child care centres	8	7%	100	93%	108	100%
Libraries	64	61%	41	39%	105	100%
Community centres, galleries, cultural centres	29	28%	73	72%	102	100%

**Graph 7 Venue use (online general public survey)**



**Table 49: Venue use by gender and by those living outside Marrickville**

Gender / Suburb	Suburb - other		Hall use		Hall hire		Child care centres		Libraries		Community centres etc.	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Male	26	55%	23	32%	7	9%	1	1%	30	46%	13	20%
Female	21	45%	46	38%	6	5%	4	3%	54	47%	37	32%
Suburb - other	47	100%	21	46%	3	6%	1	2%	19	41%	8	17%

In general people responded positively about the accessibility of venues by public transport, their overall cleanliness and internal lighting and general presentation. The least positive responses were about the lack of adequate parking and bicycle storage. Given Council's commitment to improving active transport and walkability in Marrickville the high ranking of public transport accessibility is a positive result. The lack of adequate parking is something that, given the access to public transport is not such a concern however the lack of adequate bicycle storage needs to be addressed to encourage people travelling local who are able and interested, to

ride to events and activities.

Cleanliness, internal lighting and general presentation convey an overall sense that the community generally values or is satisfied with the venues they access. Specific issues about the lack of adequate storage, lack of adequate technology like Wi-Fi access in major halls and poor acoustics raise issues about the need for Council to modernise some of their provision.

**Table 50: Multiple use of facilities**

Venue type	Hall use		Hall hire		Child care centres		Libraries		Community centres etc.	
Hall use	76	100%	8	11%	6	9%	26	38%	17	25%
Hall hire	8	67%	17	100%	2	20%	8	80%	7	70%
Child care centres	6	75%	2	25%	8	100%	7	88%	4	57%
Libraries	26	29%	8	9%	7	8%	90	100%	19	22%
Community centres, galleries, cultural centres	17	31%	5	71%	4	7%	19	35%	54	100%

Over all responses to the surveys indicate that those people who are using facilities are using more than one facility. As Table 50 above indicates all Hall Users (76) also responded in the affirmative to the use of other venues. This suggests to Council that the proportion of the community that actively use facilities tend to access from across the full range of Council facilities.

**Table 51: Community facilities not adequately provided for in Marrickville (General public online survey)**

Facility type	Number	Per cent
Child care facilities (Council run)	22	21%
Child care facilities (community based - not for profit run)	17	16%
Child care facilities (private - for profit run)	7	7%
Council managed venues for recreation	23	22%
Council managed venues for art and cultural activities; theatre, music, performance, exhibitions	30	29%
Facilities offering youth services	19	18%
Facilities offering aged services	22	21%
Facilities offering services for the migrant community	13	12%
Facilities offering services for Aboriginal people	10	10%
Library facilities	17	16%
Arts facilities	16	15%
Social enterprises	18	17%
Other	32	31%

## Halls

Consultation about using and hiring halls in Marrickville were conducted through surveys, face to face consultations and from several written submissions. The majority of data collected came through the survey instruments of:

- the general public survey (hall use and hire section)
- the general public intercept surveys (hall use and hire versions)
- the regular hall hirers survey.

The hall use and hire data from each survey has been analysed on its own or in combination with data from the other surveys depending on the aspect or issue being investigated and the specific similarities of the question being asked. The discreet use of survey data and the aggregation of data are clearly indicated in all of the findings regarding hall use and hire below. Just over one third of respondents of the online general public survey (41 or 35 per cent) reported using town halls and 15 respondents (12 per cent) also reported hiring town halls for various reasons.

An additional 37 intercept surveys (35 use and two hire) were taken across the five town halls included in the study:

- Marrickville Town Hall (3)
- Petersham Town Hall (11)
- Seaview Street Hall (9)
- St Peters Town Hall (2)
- Herb Greedy Hall (12).

The hall hirer survey netted 23 regular hirers of town halls from a range of patrons such as:

- political groups and parties
- anonymous support groups
- martial arts groups
- migrant support groups
- gay and lesbian groups
- activist groups
- musical groups and societies.

In total, 116 survey respondents provided their views on many aspects of using and hiring town halls in Marrickville.

**Table 52: Town hall use and hire**

Hall use	Online		Intercept		Regular hall hirer survey		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent		
Yes	41	35%	35	40%	-	-	<b>76</b>	37%
No	75	65%	53	60%	-	-	128	63%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100%</b>	-	-	<b>204</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Hall Hire</b>								
Yes	15	12%	2	2%	23	85	<b>40</b>	17%
No	112	88%	86	98%	4	15	202	83%
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Frequency of hall use and hire

It is not possible to accurately determine the single most frequently used hall by general public respondents, as the large proportion of intercept surveys conducted at chosen specific locations sets a bias towards those locations. What can be determined from Table 53 below is the frequency of use for those people using each venue.

For example, of the 23 respondents reporting they use Herb Greedy Hall, 14 use it very regularly (every week or more), and one fifth (7 people or 21 per cent) use it once or less than once a year.

**Table 53: Frequency of hall use (general public – online and intercept surveys)**

Hall name	Never	Once or less than once a year	A few times a year	Once a month	Once a week	More than once a week
Herb Greedy Hall	10	7	2	2	12	0
	30%	21%	6%	6%	36%	0%
Marrickville Town Hall	4	7	14	2	1	0
	14%	25%	50%	7%	4%	0%
Petersham Town Hall	6	6	12	0	3	8
	17%	17%	34%	0%	9%	23%
Seaview Street Hall	10	5	1	0	9	1
	38%	19%	4%	0%	35%	4%
St Peters Town Hall	9	1	4	0	0	1
	60%	7%	27%	0%	0%	7%

There is a minor difference in the rate of hall use between men and women with 32 per cent of all male respondents reporting they use halls and 38 per cent of all female respondents reporting they use halls (see Table 49).

Of the 17 respondents of the general public surveys who reported hiring halls, St Peters Town was the most frequently hired with one respondent hiring it more than once each week.

Herbert Greedy Hall and Seaview Street hall were hired at least once a week and all halls were hired at least once a month.

**Table 54: Frequency of hall hire (general public – online and intercept surveys)**

	Never	Once or less than once a year	A few times a year	Once a month	Once a week	More than once a week
Herbert Greedy Hall	1	5	1	0	1	0
	12%	62%	12%	0%	12%	0%
Marrickville Town Hall	3	3	1	1	0	0
	38%	38%	12%	12%	0%	0%
Petersham Town Hall	3	2	2	1	0	0
	38%	25%	25%	12%	0%	0%
Seaview Street Hall	5	2	0	0	1	0
	62%	25%	0%	0%	12%	0%

St Peters Town Hall	2	2	2	2	0	1
	22%	22%	22%	22%	0%	11%

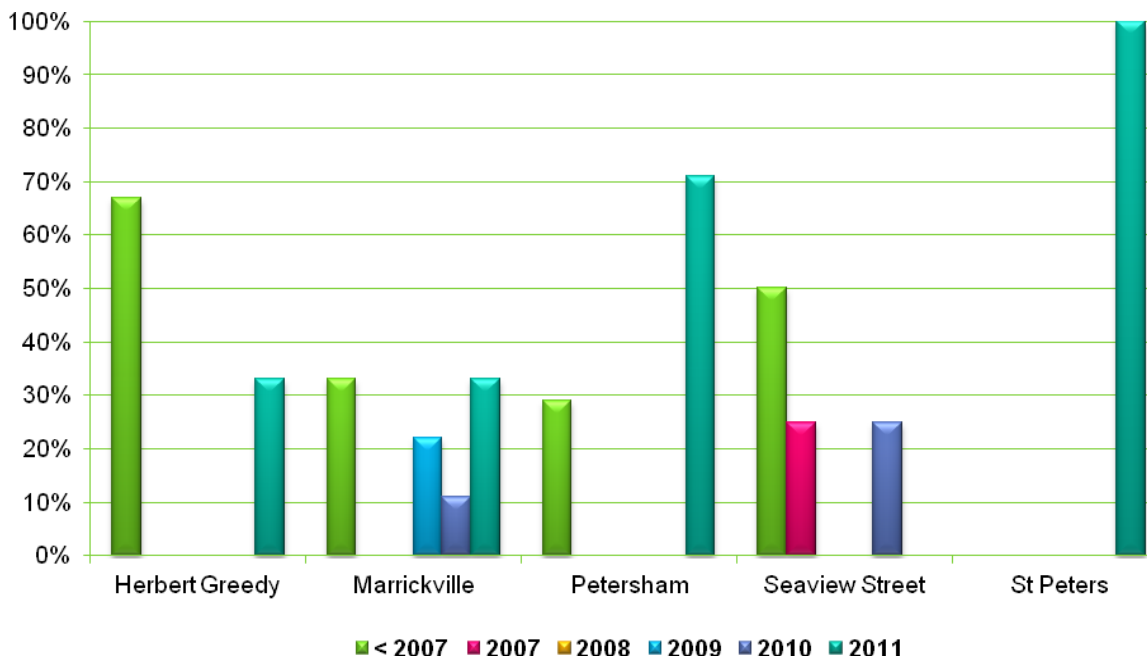
Respondents of the regular hall hirer survey were asked about their hiring patterns of halls over the past five years.

Petersham Town Hall and St Peters Town Hall were hired most frequently in 2011 with five hires each. Herb Greedy Hall and Marrickville Town were each hired three times in 2011.

**Table 55: Halls hired in the past five years (regular hall hirers survey)**

Hall	Year						Total
	< 2007	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
Herbert Greedy Hall	6	0	0	0	0	3	9
	67%	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	100%
Marrickville Town Hall	3	0	0	2	1	3	9
	33%	0%	0%	22%	11%	33%	100%
Petersham Town Hall	2	0	0	0	0	5	7
	29%	0%	0%	0%	0%	71%	100%
Seaview Street Hall	2	1	0	0	1	0	4
	50%	25%	0%	0%	25%	0%	100%
St Peters Town Hall	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%

**Graph 8: Halls hired over the past five years (regular hall hirers survey)**



There is also a minor difference in the rate of hall hire between men and women with nine per cent of all male respondents reporting they hire halls and five per cent of all female respondents reporting they hire halls (see Table 49).

### What do people do at Marrickville halls?

Respondents of the three surveys were asked why the use or hire each town hall and were given a series of optional answers. Given the different nature of using a venue compared to hiring a venue, the options given for using or hiring were different within the surveys. The results and findings for use and hire are therefore given separately for each survey as indicated.

'Social gatherings' was the single most frequent reason for using a hall with 29 respondents reporting doing this at four halls. The second most frequent use of halls was for dancing with 16 mentions across four halls including 11 for Petersham Town Hall. These 11 responses came from intercept surveys were conducted with dancers at that hall.

'Educational programs and talks' (with 12 mentions), 'multicultural events, concerts and performances' (with 11 mentions), and 'using meeting rooms' (with 11 mentions) were popular response for using halls.

**Table 56: Reason for hall use (general public: online and intercept surveys)**

Reason	Herbert Greedy Hall	Marrickville Town Hall	Petersham Town Hall	Seaview Street Hall	St Peters Town Hall	Total
Dancing	1	3	11	0	1	16
	6%	19%	69%	0%	6%	100%
Film nights	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Multicultural events	3	4	4	0	0	11
	27%	36%	36%	0%	0%	100%
Exercise class	0	0	2	2	1	5
	0%	0%	40%	40%	20%	100%
Concerts and performances	1	5	5	0	0	11
	9%	45%	45%	0%	0%	100%
Educational programs and talks	2	1	8	0	1	12
	17%	8%	67%	0%	8%	100%
Social gatherings	11	6	3	9	0	29
	38%	21%	10%	31%	0%	100%
Use meeting rooms	2	3	3	1	2	11
	18%	27%	27%	9%	18%	100%
Art exhibitions	0	2	1	1	0	4
	0%	50%	25%	25%	0%	100%
Conferences	0	0	1	0	1	2
	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	100%

As mentioned previously, 17 respondents from the general public online and intercept surveys reported hiring halls. A subset of these (with a maximum of 14 respondents) gave their reasons for doing so.

'Hiring meeting rooms' in halls was the most frequent reason for hiring a hall with four respondents reporting doing this across two halls. The second most frequent reason for hiring town halls was for 'educational programs and talks' with three mentions across three halls.

**Table 57: Reason for hall hire (general public: online and intercept surveys)**

	Herbert Greedy Hall	Marrickville Town Hall	Petersham Town Hall	Seaview Street Hall	St Peters Town Hall	Total
Political or advocacy meetings	0	0	0	0	1	1
	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
Film nights	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Multicultural events	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Parties and receptions for public purposes (such as fundraising)	0	1	1	0	0	2
	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	100%
Parties and receptions for private purposes	0	0	0	0	1	1
	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%
Art exhibitions	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Concerts and performances	0	1	0	0	0	1
	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Educational programs and talks	0	1	1	0	1	3
	0%	33%	33%	0%	33%	100%
Social gatherings	2	0	0	0	0	2
	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Use of meeting rooms	0	2	0	0	2	4
	0%	50%	0%	0%	50%	100%
Conferences	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

As mentioned previously, 23 respondents from the regular hall hirer survey reported hiring halls. Given that a total of 32 reasons were given for hall hire as indicated in Table 58 below, it is likely that some respondents hire halls for more than one purpose.

'Hiring halls for older people groups' was the most often reported reason for hall hire with nine mentions of this across all five halls. The second most frequent reason for regularly hiring town halls was for 'support groups' such as AA with four mentions across two halls. The third most frequent reason for regularly hiring town halls was for 'club meetings' with three mentions across three halls.

**Table 58: Reason for hall hire (regular hall hire survey)**

Reason for hire	Hall					Total
	Herbert Greedy Hall	Marrickville Town Hall	Petersham Town Hall	Seaview Street Hall	St Peters Town Hall	
Arts group	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Choir	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Club meeting	1	0	0	1	1	3
	33%	0%	0%	33%	33%	99%

Martial arts	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>0%</b>
Play group	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>0%</b>
Political group	2	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>100%</b>
Religious group	0	0	1	0	1	<b>2</b>
	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%	<b>100%</b>
Older people group	1	1	3	1	3	<b>9</b>
	11%	11%	33%	11%	33%	<b>99%</b>
Support group (AA, Al-anon etc.)	0	0	0	3	1	<b>4</b>
	0%	0%	0%	75%	25%	<b>100%</b>
Theatre group	1	1	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	<b>100%</b>
Women's group	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>100%</b>
Other	1	5	1	1	1	<b>9</b>
	11%	56%	11%	11%	11%	<b>100%</b>

Respondents from the regular hall hirer survey were also asked to identify the hall they use most often (see Table 60) and their reason for hiring it (see Table 59 below).

Similarly as discussed above, hiring halls for older people groups was the most frequently reported reason for hiring the hall hired most often, with nine mentions. The second most frequent reason for regularly hiring the hall most often hired was for support groups such as AA with three mentions.

Nine respondents reported 'other' reasons for regular hiring a hall most often including:

- community/environmental group
- community group - all ages
- concert venue
- dance parties
- Pilates classes
- use the meeting room monthly for committee meetings
- dancing
- using Wurlitzer organ (2).

**Table 59: Reason for hire for hall hired most often (regular hall hire survey)**

Reason	Number	Per cent
Arts group	0	0%
Choir	0	0%
Club meeting	2	9%
Martial arts	0	0%
Play group	0	0%
Political group	2	9%
Religious group	2	9%
Older people group	9	39%
Support group (AA, Al-anon etc.)	3	13%

Theatre group	0	0%
Women's group	0	0%
Other	9	39%

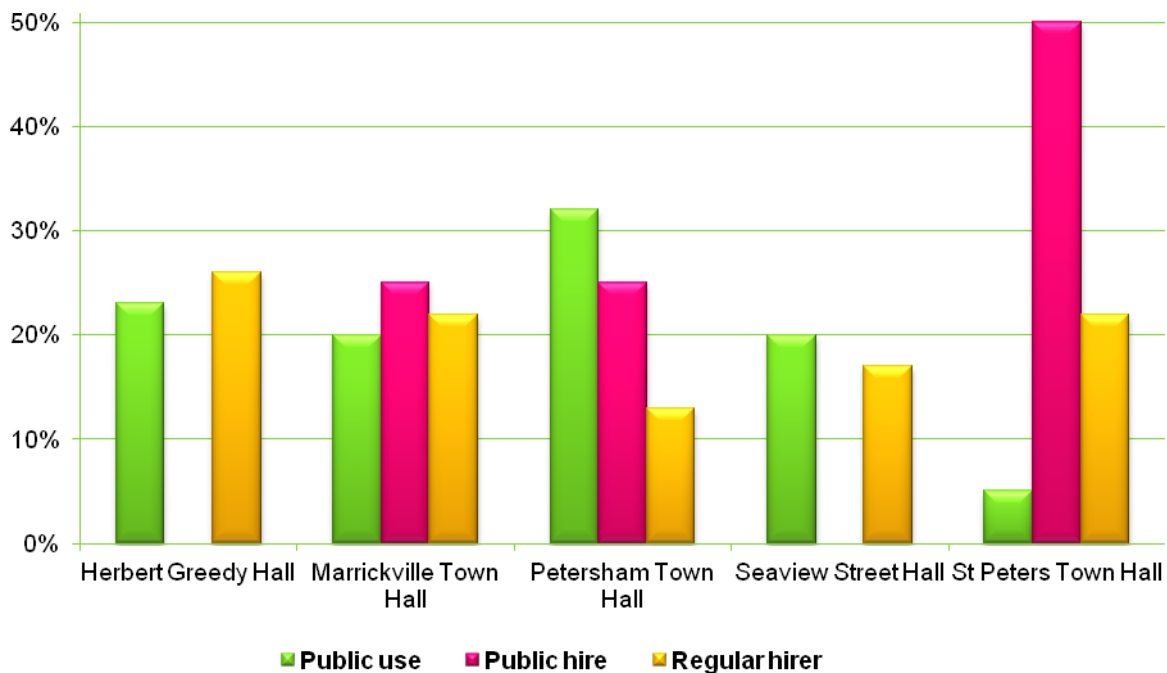
### Rating hall facilities

Respondents were asked to identify and then rate the quality of the hall they use or hire most often on a variety of service and building features.

Table 60: Hall used and hired most often

Hall name	General public surveys Used most often		General public surveys Hired most often		Regular hirer survey Hired most often	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Herbert Greedy Hall	14	23%	0	0%	6	26%
Marrickville Town Hall	12	20%	2	25%	5	22%
Petersham Town Hall	19	32%	2	25%	3	13%
Seaview Street Hall	12	20%	0	0%	4	17%
St Peters Town Hall	3	5%	4	50%	5	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100%</b>

Graph 9: Town hall used and hired most often



The following ratings apply to all Marrickville halls as a group. The data contained in Table 61 has been combined from the responses to the same question in three different surveys:

- the general public survey (hall hire and hall use sections)
- the general public intercept survey (hall hire and hall use sections)

- the regular hall hirers survey.

Generally halls rated very well across most services and features. The top two rated features were 'access by public transport' (83 per cent rated good or very good) and 'size' (82 per cent).

Around three quarters of respondents found the four features of 'cleanliness of facility', 'operating times', 'general presentation (external)', and 'lighting (internal)', to be good or very good, at 76 per cent, 76 per cent, 74 per cent and 70 per cent respectively.

The four features which received the lowest ratings (poor and very poor combined) were 'adequate parking' (30 per cent), 'acoustics', (22 per cent), 'bicycle parking' (21 per cent), and 'landscaping' (15 per cent).

**Table 61: Rating halls used and hired most often (general public: online and intercept surveys and regular hall hirers survey)**

Feature	Very poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very good	N/A	Total
Operating times	0	3	14	36	29	4	<b>86</b>
	0%	3%	16%	42%	34%	5%	<b>100%</b>
Cleanliness of facility	0	7	14	53	13	0	<b>87</b>
	0%	8%	16%	61%	15%	0%	<b>100%</b>
General presentation - paint and carpet internal	2	5	17	47	9	1	<b>81</b>
	2%	6%	21%	58%	11%	1%	<b>100%</b>
General presentation - paint and brickwork external	0	4	17	51	8	0	<b>80</b>
	0%	5%	21%	64%	10%	0%	<b>100%</b>
Lighting – internal	2	7	15	50	7	1	<b>82</b>
	2%	9%	18%	61%	9%	1%	<b>100%</b>
Lighting – external	1	6	27	32	3	10	<b>79</b>
	1%	8%	34%	41%	4%	13%	<b>100%</b>
Building maintenance	0	5	24	43	6	2	<b>80</b>
	0%	6%	30%	54%	8%	3%	<b>100%</b>
Landscaping and garden	1	11	26	33	3	7	<b>81</b>
	1%	14%	32%	41%	4%	9%	<b>100%</b>
Fees and charges	0	5	19	26	12	16	<b>78</b>
	0%	6%	24%	33%	15%	21%	<b>100%</b>
Security	0	4	18	39	3	17	<b>81</b>
	0%	5%	22%	48%	4%	21%	<b>100%</b>
Size	0	2	11	49	14	1	<b>77</b>
	0%	3%	14%	64%	18%	1%	<b>100%</b>
Equipment	2	6	26	35	2	6	<b>77</b>
	3%	8%	34%	45%	3%	8%	<b>100%</b>
Acoustics	7	10	15	37	7	3	<b>79</b>
	9%	13%	19%	47%	9%	4%	<b>100%</b>
Toilets	0	8	17	51	7	1	<b>84</b>
	0%	10%	20%	61%	8%	1%	<b>100%</b>

Kitchen	1	5	23	37	6	10	<b>82</b>
	1%	6%	28%	45%	7%	12%	<b>100%</b>
Meeting rooms	0	2	15	38	2	18	<b>75</b>
	0%	3%	20%	51%	3%	24%	<b>100%</b>
Access to public transport	0	1	13	45	24		<b>83</b>
	0%	1%	16%	54%	29%		<b>100%</b>
Disabled access	3	6	20	35	13		<b>77</b>
	4%	8%	26%	45%	17%		<b>100%</b>
Adequate parking	6	18	21	27	7		<b>79</b>
	8%	23%	27%	34%	9%		<b>100%</b>
Adequate bicycle storage	1	14	31	21	3		<b>70</b>
	1%	20%	44%	30%	4%		<b>100%</b>

Two submissions or responses were received by the research team that related in some way to the use of halls. The first was a submission from the Marrickville Heritage Society that went directly to Council and the second was a summary of senior's responses to the venue component of the Older people Activity survey.

The Marrickville Heritage Society is a community group with around 500 members that currently meets monthly at Herbert Greedy Hall. This venue is very suitable to their needs for meeting however lacks suitable storage for their files and historical artefacts. They also meet at Marrickville Town Hall and (previously) Petersham Town Hall neither of which venue they find suitable to their needs. Double booking at these venues was given as a major problem for their group on an ongoing basis. The group has requested an additional 25-30 meters of storage to meet their ongoing needs.

The Recreation Officer from Council provided a short summary of the relevant findings of the Older people Activities survey which will be reviewed for 2012. This survey received 36 responses and was primarily run to determine older people programming issues. Respondents were asked about the 'appropriateness of the room size', the 'comfortableness of the room temperature' and the 'cleanliness, comfort and ease of use' of the facility. Respondents were overwhelmingly positive in their responses with the majority indicating that they were happy with these aspects of the facilities.

The following comments were about specific issues that needed to be addressed:

- Air conditioning unit at Herb Greedy: one respondent indicated the venue was too hot while two others mentioned it either needs regular servicing or replacing
- Inadequate storage at Herb Greedy Hall; the Art Group require more space for materials (four respondents)
- Carpet needs replacing at Seaview St Hall (one respondent).

Respondents from the general public surveys were asked for any general comments about halls they use. The most often mentioned halls were Marrickville Town Hall and Seaview Street Hall with four sets of comments each. Herb Greedy Hall was also mentioned. Their comments have been grouped by venue.

#### Marrickville Town Hall

- *Marrickville town hall ok condition*
- *It's a lovely hall, but can get hot on one side during summer. Aircon doesn't seem to reach everyone. Some days fans are enough, but one side of the hall is hot. Need some heavy blinds/shutters on the Town Hall side. Think a permanent data projector might be a good thing as the meeting hall is small and setting one up makes the image too small... Or else it takes up a lot of room by having it further back in the room. :)*
- *I attend Marrickville Town Hall for older people exercise classes up to twice a week...being venue that is used/rented for other activities, unfortunately from time-to-time, the exercise classes take lower priority.*
- *Lack of parking. Security*
- *Is not as accessible - distant from train station - little parking.*

#### Seaview St Hall

- *The hall (Seaview St Hall) looks a little drab on first impression but it is a good size and the carpet is neat & clean for children to play on.*
- *Could do with painting.*
- *Floors no good.*

#### Herb Greedy Hall

- *Kitchen needs painting.*

### Attempting to hire Council halls

Respondents from the regular hall hirer survey who had not successfully hired a hall in Marrickville in the past 18 months were asked if they had attempted to hire any halls in Marrickville in the past five years. Respondents reported attempting to hire Marrickville Town Hall and Petersham Town Hall once each in 2011.

**Table 62: Attempted hire of halls in Marrickville in the past five years (Regular hall hirer survey)**

Hall	< 2007	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Herbert Greedy Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Marrickville Town Hall	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Petersham Town Hall	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Seaview Street Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
St Peters Town Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Of these attempts to hire a hall, one respondent reported using an expression of interest process. Respondents also reported two reasons for trying to hire Petersham Town Hall, once for an arts group and once for a playgroup.

### Hire of non-Council halls

Respondents from the regular hall hirer survey and the general public surveys were asked if they had hired non-Council halls, such as private or community halls in Marrickville or outside of the LGA, in the previous 18 months. Over half (55 per cent) reported hiring a community (not for profit) venue in the Marrickville area.

**Table 63: Hiring non-Council halls in the last 18 months (Regular hall hirer survey and general public surveys)**

Venue type	Number	Per cent
A private (for profit) facility in the Marrickville area.	1	5%
A community (not for profit) facility in the Marrickville area.	12	55%
A community (not for profit) facility in another council area.	2	9%
None of the above.	7	32%

Respondents from the regular hall hirer survey and the general public surveys were then asked if they had hired a council hall in another council area in the previous 18 months. Fifteen respondents (38 per cent) reported they had hired a council hall outside of Marrickville.

**Table 64: Hiring a council hall in another council area in the last 18 months (Regular hall hirer survey and general public surveys)**

Response	Number	Per cent
Yes	15	38%
No	24	62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100%</b>

The names given for the council halls hired in other LGAs were:

- *The Round House, University NSW*
- *Ashfield and Canterbury*
- *Orion Function Centre,*
- *Orion Function Centre*
- *MYRC*
- *Jarvis park*
- *Jarvis Park*
- *Ashbury Senior Citizens Centre*
- *Enmore Town Hall.*

It is likely that some respondents of the general public survey did not realise that the halls they hired were actually within the Marrickville LGA. The LGAs containing the council halls hired in other LGAs are listed in Table 65 . Canterbury and the City of Sydney were both reported as hire locations. Respondents were asked to name the Other LGAs and both responses were "Marrickville" indicating that some respondents of the general public survey did not quite understand the question.

**Table 65: LGA of council hall hired (Regular hall hirer survey and general public surveys)**

LGA	Number	Per cent
Ashfield	0	0%
Botany	0	0%
Canada Bay	0	0%
Canterbury	4	50%
Leichhardt	0	0%
Rockdale	0	0%
City of Sydney	2	25%
Other	2	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>

Respondents from the regular hall hirer survey and the general public surveys were then asked why they hired council halls in other LGAs. Almost one third of respondents reported availability on the date as the reason for hiring the hall. Other features such as better geographic location, cost, size and condition each received two mentions. Aesthetic appeal was not reported as a consideration.

**Table 66: Reason for hiring hall in other LGAs (Regular hall hirer survey and general public surveys)**

Reason	Number	Per cent
Better geographic location	2	14%
More aesthetic appeal	0	0%
Cost	2	14%
Size	2	14%
Condition	2	14%
Availability on date	4	29%
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar arrangement with a Theatre Organ owned by the Society installed</li> <li>• Society has a similar installation in this venue</li> </ul>	2	14%

### **Childcare Centres**

The childcare section of the online general public survey received the lowest response rate of all sections in that survey and Intercept surveys were not conducted at childcare centres.

The stakeholder online survey had seven responses from Council run childcare centres.

The following findings are therefore based on the small number of responses in the general public online survey combined with stakeholder responses where relevant and are clearly indicated.

### **Childcare centre use**

Respondents to the online general public survey were asked if they use any Council run or community based (not for profit) run child care service facilities in the

Marrickville area. 108 respondents answered this question with eight saying yes (seven per cent) and 100 saying no (93 per cent).

Respondents then indicated which Council run or community based care service facilities in the Marrickville area they currently use. Four respondents reported that they use:

- Cavendish Street Early Learning Centre (1 user or 33 per cent)
- Deborah Little Early Learning Centre (1 user or 33 per cent)
- Tillman Park Early Learning Centre (2 users or 67 per cent).

Respondents were also asked which Council run or community based child care facilities they used or use most often. Three respondents reported that they use:

- Cavendish Street Early Learning Centre (1 user or 33 per cent)
- Tillman Park Early Learning Centre (2 users or 67 per cent).

There is a large difference in the rate of child care centre use between men and women with one male respondent reporting he uses child care centres and four women respondents reporting they used child care centres (see Table 49). Note this is a very small sample.

### **Rating Council run or community based childcare centres**

Respondents of the general public online survey and stakeholder survey were asked to rate the quality of the childcare centres they use most often (general public) and the facilities they use which are provided by Council (stakeholders).

Generally childcare centres rated well across many services and basic features. The top three highly rated features were 'access by public transport' (six rated very good, two good, one poor), 'kitchen - general condition' (five rated good, one very good), and 'bathroom facilities' (six rated as good and one as poor).

The majority of respondents rated kitchen - appliances, furniture fixed, lighting - internal, equipment, cleanliness of facility, general presentation (external), landscaping and garden (and play area) as good.

The six features which received the lowest ratings (poor and very poor combined) were building maintenance, security, lighting - external, disabled toilets, adequate parking, and adequate drop off zones.

Childcare centres received the widest range of responses to each facility feature compared to other venue types. For example adequate parking received responses across all the options from very poor to very good. This may be partially due to the small number of responses to the childcare section generally and also to the variation between different childcare venues.

**Table 67: Rating Council run or community based childcare centres  
(General public online survey - used most often (2) and Stakeholder survey (7))**

	Very poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very good	N/A
Bathroom facilities	0	1	0	6	0	0
Toilets	0	2	1	4	0	0
Kitchen - general condition	0	0	1	5	1	0
Kitchen - appliances	0	0	2	5	0	0
Offices	0	0	2	3	1	0
Common areas	0	1	2	4	0	0
Furniture non-fixed (desks, tables, chairs)	0	0	2	4	0	1
Furniture fixed (cupboards, bookcases)	0	0	2	5	0	0
Lighting - internal	0	1	1	5	0	0
Lighting - external	1	2	1	3	0	0
Disabled toilets	2	1	2	0	1	1
Fees and charges	1	0	6	0	0	0
Meeting rooms	1	1	2	1	0	2
Acoustics	0	1	3	2	0	0
Security	0	4	0	3	0	0
Size	1	0	1	3	2	0
Equipment	0	0	1	5	0	1
Cleanliness of facility	0	0	2	4	1	1
General presentation - paint and carpet internal	1	1	3	3	0	0
General presentation - paint and brickwork external	0	1	3	5	0	0
Building maintenance	0	5	2	2	0	0
Landscaping and garden <and play area>	0	2	1	5	0	1
Access by public transport	1	0	0	2	6	0
Disabled access	0	2	3	2	2	0
Adequate parking	2	1	1	3	2	0
Adequate bicycle/scooter storage	1	0	3	3	1	0
Adequate drop off zones (general public survey only)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Adequate pram/stroller storage (general public survey only)	0	0	1	1	0	0

Respondents of the general public survey were then asked to explain why they rated features this way. They were strongly concerned about the quality of the grounds (rubbish and paths blocked) and car parking, commenting that:

- *Outdoor space covering on ground has lifted.*
- *Out the front is a council car park which is a disgrace, there is a charity clothing bin which always has all sorts of rubbish all over the ground, blocking the path. There is damage from the roots of a tree that the council should fix, not Tillman Park.*
- *Garden is great, but overrun with mosquitoes from the park next door. Really needs attention.*
- *The car park is a public car park, and there is nowhere else to go when it's full.*

Respondents of the general public survey were also asked to provide general feedback about the Council run or community based child care facilities they used or use most often.

- *Great staff.*
- *At the cost we pay, we should have flexibility of days, and not have to contribute food or nappies.*

### **Meeting the child care demands of Marrickville**

The eight respondents of the general public survey who had earlier indicated they use Council run or community based run child care service facilities in the Marrickville area, were then asked if their child care needs are adequately met by Council run or community based run child care service facilities in the Marrickville area. All eight respondents answered this question with half saying yes and half saying no.

All respondents to the online general public survey were asked if they need, but currently don't access, Council run or community based (not for profit) run child care service facilities in the Marrickville area. 188 respondents answered this question with eighteen saying yes (ten per cent) and 170 saying no (90 per cent).

The respondents who indicated they need but don't access Council run child care in Marrickville were asked to indicate the type of child care they need. All 11 categories of child care were reported as required with half of respondents saying they need but don't access long day care for toddlers (1 to 2 years). One third of respondents reported they need but don't access occasional care toddlers (1 to 2 years) and family day care.

**Table 68: Type of child needed but not accessed**

<b>Type of care required</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Long day care for my baby (under 12 months)	3	19%
Long day care for my toddler (1 to 2 years)	9	56%
Long day care for my child (3 to 5 years)	0	0%
Occasional care for my baby (0-12 months)	1	6%
Occasional care for my toddler (1 to 2 years)	5	31%
Occasional care for my child (3 to 5 years)	1	6%
Pre-school centre	3	19%
Before school care	1	6%
After school care	2	12%
Vacation care	1	6%
Family day care	5	31%

Seventeen respondents then indicated the age and number of children who require care suggesting that there is an unmet demand across all age groups except for high school aged children. Care is needed but not accessed for children aged:

- 0 to 12 months (5 x one child)
- 1 to 2 years (8 x one child)
- 3 to 5 years (1 x one child)
- primary school age (1 x one child and 2 x 2 children).

The explanation for wanting child care varied across ten different reasons with almost two thirds (62 per cent) of respondents reporting they wanted child care so they could work part-time and one third (31 per cent) reporting that they wanted child care to develop their child's social skills.

**Table 69: Reason for needing child care**

Reason	Number	Percent
To study	2	12%
To work full-time	4	25%
To work part-time	10	62%
To look for work	1	6%
For a break/respice	2	12%
To develop child's social skills	5	31%
Support child to be ready for school	1	6%
For my child's recreation and physical activity	4	25%
For other family responsibilities	0	0%
Other please specify: No one offers Sat Sun care for shift workers	1	6%

#### **Use of non-Council childcare facilities in Marrickville**

The same set of respondents were then asked if they currently use other providers of child care services in the Marrickville area. 16 respondents answered this question with:

- No (ten or 62 per cent)
- Yes, private for-profit childcare (four or 25 per cent)
- Yes, other community not-for-profit childcare (two or 12 per cent).

Respondents then provided their reasons for using other childcare providers in Marrickville with:

- four (67 per cent) indicating a place was available at the other provider
- two (33 per cent) saying the other provider was close to home
- one (17 per cent) saying the other provider was their preferred provider
- one (17 per cent) saying the other provider was close to siblings school.

Four respondents reported the names of the non-Council child care providers they use in Marrickville, including:

- *TAFE*
- *Happy Clown Kindy - Hurlstone Park*
- *Lees Learning Centre (two users).*

Respondents who indicated they used non-Council child care facilities in Marrickville were then asked to rate those facilities. Many features were rated as good or very good. The most significant concerns were with adequate parking (40 per cent rated as poor) and drop off zones (33 per cent rated as poor). This is similar to parking and drop off zones for Council run facilities.

**Table 70: Rating the non-council child care facility**

Feature	very poor	poor	neutral	good	very good
Cleanliness of facility	0	0	3	2	1
	0%	0%	50%	33%	17%
General presentation - paint and floor covering (internal)	0	0	2	2	2
	0%	0%	33%	33%	33%
General presentation - paint and brickwork (external)	0	0	2	2	1
	0%	0%	40%	40%	20%
Building maintenance	0	0	2	2	2
	0%	0%	33%	33%	33%
Landscaping garden and play area	0	0	1	4	1
	0%	0%	17%	67%	17%
Access by public transport	0	0	2	3	1
	0%	0%	33%	50%	17%
Disabled access	0	0	2	3	1
	0%	0%	33%	50%	17%
Adequate parking	0	2	2	1	0
	0%	40%	40%	20%	0%
Adequate drop off zones	0	2	2	2	0
	0%	33%	33%	33%	0%
Adequate pram/stroller storage	0	1	4	0	1
	0%	17%	67%	0%	17%
Adequate bicycle/scooter storage	0	0	5	0	1
	0%	0%	83%	0%	17%

### Use of childcare facilities outside of Marrickville

The same set of respondents were then asked if they currently use other providers of child care services in the Marrickville area. 13 respondents answered this question with:

- No (ten or 77 per cent)
- Yes, private for-profit childcare (one or eight per cent)
- Yes, other community not-for-profit childcare (two or 15 per cent).

Two of these respondents reported using child care facilities in the Sydney LGA and one uses a facility in the Hurstville LGA.

Four respondents then provided their reasons for using child care providers in other council areas:

- preferred provider
- close to home
- place available
- other (close to ex-wife's home).

The two types of child care used in other LGAs were TAFE and OOSH.

- *Happy Clown Kindy - Hurlstone Park*
- *Lees Learning Centre (two users).*

Respondents who indicated they used child care facilities outside the Marrickville LGA were asked to rate those facilities. Many features were rated as neutral or good. Most concerns were with general presentation (internal) (33 per cent for very poor), and disabled access (33 per cent for very poor). These ratings are very different to those for Council run facilities in Marrickville.

**Table 71: Rating the child care facility used in another council area**

	very poor	poor	neutral	good	very good
Cleanliness of facility	0	0	2	1	0
	0%	0%	67%	33%	0%
General presentation - paint and floor covering (internal)	0	1	1	1	0
	0%	33%	33%	33%	0%
General presentation - paint and brickwork (external)	1	0	1	1	0
	33%	0%	33%	33%	0%
Building maintenance	0	0	1	1	0
	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%
Landscaping garden and play area	0	1	2	0	0
	0%	33%	67%	0%	0%
Access by public transport	0	0	1	1	0
	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%
Disabled access	1	0	1	1	0
	33%	0%	33%	33%	0%
Adequate parking	0	0	2	1	0
	0%	0%	67%	33%	0%
Adequate drop off zones	0	0	3	0	0
	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Adequate pram/stroller storage	0	0	2	0	0
	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Adequate bicycle/scooter storage	0	0	2	0	0
	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%

Respondents were also asked to provide any additional feedback about their experience of accessing child care in Marrickville or other local council areas. Comments included:

- *Community awareness for constructive feedback in relevant timeframe with surveys.*
- *More occasional care part time so she can work part time as well.*
- *More after school care needed at Wilkins Public.*
- *I only found 1 not-for-profit childcare and after a lots of research. They are not listed in the council website, I think they should. And I have been calling the Marrickville council Family Day Care number to put my daughter's name in the list for about 2 days, left message and no one calls back, why don't the council and family day cares have an online application form, would be so much easier.*
- *It's expensive and there are not enough places.*

## Community centres, cultural centres, galleries and resource centres

Just over one quarter of respondents of the online public survey (28 per cent) reported using community and cultural centres. An additional 25 intercept surveys were taken at three community locations: 15 at Tom Forster Community Centre; four at Newtown Neighbourhood Centre; and six surveys were conducted by telephone about the Chrissie Cotter Gallery.

In total 54 respondents (29 online and 25 intercept) have provided their views on many aspects of community and cultural centre use and facilities.

**Table 72: Cultural and community centres**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Yes	29	28%	25	28%	54	28%
No	73	72%	63	72%	136	72%
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>100%</b>

It is not possible to accurately determine the single most frequently used cultural or community centre by respondents, as the large proportion of intercept surveys conducted at chosen specific locations sets a bias towards those locations. What can be determined from Table 73 below is the frequency of use for those people using each venue.

For example, of the 13 respondents reporting they use Chrissie Cotter Gallery, none of them use it every week or more, and about half (10 people or 45 per cent) use it a few times a year.

**Table 73: Frequency of community and cultural centre use**

	Never	Once or less than once a year	A few times a year	Once a month	Once a week	More than once a week
Chrissie Cotter Gallery	3	6	10	3	0	0
	14%	27%	45%	14%	0%	0%
Innari Housing	13	0	0	0	0	0
	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	0	0	0	0	4	0
	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Portuguese Ethnographic Museum	11	1	0	0	0	0
	100%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Portuguese Welfare Centre	13	0	0	0	0	0
	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Tom Foster Community Care	10	2	2	2	9	2
	37%	7%	7%	7%	33%	7%
Pathways Early Childhood Intervention	9	3	0	0	0	1
	69%	23%	0%	0%	0%	8%
Jarvie Park Youth Resource Centre	10	0	5	0	1	3
	53%	0%	26%	0%	5%	16%
Magic Yellow Bus	12	1	0	0	0	0
	92%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%

### Specific community and cultural centres

Survey respondents were asked which community and cultural centres they use most often and then a series of questions about that specific centre.

Table 74 below indicates which venues the respondents use most often and therefore which venues are being discussed and rated in later questions. As mentioned previously, the “most often” question in this case, does not provide a determination of the most popular community or cultural venue; it simply indicates those venues being rated.

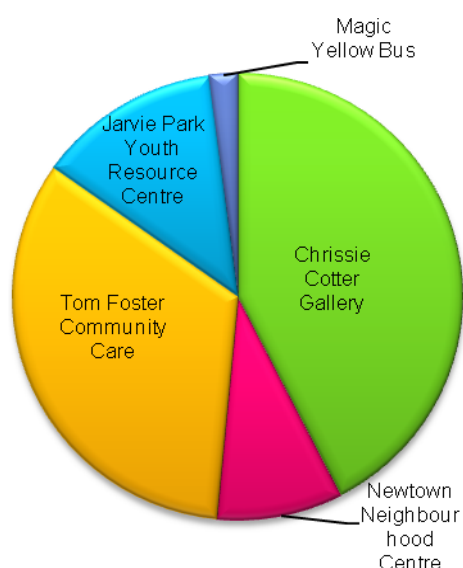
The five community centres and cultural centres which were used by respondents most often were:

- Chrissie Cotter Gallery
- Newtown Neighbourhood Centre
- Tom Foster Community Care
- Jarvie Park Youth Resource Centre
- Magic Yellow Bus.

**Table 74: Council community centres, cultural centres, galleries or resource centres used most often**

Centre	Number	Per cent
Chrissie Cotter Gallery	19	42%
Innari Housing	0	0%
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	4	9%
Portuguese Ethnographic Museum	0	0%
Portuguese Welfare Centre	0	0%
Tom Foster Community Care	15	33%
Pathways Early Childhood Intervention	0	0%
Jarvie Park Youth Resource Centre	6	13%
Magic Yellow Bus	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Graph 10: Community or cultural centre used most often**



There is a large difference in the rate of community and cultural centre use between men and women with 13 (20 per cent) of all male respondents reporting they use community and cultural centres and 37 (32 per cent) of all female respondents reporting they use community and cultural centres (see Table 49).

**Table 75: Council community centres, cultural centres, galleries or resource centres used most often by gender**

Community or cultural venue	Women		Men	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Chrissie Cotter Gallery	12	38%	6	50%
Innari Housing	0	0%	0	0%
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre	4	12%	0	0%
Portuguese Ethnographic Museum	0	0%	0	0%
Portuguese Welfare Centre	0	0%	0	0%
Tom Foster Community Care	12	38%	3	25%
Pathways Early Childhood Intervention	0	0%	0	0%
Jarvie Park Youth Resource Centre	3	9%	3	25%
Magic Yellow Bus	1	3%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Rating community and cultural centres

Respondents were asked to rate the quality of the community and cultural centres they use most often on a variety of service and building features. The following ratings apply to the five centres mentioned above as a group. However, given that most respondents answering these questions used Chrissie Cotter Gallery (42 per cent) and Tom Foster Community Care (33 per cent) most often, the following findings are highly applicable to those two facilities.

Generally community and cultural centres rated very well across most services and features. The top three highly rated features were the 'cleanliness of facility' (95 per cent rated good or very good), 'general presentation (external)' (82 per cent) and 'general presentation (internal)' (77 per cent).

Around three quarters of respondents rated the four features of size, toilets, lighting (internal), and fees and charges to be good or very good at 73 per cent, 73 per cent, 72 per cent and 71 per cent respectively.

The three features which received the lowest ratings (poor and very poor combined) were bicycle storage (30 per cent), adequate parking (26 per cent), and signage (15 per cent).

**Table 76: Rating the quality of Council community centre, cultural centre, gallery or resource centre used most often**

Feature	Very poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very good	N/A
Operating times	0	1	7	11	21	3
	0%	2%	16%	26%	49%	7%
Cleanliness of facility	0	0	3	15	24	1
	0%	0%	7%	35%	56%	2%
General presentation - paint and carpet internal	0	3	6	14	19	1
	0%	7%	14%	33%	44%	2%
General presentation - paint and brickwork external	0	1	6	18	17	1
	0%	2%	14%	42%	40%	2%
Lighting - internal	1	1	9	16	15	1
	2%	2%	21%	37%	35%	2%
Lighting - external	0	2	10	10	15	5
	0%	5%	24%	24%	36%	12%
Landscaping and garden	0	5	11	8	14	4
	0%	12%	26%	19%	33%	10%
Building maintenance	0	5	8	9	15	5
	0%	12%	19%	21%	36%	12%
Fees and charges	0	0	5	11	18	7
	0%	0%	12%	27%	44%	17%
Security	1	1	11	7	15	5
	2%	2%	28%	18%	38%	12%
Toilets	0	0	9	11	19	2
	0%	0%	22%	27%	46%	5%
Kitchen	0	2	11	12	13	4
	0%	5%	26%	29%	31%	10%
Signage	2	4	13	10	11	2
	5%	10%	31%	24%	26%	5%
Size	0	0	9	14	17	2
	0%	0%	21%	33%	40%	5%
Equipment	2	3	8	12	12	4
	5%	7%	20%	29%	29%	10%
Access by public transport	1	2	14	17	6	
	2%	5%	35%	42%	15%	
Disabled access	0	4	9	17	8	
	0%	11%	24%	45%	21%	

Adequate parking	1	8	15	8	3
	3%	23%	43%	23%	9%
Adequate bicycle storage	4	6	14	7	3
	12%	18%	41%	21%	9%

Respondents were asked to give general comments about the rating they gave for the community or cultural centre they use most often. Most comments fell into a range of categories about equipment, building issues, Internet (Wi-Fi), and size, and in some cases can be directly attributed to a specific venue.

Overall, comments were positive and many offered suggestions for improvements. There was some concern over building maintenance, size and equipment. General comments included:

- *Process takes too long with non emergency maintenance. Time frame on when minor works will happen.*
- *Council needs more arts facilities.*
- *All cultural centres and town halls should have wi fi for events , hirers and exhibitors*
- *No bicycle parking even though a tennis court, club, and bowls and playing fields nearby.*

Specific remarks about Chrissie Cotter Gallery included concerns over Internet availability, hanging systems, equipment, staffing and security issues:

- *There should be WI-FI at the CCG.*
- *Needs to be internet access, telephone, projector and audio visual equipment such as speakers etc. Would be good to have a committee of people running the gallery. The gallery should have staff to keep it open rather than rely on the hirer to open it. This would ensure that it was also open and would increase the quality of the exhibiting artists. Would add to the cohesiveness of the program.*
- *The wall hanging system is in a poor state of supply, marketing support needed, lighting improved and updated (non-existent), no shelving on walls, would have been good to have internet connection. TV screen/flat screen.*
- *Back door was unlockable and held down by a weight which might be dangerous for break-ins. The hangers are a mixture of great technology and not so good.*
- *Internet connection would have been really helpful and a great resource to have at the centre.*
- *Excellent resource, especially given that Marrickville is considered as the arts suburb of Sydney – hub – it is great to have a venue for minimum cost that local artists are able to promote within. Better signage could be provided to link CCG from Parramatta rd and Salisbury Roads. Technology upgrades could be added as this is a growing medium within the arts scene.*
- *Chrissie Cotter Gallery Microwave not working – not many plinths available.*
- *Great the opportunity, Light filled space Great to have wall fittings – they could be left set up – as they become a bit tangled, it took a couple of hours to untangle. Great to have a kitchen and accessible lift – did need to use the lift – it got jammed with guest speaker in it – door had to be yanked open but as we were new we didn't know how to use it and that we could yank so hard.... Great that is accessible though.*

Specific remarks about Jarvie Park Resource Centre included:

- *Improvement to the floor, better ventilation! Better support for young people with mobility.*
- *Pathways centre growing rapidly services growing, we are bulging at the seams a DA went in and extension is currently being done – which is extremely necessary due to growing needs and services we provide.*

The two specific comments about Newtown Neighbourhood Centre were concerned with size, equipment and maintenance issues:

- *The main upstairs hall would hold 20 or more. There is only one stall in the women's toilet! The electric hand dryer is placed so it goes on each time you move near it. It is unfortunate two small meeting rooms are off limits as when staff meetings are held, and must use the main hall, other groups move and must find other meeting venues.*
- *The Centre is doing the best it can with an old building & facilities - only cosmetic. I think Council is taken advantage of with tradesmen - the front entrance took absolutely months and months!! Water was pouring through light fittings upstairs - supposed to be fixed.*

The two specific remarks about Tom Foster Community Centre were overwhelmingly positive:

- *Tom Foster Community Centre is tops.*
- *Tom Foster picks me up.*

The volunteer driver service provided by Tom Foster that supports elderly isolated people to attend groups and activities by picking them up and driving them back to their homes is a critical element to meeting the needs of this group. This is a resource intense service however it is a very important way to ensure that elderly frail can access the services available as public transport, family support or other transport options are unavailable to them. Ongoing support for volunteers to increase access to facilities and services needs to be considered in the development of policy options and funding for community facilities.

While the sample size for Tom Foster was small the team visited the Centre for the Recreation Research and a survey was conducted at that time with a group of residents. Both the observational findings, review of the programming, general maintenance and survey responses all support the high value and regard with which Tom Foster is held by residents who use the facility.

## **Libraries**

As mentioned previously, libraries were the most used venues by respondents of the online survey at 61 per cent. An additional 26 intercept surveys were taken across the library branches: 19 at Marrickville Branch, five at Stanmore and two at St Peters. Members of the general public completed intercept surveys as well as a CALD Book Club, Lunar New Year celebrants, a family history group and the parents or carers of children in craft workshops.

In total of 90 respondents (64 online and 26 intercept) have provided their views on many aspects of library branch use and facilities.

**Table 77: Library use**

	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Yes	64	61%	26	30%	90	47%
No	41	39%	62	70%	103	53%
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>100%</b>

The most often used library by respondents was Marrickville Branch with a total 33% of respondents using the branch once or more each week. The least used was Dulwich Hill Branch with 47% of respondents saying they never use it.

**Table 78: Frequency of library use**

Branch name	Never	Once a year or less than once a year	A few times a year	Once a month	Once a week	More than once a week
Dulwich Hill Branch Library	20	5	11	3	1	3
	47%	12%	26%	7%	2%	7%
Marrickville Library	2	5	25	19	15	10
	3%	7%	33%	25%	20%	13%
St Peters / Sydenham Library	20	2	6	1	3	1
	61%	6%	18%	3%	9%	3%
Stanmore Branch Library	16	5	6	2	1	3
	48%	15%	18%	6%	3%	9%

Men and women use libraries in much the same proportions as each other and in similar proportion to the combined library use generally of 47 per cent, with 46 per cent of male respondents reporting they use libraries and 47 per cent of women respondents reporting they use libraries (see Table 49).

### **What do people do at Marrickville libraries?**

The most popular activity at every branch was clearly borrowing items such as books, DVDs etc. with 72 respondents (31 per cent) saying they borrowed items.

Participating in activities and events, research and study, participating in classes and groups, and using the Internet were the next most popular activities at libraries with 14 per cent, 11 per cent, 9 per cent and 9 per cent of respondents undertaking these activities respectively.

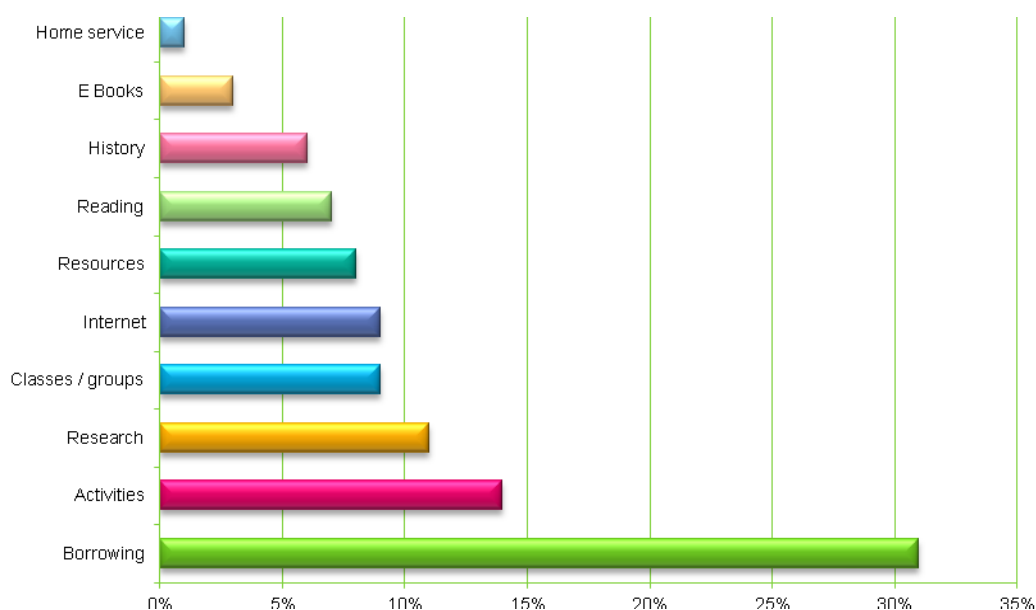
The least popular activity was using the home library service at 1 per cent.

**Table 79: Activities across library branches**

Activity	Dulwich Hill Branch	Marrickville Branch	St Peters Branch	Stanmore Branch	Total per activity	Per cent of all activities
Borrowing books, DVDs etc.	8	55	1	8	<b>72</b>	<b>31%</b>
	11%	76%	1%	11%	<b>100%</b>	
Activities and events	4	22	2	5	<b>33</b>	<b>14%</b>
	5%	81%	0%	14%	<b>100%</b>	
Research / study	2	19	0	5	<b>26</b>	<b>11%</b>

	12%	67%	6%	15%	100%	
Classes / groups	1	17	0	3	21	9%
	13%	80%	0%	7%	100%	
Internet	3	15	0	3	21	9%
	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	
Use resources (photocopier, printing etc.)	1	14	0	4	19	8%
	14%	71%	0%	14%	100%	
Quiet reading	2	11	0	4	17	7%
	8%	73%	0%	19%	100%	
History	2	12	0	1	15	6%
	12%	65%	0%	24%	100%	
E Books	0	4	0	3	7	3%
	5%	74%	0%	21%	100%	
Home library service	0	2	0	0	2	1%
	0%	57%	0%	43%	100%	
						100%

**Graph 11: Activities at libraries**



### Specific branches

Survey respondents were asked which library they use most often and then a series of questions about that specific branch facility.

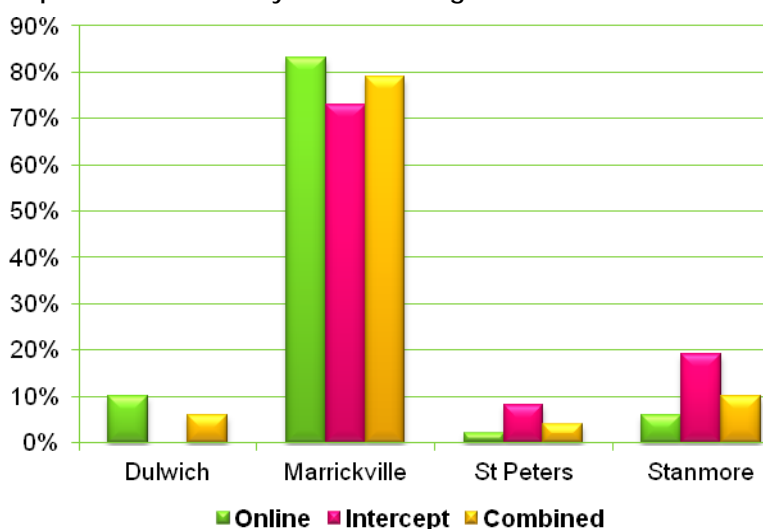
The library branch used most often was Marrickville Branch with 79 per cent of all library respondents reporting using this branch most often. Taking into account that 19 Intercept surveys were completed at this branch, it remains the most popular library by far, as 83 per cent of online respondents reported using it most often.

Dulwich Hill was the second branch used most often with ten per cent of online respondents using this library most often.

Table 80: Council library branches used most often

Branch name	Online		Intercept		Combined	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Dulwich Hill Branch Library	5	10%	0	0%	5	6%
Marrickville Library	43	83%	19	73%	62	79%
St Peters / Sydenham Library	1	2%	2	8%	3	4%
Stanmore Branch Library	3	6%	5	19%	8	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100%</b>

Graph 12: Council library branches usage



### Rating library facilities

Respondents were asked to rate the quality of the library branch they use most often on a variety of service and building features. The following ratings apply to all library branches as a group. However, given that 79 per cent of all library respondents use Marrickville Branch, the following findings are highly applicable to Marrickville Branch in its own right.

Generally, libraries rated well across most services and features. The top three rated features were the 'cleanliness of facility' (61 per cent rated good or very good) 'access by public transport' (60 per cent) and 'operating times' (59 per cent).

Around half of respondents found the three features of 'lighting (internal)', 'general presentation (internal)' and 'general presentation (external)' to be good or very good at 54 per cent, 53 per cent and 46 per cent respectively.

The three features which received the lowest ratings (poor and very poor combined) were 'adequate parking (25 per cent)', 'toilets' (21 per cent), and 'size' (20 per cent).

**Table 81: Rating the quality of the library used most often**

Feature	Rating					
	Very poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very good	N/A
Operating times	4	5	8	35	24	1
	5%	6%	10%	45%	31%	1%
Cleanliness of facility	1	2	11	36	25	1
	1%	3%	14%	47%	33%	1%
General presentation - paint and carpet internal	2	7	13	38	15	1
	3%	9%	17%	50%	20%	1%
General presentation - paint and brickwork external	0	8	16	36	10	1
	0%	11%	23%	51%	14%	1%
Lighting - internal	1	4	14	40	14	1
	1%	5%	19%	54%	19%	1%
Lighting - external	0	7	19	34	8	6
	0%	9%	26%	46%	11%	8%
Landscaping and garden	2	10	23	26	6	8
	3%	13%	31%	35%	8%	11%
Building maintenance	0	6	25	33	6	3
	0%	8%	34%	45%	8%	4%
Fees and charges	1	3	25	25	11	7
	1%	4%	35%	35%	15%	10%
Security	1	2	27	28	9	5
	1%	3%	38%	39%	12%	7%
Signage	0	7	26	28	7	2
	0%	10%	37%	40%	10%	3%
Layout and design	3	11	20	29	7	1
	4%	15%	28%	41%	10%	1%
Toilets	6	15	22	19	4	6
	8%	21%	31%	26%	6%	8%
Size	10	10	24	22	4	1
	14%	14%	34%	31%	6%	1%
Access by public transport	0	3	13	40	20	
	0%	4%	17%	53%	26%	
Disabled access	2	3	34	20	10	
	3%	4%	49%	29%	14%	
Adequate parking	11	14	31	16	6	
	14%	18%	40%	21%	8%	
Adequate bicycle storage	2	10	35	15	4	
	3%	15%	53%	23%	6%	

Respondents were asked to follow the ratings activity with general comments about the library they use most often. Most comments fell into a range of categories about staff, collections, Internet and Wi-Fi, and size.

Overall, comments were mainly positive and many offered suggestions for improvements. Comments have been grouped in the following themes; staff and customer service, services available and usage, fittings and fixtures, accessibility and parking, Marrickville library upgrade and cultural diversity.

### **Staff and customer service**

- *Pleasant staff*
- *Overall very happy, staff very helpful*
- *Unfortunately some staff do not seem to know about the events that happen in your library and they don't seem to know how to use your own website. I've had several problems, and once I had to instruct 2 desk staff in navigating the library website!!*
- *Good friendly service.*

### **Services available and usage**

- *Marrickville council needs a bigger library or at the very least a premier library for the local area. a good example is the Stanton library in North Sydney*
- *E access upgrading eagerly anticipated at Dulwich Hill and all other libraries*
- *More books available*
- *Enjoy the family tree sessions and author talks :)*
- *Important to have smaller branches with more personal attention*
- *Stanmore library could be greatly improved by introducing wireless internet*
- *Dulwich Hill Library has no after hours return chute and is closed Fridays*
- *I understand there would be a limited budget to run the library but I was disappointed in the number of books and video/CD film collection. Maybe I am spoilt coming from Woollahra Library.*
- *Stanmore library could incorporate more features to make it more of a 'community hub' and use the rest of the space in the reserve for great enjoyment of residents (gardens etc)*
- *Maybe Stanmore Lib could put up a sign or 2 asking parents to keep toddlers under supervision.*
- *Respondent also uses Marrickville Library regularly for activities and events; internet; and quiet reading.*
- *St Peters / Sydenham Library regularly for classes / groups; activities and events; internet; and to use resources (photocopier etc).*
- *Also uses Marrickville Library regularly for borrowing books etc; classes / groups; history; research / study; and to use resources.*
- *Dulwich Hill Library to borrow books etc and for history.*
- *I think that Marrickville Library is very good for reading and Internet access.*
- *Some events like Chinese New Year are great. Thank you.*
- *Respondent also goes to activities and events at Marrickville, St Peters and Stanmore libraries*
- *Should be a rotation of CDs and DVDs between libraries so different titles are available.*
- *Marrickville library opening hours are too short on Sundays.*

### **Fittings and fixtures**

- *The layout, lighting, displays all looks very tired & not very inspiring. Maybe better ceilings or lighting, and wall colour could help?*
- *Marrickville Library needs refurbishment/extensions. It is well-used and various groups compete for space.*

### **Accessibility and parking**

- *Undercover bike parking close to, or in direct line of sight of, the front door always appreciated*
- *St Peters / Sydenham Library - good for prams - ramp*

- *Marrickville library has insufficient parking*

#### **Library upgrade**

- *Marrickville library is a good size for the amount of people that use it, having a huge civic centre and library is a waste of taxpayers' money, what we really need is affordable housing for the large numbers of people living in boarding houses*

#### **Cultural diversity**

- *I come to Marrickville because I work at Leichhardt and of course come to Arabic book group.*
- *The Arabic Library needs more of new publications of books and video tapes (translated from Arabic).*
- *Marrickville Library – the Arabic Section is excellent, but there is a shortfall in new Arabic books, and the library is in need of more of new Arabic books (translated from Arabic).*

## Youth Feedback

Marrickville Council has a positive program to support and provide a voice for young people in the community. They employ a special Community Project Officer – Youth to coordinate this effort and they provide numerous fora including a Youth Council and avenues through which young people can provide feedback to Council on issues of significance to them. It also enables Council to take the issues that are important to young people in to account in their planning and decision making processes.

For this study the team has drawn upon the outcomes of these Council run consultations including the Marrickville Youth Forum (attended by 120 young people), and consultations run at the Newtown Festival and the Marrickville Festival during the year.

### Outcomes of the Marrickville Youth Forum

This forum was attended by 120 young people and covered topics including: social life, sports facilities, parks, entertainment, safety, libraries. Participants were asked to give feedback on where young people like to go in the Marrickville area and also what young people like to do? They were then asked what they felt Council could provide in the way of new services or facilities that would make life better for young people in this area? The Table below gives an overview of these responses.

Of Council provided facilities young people indicated that they were using the Library, the PCYC and the Marrickville Youth Resource Centre.

They indicated that they wanted more appropriate programming for young people in the library, more resources for 18 – 22 year olds and safer, social spaces for young people to hang out. They are high users of outdoor spaces including parks, streets and shopping strips and in this regard they would like better maintained parks, more skate parks, ‘hang out’ places and spaces where they could be untroubled by police.

Young people are interested in more music venues, festivals and events, outdoor cinema and other recreational opportunities that are free of cost.

**Table 82: Marrickville Youth Forum Feedback**

What do you currently do and use?	What you would like more of?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More appropriate Library programs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Outdoor facilities including Petersham Park, Jarvie Park, McNeilly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better maintained parks,</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marrickville Youth Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources for older youth i.e. 18 to 22</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCYC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hang out areas for young people to gather without being moved on by police</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shops along Marrickville Road ; Marrickville Metro</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skate parks</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the street</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve young people in developing community resources for young people</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church facilities – youth groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More school involvement in community activities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council pools and Marrickville Festival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More services offering free things to do as an alternative to getting into trouble</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movies;</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More music activities</li> </ul>

The forum offered young people the opportunity to participate in a series of workshops on a range of topics including the following that had information relevant to this study:

- Where do young people like to hang out
- Access to computers
- Work training surviving
- Having a say in Council

Young people indicated they wanted things open longer at night so they had places to go. They wanted more venues for music, workshops and sports including indoor soccer. The education opportunities they were interested included:

- Venues for Music (workshops)
- Study Groups/rooms ( Yr's 11 & 12) Computers (more computers to access for longer)
- More Cooking work shops
- Graffiti work shops
- Language classes

In additional to sport and indoor soccer they reported wanting access to the following:

- Youth Centre Open Days;

- Youth centre programs for untroubled youth;
- PCYC programs
- Yoga/Pilates
- Music Equipment ( drums, guitar)
- Youth Café – Hang out for Youth with drink and food shop
- TRANSPORT (to and from Youth Centres)
- Open at night
- Drop In open till 8/9 PM at night

In relation to computers they reported wanting:

- Free Wi-Fi points around the area;
- More places with free internet

The Community Engagement Council Staff also fed data directly into the Council Library Concept Design Survey as a result of the Have a Say with Council workshop.

- A number of teenagers don't use their local library
- Teenagers said they would mostly use the library to access the internet
- Not a lot of teenagers said that they borrow books from the library
- Some teenagers said they use the library to use the x-box and other games
- Most teenagers like to use the library as a quiet space to study with friends
- Most students suggested having a study area for students
- Some students suggested having a 'Youth Lounge', as an area to hang with friends
- Most students suggested having the green space as a place to access free wi-fi and work outside with friends
- A few students suggested having workshops, talks by tutors etc would be good for HSC students
- A lot of students said they didn't know what activities happen at their local library
- Most students said if they want to find out what activities are happening at the library, they would visit the library or check the website
- There wasn't a strong case either for or against accessing information about activities at the Library via Facebook or emails

Additional survey responses from 74 young people living in the Marrickville area were gathered at the Marrickville Festival. Their feedback is presented below however many of their issues related to the need for improved sport and recreation facilities which were covered in the earlier project Recreation Needs Research Study. It is worth, however, considering these needs in the context of Council's facilities study as several of the larger Council owned facilities the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Centre and Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre have the potential to offer solutions to some of these needs for young people:

- 18% of Young People surveyed would like an affordable pool or water park facility especially for older youth, not babies and toddlers only.
- 13% of Young People surveyed would like a youth gym, sports equipment hire and facilities with sporting events.
- 10% of Young People surveyed would like to see a youth cafe open at night in Marrickville with live music.
- 10% of Young People surveyed would like a youth centre drop in at night and for them to have more and improved resources.
- 8% of Young People surveyed would like more Hip Hop, dance workshops and dance parties.
- 8% of Young People surveyed would like more free legal street art walls and community acceptance of the practice.
- 3% of Young people would like access to a youth theatre space and facilities.
- 3% of Young People surveyed want Midnight Basketball in Marrickville.
- 3% of Young People surveyed want improved park and recreation facilities.

**Table 83: Newtown Area Improvements Identified by Young People**

Top 6 Improvements	Additional feedback from Newtown
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% would like to see more affordable under 18 night music outdoor events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% (8) felt that there should be more skate parks near Newtown.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 95% wanted a Youth cafe with live music</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• . 7% felt there should be an all year round disco venue.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 95% thought the idea of a youth cafe with training and work placement opportunities, live music and night drop in would be of huge benefit to Young People.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41% felt there should be more festivals held each year.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70% said that an outdoor cinema event would awesome.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41% of Young People surveyed felt there should be more festivals held each year</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 63% felt more free live music and events would increase community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 41% would benefit from a youth centre with night drop in</li> </ul>

participation for young people.	facilities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12% would like to see designated youth zones or chill out areas</li> </ul>

Many of these findings fall under the remit of the recreation research which identified the needs of young people as a high priority as there was clearly a lack in provision and servicing for this age group. That said there are clearly opportunities for Marrickville's in determining its strategic directions for facilities to give careful consideration to the needs of young people to ensure accessibility, availability, and positive opportunities for young people to current facilities that they current access; the MYRC, the PCYC, the library, parks and pools, and other informal open spaces and shopping strips and also in thinking through the priorities for strategic directions to facilities to be provided for the incoming population.

### Stakeholder survey

A total of 68 people participated in the stakeholder survey. Eleven online respondents chose to complete only parts of the survey and exited the online system before the final submission point, thus creating a partial completion. The survey was fully completed by 57 respondents.

Stakeholders were asked to provide the name of their organisation or service. 58 respondents gave their names which have been summarised into service type in Table 84 below.

**Table 84: Organisation or service type**

Organisation / service type	Number of respondents
Child care centre or preschool	17
Church (service, group or congregation)	9
Gender and GLBTQI (service or group)	5
Youth service	3
Artists (group or gallery)	2
Migrant service	2
Museum	2
School	2
Community centre	1
Community college	1
Community group	1
Employment service	1
Health service	1
Housing service	1
Library	1
Marrickville Council	1
Senior service	1
Women's service	1

Almost half (44 per cent) of these organisations lease or provide their services from a Marrickville Council facility.

**Table 85: Leasing or providing service from a Marrickville Council facility**

Response	Number	Per cent
Yes	30	44%
No	38	56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>100%</b>

Stakeholders were asked to rate the quality of the Marrickville Council facility they lease or use on a variety of service and building features. The following ratings apply to the all these facilities as a group.

Generally Marrickville Council facilities leased or used by stakeholders rated very well across most services and features. The top three highly rated features were 'access to public transport' (77 per cent rated good or very good), 'lighting (internal)' (73 per cent) and 'size' (73 per cent).

Over half of stakeholders rated the eight features of toilets, cleanliness of facility, landscaping and garden, common areas, bathroom facilities, general presentation (external), fixed furniture and general presentation (internal) to be good or very good at 58 per cent, 57 per cent, 57 per cent, 55 per cent, 54 per cent, 54 per cent 52 per cent, and 50 per cent respectively.

The four features which received the lowest ratings (poor and very poor combined) were building maintenance (29 per cent), disabled access (23 per cent), adequate parking (23 per cent) and lighting (external) (23 per cent).

**Table 86: Rating the quality of the Council facility the organisation or service uses**

	Very poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very good	N/A
Bathroom facilities	0	2	6	12	1	3
	0%	8%	25%	50%	4%	12%
Toilets	0	4	5	12	2	1
	0%	17%	21%	50%	8%	4%
Kitchen - general condition	0	5	5	8	2	3
	0%	22%	22%	35%	9%	13%
Kitchen - appliances	0	5	6	8	2	2
	0%	22%	26%	35%	9%	9%
Offices	1	1	4	6	2	8
	5%	5%	18%	27%	9%	36%
Common areas	0	2	8	9	3	0
	0%	9%	36%	41%	14%	0%
Furniture non-fixed (desks, tables, chairs)	0	2	7	9	1	4
	0%	9%	30%	39%	4%	17%
Furniture fixed (cupboards, bookcases)	0	1	7	11	1	3
	0%	4%	30%	48%	4%	13%
Lighting - internal	0	2	4	13	3	0
	0%	9%	18%	59%	14%	0%
Lighting - external	1	4	7	8	2	0
	5%	18%	32%	36%	9%	0%
Disabled toilets	2	2	3	6	4	5
	9%	9%	14%	27%	18%	23%
Fees and charges	1	1	12	1	4	3
	5%	5%	55%	5%	18%	14%
Meeting rooms	2	2	6	4	1	8
	9%	9%	26%	17%	4%	35%
Acoustics	0	4	9	2	3	4
	0%	18%	41%	9%	14%	18%
Security	0	5	5	7	1	5
	0%	22%	22%	30%	4%	22%
Size	1	1	4	7	9	0
	5%	5%	18%	32%	41%	0%
Equipment	0	3	6	7	1	5
	0%	14%	27%	32%	5%	23%
Cleanliness of facility	0	2	5	9	3	2
	0%	10%	24%	43%	14%	10%
General presentation - paint and carpet internal	0	4	6	7	3	0
	0%	20%	30%	35%	15%	0%

General presentation - paint and brickwork external	1	1	8	10	2	0
	5%	5%	36%	45%	9%	0%
Building maintenance	0	6	5	8	2	0
	0%	29%	24%	38%	10%	0%
Landscaping and garden	1	3	3	11	1	2
	5%	14%	14%	52%	5%	10%
Access to public transport	1	2	2	6	11	0
	5%	9%	9%	27%	50%	0%
Disabled access	2	3	7	2	8	0
	9%	14%	32%	9%	36%	0%
Adequate parking	2	3	7	7	3	0
	9%	14%	32%	32%	14%	0%
Adequate bicycle storage	3	1	8	4	3	2
	14%	5%	38%	19%	14%	10%

General stakeholder comments on Council facilities they lease or use for their services:

- *The Chrissie Cotter Gallery is an excellent community facility.*
- *This is a new facility.*
- *We operate the tennis centre below Camperdown Bowling Club. Our facility is in good order however, the Bowling Club is in poor order.*
- *Generally the facility is in ok shape although there are always repairs that need to be made and some upgrades are now needed after occupying the facility for such a long time. It always takes a long time for any maintenance to be done.*
- *Convenience*
- *It really depends on the facility but overall we really need more facilities as they are all heavily booked.*
- *Re: acoustics at Herb Greedy are not very good for meetings etc. The other issue is that the furniture in there is heavy and thus an OH&S issue to move and set up for your event etc. Especially for some of the older people who use it.*
- *The Petersham Town Hall has some permanent bookings which make it harder to access for one off events - though it's a great space!*
- *Council staff do the best they can with what they have and are excellent to work with and also go out of their way!*
- *The other issue Tom Foster cannot be accessed at all. We wanted to access it due to kitchen for a diabetes project and were told for various reasons that this was not possible.*
- *Our roof has leaked for many years causing damage to cornice and ceiling, our toilets are constantly blocked. our rent is very high*
- *Room has poor acoustics and although it has been updated it is still very poor quality*
- *Generally all facilities good. Kitchens in Dulwich Hill library good size, but musty smell despite remediation works. Only one small Kitchen across 3 levels at Marrickville Town Hall Library - no running water in top two levels (except for toilets). Size of St Peter's town hall library and Stanmore library are good, but other libraries are too small and poorly laid out due to heritage buildings.*
- *Good*

- *Building design makes for difficulty in supervision between rooms. External lighting in car park not sufficient for safety for people accessing both the centre and the park.*
- *The actual building I have rated well -the issues I have rated lower are to do with the level of service related to maintenance and lack of budget resources to keep up general maintenance and compliance issues. Maintenance can take a long time to get completed and we can be charged very high costs. Have found that some work can be done more efficiently and cheaper by outside suppliers. Security is poor because of the service offered by contractor and this is something I have raised on numerous occasions. Very high security fees for very poor service. We have no disabled access adult toilet and we have only 1 adult toilet located on the first floor. Very costly and time consuming to get permission and then get work organised to carry out regular tree maintenance e.g. every few years to trim and maintain trees on the property.*
- *Maintenance issues involve requests made, approved and work not being done. Questions around what happens after onsite visits by trades persons and then work not happening. Onsite responsible person not given answers or ideas about when/if work will get done.*
- *There are no disabled toilets, the outside building has not been painted in 30 years, centre floor covings also need replacing and some maintenance jobs have been outstanding for a few years.*
- *Deborah Little's internal walls need re-painting. General maintenance often takes many requests and long periods of time to be completed. The outdoor common areas (verandas) are inappropriate to meet the needs of the service during hot/ cold/ wet periods of time - verandas offer limited protection from the elements for the children. Size and layout of the playground is inadequate for the age ranges of the children and the amount of children in the space.*
- *I have rated the building high but many of the services poor. We have no disabled access toilet and we have only one adult toilet on the 1st floor of the building. Children's bathrooms are good quality. Have rated lighting poor as it is not very energy efficient one main switch turns on lights in large areas would be better to have more switches therefore use less power as we don't always need the whole area lit. External lighting poor as the sensors are always breaking and have to keep calling maintenance. Many of the maintenance services have rated poor as they can take a long time after work order has been submitted and are charged high costs. Emergency work is good because we call Yano directly and he sends someone straight away. Costs are very high and turnaround time of work can affect the condition of the building. We often have to use external contractors to the work we need and find they often provide a better service. Landscaping and cleaning are good because we organise our own contractors. Maintenance of trees on property can be very time consuming waiting for work to be carried out and is very costly -should have a regular cycle of maintenance for trees to ensure safety. security is rated poor as the contractors provide a very poor service for extremely high fees and I have raised this on many occasions over the years*
- *The organisation needs to review how and when maintenance is completed. Experts should complete an audit of the service and put in place a maintenance plan e.g. When will the facility next be painted? Do floor*

*coverings need replacing? Is the roof secure? Etc. All maintenance both short and long term should be both budgeted for and a plan developed.*

- *Herb Greedy Hall is generally acceptable and the Council has made some good reparations during the past year. Occasionally it has not been left very tidily by a previous user and MHS ALWAYS is vigilant in the way it leaves the hall. There has been a problem with the hot water provider which a member of the committee has indicated directly to council. With regard to the Committee's use once a month of the meeting room at Marrickville Town Hall, we continue to have difficulties accessing the room and each month need to disturb the librarians in order to gain access. From a positive point of view the Society has appreciated the repairs and additions the council has carried out to Herb Greedy Hall in the last year.*
- *Building old - used by community groups. FDL as the Playgroup area.*

Comments regarding accessibility:

- *The car park at Camperdown Park could easily be enlarged without significant impact on the Park.*
- *Parking really depends on the venue as Herb Greedy is quite difficult but others are good.*
- *Another access issue is availability of room/space for child care and also appropriate outdoor space.*
- *Public transport good and bad at each location. Good for trains at Stanmore and Sydenham, but not so good for Marrickville and Dulwich Hill. Good for buses at Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, but not Stanmore. Door at Dulwich Hill difficult to open if disabled or have children in strollers. Parking can be difficult to find at all locations except Dulwich Hill.*
- *excellent location for clients close to public transport and local school which makes it highly desirable for families as they have children using the Early learning Centre ,the school and the before and after school services as they are all in one location - 1 drop off/pick up - a sense of belonging and place for local community. 100% occupancy with long wait lists*
- *Old house property converted to specific use property: Long day care. Conversions done by Council major works projects.*
- *I don't believe the building is accessible for disabled people.*
- *Great location for service very close to public transport and across road Stanmore Public school and councils before and after care service means that this centre is highly desirable for families. One drop off for children and then can catch the train to work. this means we always operate at 100% occupancy with high waiting list*
- *Small step at front door, heavy door to open, small space in toilet, wheel chair would have difficult accessing. No storage facilities for prams, bicycle etc, storage space very poor.*
- *Already covered in the previous comment.*
- *Accessibility good.*

Stakeholders were asked to rate the quality of the services provided by Marrickville Council on the facility they lease or use. The following ratings apply to the all these facilities as a group.

Generally Marrickville Council services were rated well by stakeholders across most aspects. The top three highly rated services were 'verbal communication with

Council' (62 per cent rated good or excellent), and 'rubbish removal' and 'cleaning' (both 43 per cent).

The two features which received significantly lower ratings (poor and very poor combined) were 'maintenance' (29 per cent) and 'rubbish removal' (19 per cent). Rubbish removal received the widest range of responses for quality compared to other services. This may be due to the number of different venues in the sample.

**Table 87: Rating the services Council provides for the facility**

Service	Very poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Excellent	N/A
Rubbish removal	3	1	7	7	2	1
	14%	5%	33%	33%	10%	5%
Cleaning	1	0	6	9	0	5
	5%	0%	29%	43%	0%	24%
Maintenance	2	4	6	8	0	1
	10%	19%	29%	38%	0%	5%
Verbal communication with Council	0	0	5	9	4	3
	0%	0%	24%	43%	19%	14%
Written communication with Council	0	1	8	6	3	3
	0%	5%	38%	29%	14%	14%
Leasing conditions	1	0	4	4	4	8
	5%	0%	19%	19%	19%	38%
Clarity of leasing responsibilities	1	0	4	4	4	8
	5%	0%	19%	19%	19%	38%

Stakeholders provided information on the location of their clients and catchment areas. Almost three quarters of stakeholders reported their clients come from Marrickville. Roughly half of respondents reported their clients come from Petersham, Dulwich Hill, Tempe, Stanmore and Marrickville South.

**Table 88: Location of clients**

Location	Number	Per cent
Marrickville	40	74%
Petersham	32	59%
Dulwich Hill	31	57%
Tempe	30	56%
Stanmore	28	52%
Marrickville South	27	50%
Newtown	25	46%
Outside the Marrickville LGA	24	44%
Enmore	23	43%
Sydenham	22	41%
St Peters	20	37%
Camperdown	19	35%
Lewisham	16	30%
Other	23	43%

The most frequently mentioned catchment area for organisations and services leasing or using Marrickville Council facilities was the Inner West with 28 mentions.

**Table 89: Summary of catchment areas**

Catchment area	Number of mentions
Inner West region	28
Inner City	7
NSW	7
School enrolments	4
Marrickville LGA	4
Canterbury LGA	2
ACT	1
Blue Mountains	1
City of Sydney	1
OSHC - school enrolments	1
Rural NSW, interstate, international	1
South East Sydney	1
St George	1
Western suburbs	1

Most stakeholder clients travel some distance to utilise organisations and services within Marrickville with approximately two thirds travelling two to ten kilometres. About a quarter of stakeholders estimate their clients travel an average of more than ten kilometres to use their service.

**Table 90: Estimated average distance travelled by clients**

Distance	Number	Per cent
0-1 kilometre	0	0%
1-2 kilometres	6	12%
2-5 kilometres	14	28%
5-10 kilometres	17	34%
more than 10 kilometres	13	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

Stakeholders provided a wide range of reasons for the preparedness of people to travel to attend their services. For many services cost was important but for child care it was also quality of service provision, proximity of the service to work or home or easily accessible public transport. Accessibility via public transport was important for many clients of services provided and the specialisation of the service was also important. For example one stakeholder identified as being the only local provider of services for newly arrived refugee/migrants.

#### Arts and Cultural

- *Want to see an exhibition.*

- *It provides them with the opportunity to liaise with the artistic community of the inner west.*
- *Affordable studio space.*

#### Child care

- *Reputation of the service, location and size of the centre.*
- *High quality education and care service*
- *People are prepared to travel, as there are not many services that offer services to children with special needs and their families. We offer programs that have waiting lists and some that they can just drop in.*
- *Most of our clients are local or work in the area. The centre is highly desirable due to location close to school and train.*
- *Our service is near Sydenham Station which is very accessible to commuters to the City.*
- *High Quality provided; reputation*
- *Community based Service*

#### Religious

- *Family, connection with friends, services we provide i.e... worship, prayer, preaching, social interaction*
- *At St Luke's we seek to share God's unconditional love and acceptance of all people, regardless of age, gender, race, marital or family status, sexual orientation, disability or wealth.*
- *relational connections with our church*
- *Belief and faith in the bible message*
- *We provide a safe place for gay Catholics to attend Mass and other activities. Newtown is the Catholic parish that supports us.*

#### General community

- *We are the only service in the area that provides family support and settlement for CALD communities*
- *The Gender Centre is a specialist service and the only funded service of its kind to provide services to the Transgender and gender questioning community*
- *We run a good facility which is value for money*
- *because there aren't many other public spaces for young people and the services we provide*
- *They are among friends, and they like the "family" atmosphere.*
- *As we hold dances approximately every eight weeks our patrons set these dates in their diaries because they know it will be a good inexpensive night out for them and their friends*
- *We are a unique service in the area of young men 16-25*
- *We are offer a range of client centred programs which target vulnerable families and newly arrived migrants and refugees as well as taking a strong focus on engaging with the Aboriginal community. We have a strong reputation in the industry as well.*
- *we provide free specialist counselling services and alternative education which are not available in other areas*
- *cause we are a great preschool which runs a great programme*
- *We are a specialist service*
- *Transport is provided to an interesting time of friendship, a meal and activities.*

- *Most will travel to their local library, but occasionally we will have people travelling a lot further for special events.*
- *Because they need our services*
- *TFCC has a strong inclusive community focus and ethos. There are many community groups that access the centre. We provide centre-based meals; have a pleasant environment with a garden and courtyard to accommodate the various groups. We also assist with providing transport when we can. We have a community bus and volunteers also do pickups wherever possible.*
- *They believe we deliver quality services 2. They are required to by government (e.g. JSA clients) 3. They want to access our services (not available to them closer)*
- *St Stephens Anglican Church Newtown provides church services that suit single people, families and students and parishioners are happy to travel from inner west locations to attend.*
- *accommodation and outreach*
- *Want personal service. Existing clients of service with language/communication barriers prefer face to face contact.*
- *We do not have an office and such - I run the foundation with a management committee. We are all volunteers and use our own home facilities for work for the foundation.*

Stakeholders have a very wide range of numbers of clients who use their services with approximately one fifth having 51 to 100, 101 to 200, and 201 to 500 clients each, at 20 per cent, 19 per cent and 17 per cent respectively.

**Table 91: Number of clients**

Number of clients	Number	Per cent
1 to 20	6	11%
21 to 50	8	15%
51 to 100	11	20%
101 to 200	10	19%
201 to 500	9	17%
501 to 1000	5	9%
more than 1000	5	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 92: Client number trends**

Trend	Past 5 years		Next 5 years	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Increase/d	37	69%	34	63%
Remain/ed the same	16	30%	19	35%
Decrease/d	1	2%	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>

The majority of stakeholders indicated that their service's client numbers had increased over the past five years (69 per cent) and they also anticipated a further increase in client numbers over the next five years (63 per cent). Only one service

reported a reduction in numbers. This is borne out by the population projections in Chapter 3: the increase in population will lead to a resultant increase in the needs of clients for particular services.

### **Explanations given for client number trends.**

#### Arts and Cultural

- *More focus on the marketing of the gallery.*
- *The Gallery is programmed on a monthly basis and the number of residents can not increase.*
- *The building cannot increase the capacity.*

#### Religious

- *We have a policy of planting churches (sending people out) that allows space for new people to join without making increasing our attendance*
- *The growing reputation of St Luke's*
- *the service on average attracts between 5 to 10 new clients per week also we have had an increase of parents contacting the service for support for their transgender children*
- *Ageing of current congregations. Younger, professional characteristics of new residents*
- *we see and constant need in the community for the bible's comforting message resulting in more people turning to the bible message for satisfying answers to life's questions*
- *Our church has grown in numbers exponentially in recent years and we have hired more staff in the expectation the growth may continue.*

#### Childcare

- *We have rebuilt the facility*
- *We anticipate that young families will grow in this area but this is based on what we have seen so far. Our service scope is expanding and thus - so will our client base*
- *We want to make a positive impact in people's lives - we think people are getting it.*
- *we are licensed for 40 children per day and not allowed to exceed this number. Our waiting list however is around 400*
- *Direct impact from licensing regulations and capacity.*
- *Fixed license for numbers & operating at full utilisation with no growth possible due to size of property*
- *The service has increased in licensed places.*
- *Licensed for a specific number of places for children*
- *our service is licensed for 40 children per day and this will not change therefore do not anticipate change to the numbers of clients accessing service*
- *Families are no longer sending children full time. Most families are looking for two and three days of care a week*
- *We count families on the waiting list as clients as well as current users. There is an increase in birth rates and this will impact increase for demand- though capacity to provide for 50 children per day remains the same.*
- *Licensing numbers available for positions at the centre*

- *parents are recuing days in care, baby boom and more families needing care*
- *increase in school aged children requiring care as parents are working*
- *popular school, more children requiring OSHC due to working parents*
- *we have opened morning care and a service review will be conducted to see if it remains open in 2013*
- *OSHC and preschool - more families using part time care, OSHC - increased school numbers preschool - Fed requirements for children to attend preschool one year before school*
- *Anticipate growth.*

#### General community services

- *Some have died, others moved away. However, the Society encourages new members who join for a variety of reasons obviously their interest in heritage within the area but also in relation to particular topics and speakers which appeal to them.*
- *There are always new people and families moving in to the area and young people are always in need of space and recreation. We intend to increase services and hence increase the number of clients*
- *The number of spaces we have in the program may increase slightly, but we are part government funding and have to stay with the numbers as agreed*
- *We are becoming more well known & also developing our skills over time.*
- *Probably due to the aging population of the area.*
- *We have noticed a decrease in membership in recent years, and expect this to continue until a new facility is opened in 2014 in Marrickville. Then we expect a spike in membership.*
- *for they need the services*
- *As the community gets older and approaching retirement, people within this community have more time and interest to participate in the activities, services offered here. There is also scope and inclusion for people with disabilities and their carers to participate in the above.*
- *We have grown substantially over the past five years. Our service delivery has grown and with this comes increase client numbers. We have also increased our suite of services and programs which in turn has increased client numbers.*
- *Will stay approx the same because of staffing.*
- *Allocated additional properties by Housing NSW. Consistent or increased demand for social housing. We now participate in Housing Pathways (common waiting list for social housing) so potential pool of clients has increased.*
- *As the cost of living increases, the marginalised portion of society is consistently growing as does the need for Welfare Assistance, Meals and Clothing.*
- *Many asylum seekers are flying into Sydney because they believe they will be safe here - but many do not find out about us until they have been here some time.*
- *We are becoming better known*
- *We can't accommodate more people.*
- *We would like to increase following promotion and fully utilise our facility.*
- *We hope to more actively promote/advertise our phone line, particularly to regional NSW - hopefully this will result in increased calls.*
- *Our membership base continues to grow. We do not really have 'clients'.*

- *Referrals from ACAT Teams and Hospitals. Word of Mouth*
- *South East Sydney Advocacy was established in 2010 and is going through its growth phase. We are actively promoting the service with the aim of increasing our client base.*
- *Working with young people who are questioning their sexuality or gender presentation is happening with a much younger target group than 5-10 years ago. This trend is increasing and we are shifting our service focus to match this trend. As a service become more widely known and promoted, there is an increase in the numbers of young people and families who use our services.*

When asked whether the facility was suitable to meet future needs the majority of stakeholders answered that the facility would be suitable as is or with minor modification (68 per cent).

**Table 93: Facility meeting future needs**

Response	Number	Per cent
Yes - facility is suitable as is	17	32%
Yes - with minor modification	19	36%
Yes - with major modification	9	17%
No - it will be unsuitable	8	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 94: Rating items to meet future needs**

Item	Number & quality sufficient	Don't have & don't need	Don't have & DO need	Have & need improvement	Have & need more	Have & need more & need improvements
Toilets	34	0	0	8	7	0
	69%	0%	0%	16%	14%	0%
Disabled access toilets	25	4	13	5	2	0
	51%	8%	27%	10%	4%	0%
Kitchen	25	2	2	16	2	1
	52%	4%	4%	33%	4%	2%
Meeting room/s	20	8	5	5	5	4
	43%	17%	11%	11%	11%	9%
Client / reception area	23	9	5	7	1	2
	49%	19%	11%	15%	2%	4%
Office administration	23	6	2	10	3	0
	52%	14%	5%	23%	7%	0%
Private client interview space	18	7	9	6	5	1
	39%	15%	20%	13%	11%	2%
Office space for EFT staff	17	8	3	8	5	1
	40%	19%	7%	19%	12%	2%
Internal lighting	37	1	0	7	1	0
	80%	2%	0%	15%	2%	0%
Office equipment	26	4	2	10	1	2
	58%	9%	4%	22%	2%	4%
Car parking	24	2	10	3	4	3
	52%	4%	22%	7%	9%	7%
Other	7	0	1	2	0	2

	58%	0%	8%	17%	0%	17%
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Other comments about specific improvements to service facilities included:

- *The Chrissie Cotter Gallery needs to have improved internet access for hirers. The gallery also needs a projector, screen and stereo system.*
- *The Petersham Town Hall artist residency needs to have internet access / Wi-Fi.*
- *All Council facilities should have Wi-Fi / internet access.*
- *Our facility is rented through a private landlord. It would be great to be in a Council building as our rent is high and getting higher*
- *roof*
- *Good*
- *Place to safely store our growing archives - we turn 40 in 2012!*
- *Some improvement needed in staff room and client room needed.*
- *Soft fall in outdoor yard needs major upgrade as it has getting close to use by date to meet safety compliance. Fence needs replacing as is original fence when centre was built and is due for replacement*
- *No meeting room, very small office, extra space required, printer very large, floor space very small. Office equipment, new chair required. Disabled access is very poor, lip at front door,*
- *Upgrade furniture in common areas*
- *The centre operates out of one room and will require more internal space to meet the pending national Law requirements for OSHC services. A building project has commenced but due to lack of school space we only have one area to build and we will still need the option to use classrooms in a shared capacity with the school.*

Most stakeholders who participated in the survey have small number of paid staff and some volunteers. Over one third of respondents have one to three paid staff members (full time 40 per cent, part time 38 per cent and casual 40 per cent). Twenty-eight per cent of organisations have more than 20 paid casual staff.

**Table 95: Number and type of staff**

Staff type	Number of staff					
	1 to 3	4 to 6	7 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	more than 20
Paid full time	16	10	5	3	1	5
	40%	25%	12%	8%	2%	12%
Paid part time	13	10	6	2	2	1
	38%	29%	18%	6%	6%	3%
Paid casual	10	5	1	1	1	7
	40%	20%	4%	4%	4%	28%
Volunteer	8	5	5	4	1	9
	25%	16%	16%	12%	3%	28%

Table 96: Summary of stakeholder survey

Organisation / service name	Council facility	Catchment area	Client travel	Number clients	Change over past five years	Change over next five years	Facility meeting future needs	Number staff (EFT)
Marrickville Council	Yes	Inner west, but would like to have people from all over Sydney visit.	5 -10 km	more than 1000	↑	↑	Yes - with minor modification	500+
Marrickville Council - Petersham Town Hall Artist Residency	Yes	Rural NSW, interstate, international.	> 10 km	21 to 50	↑	=	Yes - with minor modification	500+
Marrickville Council - Australia Street Art Camp	Yes	Inner West, preferably LGA	2 -5 km	1 to 20	=	=	Yes - facility is suitable as is	500+
Portuguese Ethnographic Museum of Australia	Yes							
Petersham AOG Church	No	Innerwest, western suburbs,	5 -10 km	201 to 500	=		Yes - facility is suitable as is	
Sydney Community College	Yes	Inner West, Inner City	2 -5 km	501 to 1000	↑		Yes - facility is suitable as is	150
Marrickville Youth Resource Centre	Yes	Marrickville LGA and surrounding suburbs	5 -10 km	501 to 1000	=		No - it will be unsuitable	5
St Luke's Anglican Church, Enmore	No	Mostly Inner West, but as far away as the Blue Mountains	> 10 km	101 to 200	↑		Yes - with major modification	1
THE GENDER CENTRE INC	No	NSW	> 10 km	201 to 500	↑		No - it will be unsuitable	5
A Congregation of the Uniting Church	No	Inner West	2 -5 km	21 to 50	↓		Yes - facility is suitable as is	
The Pollys Club Inc	Yes	All areas of Sydney metropolitan	> 10 km	501 to 1000	=		Yes - facility is suitable as is	NIL
Rendu Youth Services	No	State wide	2 -5 km	1 to 20	↑		Yes - with major modification	4
Metro MRC	Yes	Inner West, Inner Sydney depending on the programs but we are based in South Marrickville	2 -5 km	201 to 500	↑		No - it will be unsuitable	As above and only for the Marrickville site as our agency is quite big
Anon	No	Inner West	5 -10 km	101 to 200	↑		Yes - with minor modification	2
Anon	No	inner west, Canterbury and St George	5 -10 km	1 to 20	↑		No - it will be unsuitable	25

Organisation / service name	Council facility	Catchment area	Client travel	Number clients	Change over past five years	Change over next five years	Facility meeting future needs	Number staff (EFT)
KU Petersham Preschool	Yes	inner west	5 -10 km	51 to 100	=		Yes - with minor modification	4
House of Fertility and Healing	No	All of Sydney really but given our location, mostly Inner West.	5 -10 km	more than 1000	↑		Yes - with minor modification	one
Wilkins Public School	No							
Sydney Multicultural Community Services	Yes							
Aged Care	No	Inner West	2 -5 km	21 to 50	↑		Yes - facility is suitable as is	
Metro MRC	Yes	Marrickville LGA	5 -10 km	51 to 100	↑		Yes - with major modification	
Marrickville Library and History Services	Yes	Marrickville LGA	5 -10 km	more than 1000	=		No - it will be unsuitable	37.5
Innari Housing Inc	Yes	Inner West, inner city	2 -5 km	21 to 50	↑		Yes - facility is suitable as is	3 paid full time plus volunteer (management committees)
Tom Foster Community Care	No	Inner West	5 -10 km	501 to 1000	↑		Yes - with major modification	3
MTC Work Solutions	No	MTC delivers services right across the Sydney Metro area. Our Marrickville office generally provides services to clients in the Inner West region.	5 -10 km	more than 1000	↑		Yes - with major modification	450+
St Stephens Anglican Church Newtown	No	Inner West	> 10 km	201 to 500	↑		Yes - with minor modification	3
Rainbow Babies and Kids	No							
Jean's Place	No	Inner city	2 -5 km	51 to 100	↑		Yes - with minor modification	8
Metro Community Housing	No	Inner Metro but primarily inner west	2 -5 km	501 to 1000	↑		Yes - with minor modification	8
Tillman Park Early Learning Centre	Yes	InnerCity	5 -10 km	101 to 200	↑		Yes - facility is suitable as is	8

Organisation / service name	Council facility	Catchment area	Client travel	Number clients	Change over past five years	Change over next five years	Facility meeting future needs	Number staff (EFT)
Marrickville council Cavendish St ELC	Yes							
May Murray Early Learning Centre	Yes	Marrickville Municipality & inner city	> 10 km	21 to 50	↑		Yes - facility is suitable as is	
Alfalfa House	No							
Newtown Mission	No	City of Sydney	2 -5 km	101 to 200	↑		Yes - with minor modification	3
Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation	No	New South Wales		51 to 100	↑		No - it will be unsuitable	NIL
Jehovah's Witnesses	No	Marrickville and Surrounds	5 -10 km	101 to 200	↑		Yes - with minor modification	0
Acceptance Sydney	No	Greater Sydney area. Relocated from Kings Cross to Newtown in 2006 for most of our services/events.	> 10 km	101 to 200	↑		Yes - facility is suitable as is	NIL
May Murray Early Learning Centre	Yes	Inner City	> 10 km	21 to 50	↑		Yes - with minor modification	Three
	Yes	Inner West Sydney - Marrickville LGA and some parts of Canterbury LGA	5 -10 km	101 to 200	=		Yes - with minor modification	14
Pathways Early Childhood Intervention Inc	Yes	Inner West, South East Sydney, Botany Bay, Sutherland Shire		101 to 200	↑		Yes - with major modification	16
Portuguese Ethnographic Museum of Australia	Yes							
Marrickville Council Cavendish St early Learning Centre	Yes	Inner west - Marrickville LGA	1 - 2 km	51 to 100	=		Yes - with minor modification	9 EFT
Sydney Region Day Centre	No	Inner West	1 - 2 km	1 to 20	↑		Yes - facility is suitable as is	Uniting Care Ageing Sydney Region around 1000
The Athena School	No	Inner city and Inner West	2 -5 km	51 to 100	=		Yes - facility is suitable as is	16
Gay & Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW	No	All of NSW & ACT	> 10 km	more than 1000	=		No - it will be unsuitable	about 3

Organisation / service name	Council facility	Catchment area	Client travel	Number clients	Change over past five years	Change over next five years	Facility meeting future needs	Number staff (EFT)
Enmore Early Learning Centre	Yes	Inner west	5 -10 km	51 to 100	↑		Yes - with minor modification	10
Globe Wilkins Preschool	No	Inner West	2 -5 km	101 to 200	↑		Yes - facility is suitable as is	8
ANTaR NSW	No	The state of NSW	> 10 km	201 to 500	↑		Yes - with major modification	0
Marrickville Heritage Society	Yes							
Catholic Health Care Ltd	No	Inner West	> 10 km	21 to 50	=		Yes - facility is suitable as is	Nil
Secretary	Yes	Marrickville although membership is not confined to this area.		51 to 100	=		Yes - with minor modification	
South East Sydney Advocacy	No	South East Sydney	5 -10 km	51 to 100	↑		Yes - facility is suitable as is	2
KU Children's Services, KU Petersham and KU Crusader	Yes							
The Twenty-Ten Association	No	State-wide	> 10 km	201 to 500	↑		No - it will be unsuitable	
Addison Road Early Learning Centre- Marrickville Council	Yes	Inner West	2 -5 km	51 to 100	=		Yes - with minor modification	10
Marrickville Council Stanmore OSHC	No	the school enrolments and children attending Stanmore Public School	1 - 2 km	201 to 500	↑		Yes - facility is suitable as is	
Marrickville council - Camdenville OSHC	No	the school enrolments	1 - 2 km	101 to 200	↑		Yes - with minor modification	
Marrickville Council Ferncourt OSHC	No	the school enrolments	1 - 2 km	201 to 500	↑		Yes - with major modification	
Marrickville Council Marrickville west OSHC	No	the school enrolments	1 - 2 km	1 to 20	=		Yes - with major modification	
Marrickville council Globe Wilkins services	No	OSHC - school enrolments Preschool - Any families on our wait list	5 -10 km	201 to 500	↑		Yes - with minor modification	
NSW Association for Youth Health	No	NSW - state-wide	> 10 km	51 to 100	=			1.8
Family Day Care	Yes	Inner West	2 -5 km	21 to 50	=		Yes - with minor modification	

## **CHAPTER 6: NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL**

### **6.1 Introduction**

This report provides Council with a great deal of evidence-based information about the current and future requirements for community facilities in Marrickville, now and into the future. In doing so it identifies those areas that Council will need to take into account in the development of future strategies, policies, plans and governance.

In this Chapter the data from the audit and the consultation process are synthesised in a needs assessment. Consideration is then given to implications of this assessment for Council in the areas of:

- Long Term Financial Strategy
- Section 94 Strategies
- Governance
- Performance measurement and monitoring.

In each of these four areas recommendations for action based on best practice are addressed.

The results of the consultation and facility audit together with the projected population growth and structure enables the identification of Council provided community facilities required to meet the demands generated by population growth. Future facility needs have been determined having regard to the following factors:

- The role of Council in the provision of community facilities as expressed in Marrickville Community Strategic Plan which defines the long term aspirations and strategic directions of the community;
- The results of community consultation undertaken for this study and the on-going community survey undertaken by Council;
- Planned development and population growth and changes in the demographic characteristics of the community;
- Accepted benchmarks or standards for the provision of community facilities.

### **6.2 Multipurpose Community Space**

#### **Strategic Direction**

Space available to the community – either as short-term meeting or function space, or as low-cost operating space available to community organisations and service providers – are important to the wellbeing of a community. These kinds of spaces are used by a variety of diverse groups within the community, and cut across age, religious and cultural groupings.

Community centres in Marrickville range from small community halls and meeting rooms available for use by the community to larger multipurpose centres that incorporate a wide range of services and facilities such as Newtown Town Hall. Community centres are *publicly owned facilities that provide space for local organisations and community groups to meet and for a range of social programs, services and activities which address the social needs of a community.*<sup>17</sup>

Meeting spaces and halls also provide a setting for older people (often on a low income) to socialise, for special interest, political and support groups to meet, and for cultural groups to come together for events and functions. Council acknowledges the importance of such spaces and functions, and includes them in the *Marrickville Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan 2011-2015*. This document outlines the following KRA performance measures related to community space:

**Table 97: Performance measures: community space**

Action	Performance measure	Target
1.3.5 Manage Council's leased community facilities to optimise use and ensure affordable and equitable access	Average satisfaction rating: community facilities for lease (lessee survey)	Baseline to be established in 2011/2012
1.3.6 Manage Council's venues for hire to optimise use and ensure affordable and equitable access	Average satisfaction rating: venues for hire (hirer survey)	Baseline to be established in 2011/2012
	Utilisation rate as % of capacity: all venues	>65%
	Occupancy rate as % of capacity: all facilities	>80%

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<sup>17</sup> Landcom Design Guidelines – Community Centre Guidelines 2008

## Qualitative Needs Assessment

### Outcomes of Audit

The high levels of utilisation for some of the smaller halls and meeting spaces – particularly Herb Greedy Hall and Seaview Street Hall – suggest that there is a strong latent demand for the provision of small- to medium-sized meeting space in the community. Discussions with Council staff support this observation, with requests (particularly for small spaces for performing arts groups) having to be regularly turned down.

Existing patterns of usage suggest that any future small- to medium-sized meeting spaces should be located close to existing activity hubs, within walking distance of established commercial centres and accessible to the mobility-limited via public transport and accessible spaces. Spaces should be flexible enough to accommodate a range of uses including commercial gentle exercise classes and playgroups, and should be fully accessible given the high levels of existing hall use amongst older people.

It is apparent that spaces are utilised by a broad cross section of the community. Although there are facilities oriented to the needs of specific groups such as older people at Tom Foster and youth at Jarvie Park, other facilities cater for all groups and the many and diverse needs of the community. The blend of many different backgrounds and perspectives that make up the current diverse community is best served by community spaces that are flexible to adapt to use by a range of groups, interests and service providers.

Community meeting rooms have also been identified in discussions as being in short supply with community groups unable to find suitable space at convenient times for meetings.

There is also an expressed need for rehearsal space utilising halls and meeting areas for cultural purposes.

Discussions with Council staff have also suggested that there is high unmet need for low-rent space to house community groups and not for profit organisations providing services to the local area on a long-term basis. Council is currently investigating the possibility of using some vacant facilities as short-term accommodation for these groups for an unspecified time while their future use is determined; the financial and time costs associated with the occupation of a new premises may discourage groups unless a longer lease is involved. The future provision of space to community groups will need to be balanced with the provision of flexible meeting rooms and community centres for the wider community.

South Marrickville and the 2044 postcode (Sydenham, St Peters and Tempe) are

particularly underserved by community facilities generally, with only one facility (St Peters Town Hall) located in this area of the LGA. Access and locational issues with this town hall results in low utilisation, with residents travelling to facilities in Marrickville and Newtown. Future provision of community space including meeting rooms should ensure that it is accessible to residents of these areas.

Very few facilities are co-located thus inhibiting pooling of resources, the ability to staff facilities, the creation of a community hub that is accessible and fosters social interaction and more integrated service delivery. Multi-purpose spaces can provide convenience for users through the provision of several services on one site, and may be better utilised by the community given that a broader range of services can be offered.

### Outcomes of Consultation

Four features of halls and venues were identified in the consultation process as not being up to the standard of other aspects of the facilities, and needing improvements. These were the four features which received the lowest ratings:

- 'adequate parking',
- 'acoustics',
- 'bicycle parking', and
- 'landscaping'.

There are a number of issues for particular groups that arose from consultations which were not captured in the surveys and these include:

- More specialised services for young people especially those who do not currently access MYRC and PCYC options
- Better access to all existing facilities for people with a disability
- Better programming for people with a disability

The evidence indicates that older people and people from CALD backgrounds are well catered for in their access to facilities and that in fact older people are the highest users of most facilities apart from family and children's services and the specialist youth services available.

## **Benchmarked Needs & Future Provision**

### Current Supply

The review of available Council facilities indicates that there is in total 8,512 square metres of space used as multi-purpose halls, meeting rooms and community organisation space in a range of sizes across eleven facilities.

Council facilities are mostly well utilised and appreciated by the community. There is

an unmet demand for general purpose meeting rooms and activity rooms. There are also a small number of facilities that are vacant or between uses. The current patterns of utilisation generally suggest that the existing facilities overall meet the needs of the existing community with no spare capacity to accommodate additional usage resulting from population growth. Indeed there is an expressed need for additional space to meet the needs of the existing community.

In addition to this the existing community has access to facilities and services provided by a range of other organisations, both commercial operations and community organisations. This includes access to school halls and meeting spaces, church halls and facilities (for example St Brigid's), scout halls, function rooms and licensed premises (clubs and hotels). There is no available stock take of such facilities and a lack of generally community awareness of what is available. Access to other facilities by the community would be improved if a database of such facilities was established and maintained for use by Council staff and the community generally.

Furthermore there is potential for community use of meeting rooms and activity spaces in recreation facilities such as the Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre and Debbie & Abbey Borgia Community Recreation Centre. This requires co-ordination of management and booking arrangements and agreements on access and use.

Many existing facilities are in heritage buildings which provide the opportunity for community access to buildings that display heritage and cultural significance.

#### *Benchmarked Needs*

Consideration has been given to a range of sources of standards for the provision of multi-purpose community spaces.

There is no commonly adopted standards for community centre provision in NSW. There is no minimum or standard catchment population size that triggers the need for a community centre and no ideal scale or size for a facility. Standards do provide some guidance to determine order of magnitude requirements for community centres.

Wide use is made of standards provided in the Growth Centres Development Code<sup>18</sup> applicable to greenfield developments on the fringe of metropolitan area rather than infill development resulting from urban consolidation. Standards from this Code include:

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<sup>18</sup> Growth Centres Commission *Growth Centres Development Code*

Table 98: Growth Centres Development Code Standards

Scale	Provision rate	Size (site area)	Size (site area) per 1000 pop	Application to Marrickville
Local	1:6,000	2000 – 25000 sqm	333-417 m <sup>2</sup>	13 centres 4,900 sqm
District	1:20,000	1500 – 2400 sqm	75-120 m <sup>2</sup>	4 centres 6,000 sqm
Total	Per 20,000	8160 – 10733 m <sup>2</sup>	408 – 535 m <sup>2</sup>	10,900 sqm

These standards do not have regard to existing provision of facilities by a range of organisations in addition to Council facilities.

Standards that have been part of the methodology used to determine facility needs in a range of situations including the following standards applied to the Green Square redevelopment:

- 1 neighbourhood centre per 3,500 – 15,000 people;
- 1 multi-purpose community centre per 15,000 – 20,000 people;

Similar standards are referred to in community facility studies in Canterbury, Leichhardt and Canada Bay Council areas, although benchmark population figures vary.

These guidelines have limitations in that the source is not well understood and recommendations on the size of centres are not given.

Benchmark guidelines provided in the *Social Infrastructure Planning Implementation Guidelines* published by the Queensland Office of Urban Management<sup>19</sup> indicate provision of floor space (GFA) per 1,000 population for centres of different catchment sizes, as well as a centre provision rate. The guidelines are as follows:

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<sup>19</sup> Queensland Office of Urban Management / Department of Infrastructure, *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005-2026 Implementation Guideline No. 5: Social infrastructure planning*, June 2007

**Table 99: Social Infrastructure Planning Implementation Guidelines**

Scale	Number	Size per centre	Size (GFA) per 1,000 pop (minimum)
Neighbourhood (community meeting room)	1:2,000-3,000 (council/private)	200-300 m <sup>2</sup> GFA	67 m <sup>2</sup>
Local (community centre / hall)	1:6,000-10,000 (council/private/community)	600-800 m <sup>2</sup> GFA	60 m <sup>2</sup>
District (multi-purpose community or neighbourhood centre)	1:20,000-50,000 (State/Council)	1000 m <sup>2</sup> GFA	20 m <sup>2</sup>
Regional (civic centre)	1:30,000-120,000 (Council)	2000-5000 m <sup>2</sup> GFA	17 m <sup>2</sup>

These figures are not necessarily cumulative, but refer instead to the catchment area of each facility – i.e. a community of 10,000 does not need to be served by 3 neighbourhood-scale facilities as well as one local-scale. Instead it could be served by a single well-designed local facility.

A recommended GFA provision for five local and two regional centres is 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> and 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> respectively, a total recommended benchmark of 7,000 m<sup>2</sup>. This figure does not include space provided to community organisations.

Marrickville’s current total provision of space to community centres and community organisations is 8,512 m<sup>2</sup>, indicating that the facilities provided are close to meeting the minimum recommended level. This equates to a provision rate of 107.7m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population.

A high provision of floor space is considered appropriate for Marrickville given its demographics, with high levels of older people, children and multicultural communities, and areas of significant disadvantage – all indicators of higher levels of community facility usage, and with a low number of youth- and senior-specific centres. In addition a significant proportion of the floor space currently provided to the community comes from the large town halls. The size of these halls limits their use

by the general community on a regular basis, and makes them better suited to weddings and other formal events with a wider appeal than the LGA. The high utilisation rates of smaller facilities indicate some unmet demand in the area.

There will be an additional 10,974 residents moving to the LGA over the next twenty years. According to the standards detailed above, this will require an additional 600-800 m<sup>2</sup> of community meeting space be provided within the LGA, as one local-scale centre or two to three neighbourhood-scale centres. To satisfy the needs of this population it is recommended however that Council maintain its current rate of provision, at 107.7 m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population, requiring an additional 1,182 m<sup>2</sup>. The future needs for space calculated in line with current rates of provision are shown in Table 100

**Table 100 – Additional needs for spaces available to the community**

	Population	Population increase	Additional space required	Total space
2011	79000	0	0 m <sup>2</sup>	8512m <sup>2</sup>
2021	87,054	5487	867m <sup>2</sup>	9379m <sup>2</sup>
2031	89,974	10,974	1182m <sup>2</sup>	9694m <sup>2</sup>

### Options to Meet Need

A number of options are available to meet the future needs of the population. These options should focus upon the provision of two staffed multipurpose community centres having an area in the range of 400-500m<sup>2</sup> with a range of flexible spaces including meeting rooms, activity spaces and performance spaces. These centres should be located in areas currently underserved, or expecting significant future growth. The most cost effective solution for the provision of future services will be location on existing council-owned land. They may be collocated with other facilities, including childcare or library services.

This estimate of future space requirements takes into consideration the available spaces including spaces that are underutilised as well as demand from recently approved developments that have yet to be completed. It also recognised unmet demand in a number of areas, particularly for smaller meeting rooms and office spaces for community groups and services.

Future facilities would benefit from being of sufficient size to be feasibly staffed to provide more effective management and access. Current staffed facilities that also provide some services (Tom Foster Community Centre, Marrickville Youth Resource Centre and Newtown Neighbourhood Centre) are considered to operate to a high standard.

Staffed facilities would solve many of the issues related to security, inappropriate use

of/damage to facilities, and facilities being left in a poor condition after use. The provision of staffed facilities may not be possible in the cases of smaller halls, but should be a priority for future provision.

It is recommended that future community facilities are *staffed, multipurpose* community facilities. That is, these facilities should not be provided as single-use spaces such as a hall for hire, but should be flexible enough to be reconfigured to accommodate a range of uses. New facilities can be integrated to various degrees – presently most council-operated facilities are dispersed with a single facility on a site. Co-location of community facilities and services is likely to achieve the best outcome for residents and users. Under a co-located service delivery / community facility model, several services are co-located with some shared operational functions; this may take the form of community service providers who also administer community meeting space in the facility. Integrated services and community facilities may help address the high costs associated with staffed venues. This facilitates integrated service delivery and referral systems.

Best practice in community facility provision is for the provision of a range of integrated services and spaces within the one building at an accessible location within a community hub. Such facilities provide flexible spaces that can be used by a variety of groups and for a variety of purposes. Such facilities have a number of benefits including:

- Accommodating for a number of lifecycle groups (mothers and children, young people (care is required in designing with youth in mind), older people and ethnic groups removing the need for specific purpose buildings such as senior citizens centres;
- Facilitating social interaction through the mixing of groups and users and acting as a community focal point and critical mass for an active facility;
- Buildings can be located at an activity centre facilitating access;
- Facilities can be designed to be accessible and with facilities for all age groups (baby change rooms etc) and with a range of facilities (wet areas for arts etc);
- Providing efficiencies in staff management enabling centres to be staffed to monitor use and enable more active centres;
- Facilitating the integration of service delivery;
- Sustainability measures can be incorporated into buildings;
- Spaces are more flexible and capable of adapting to changing needs.

Such centres can be co-located with other facilities such as libraries and child care centres with shared main entries, parking and building services. This reinforces the concept of a community hub that can be part of a wider activity centre being the location of residential, economic and community growth and public transport focus.

Landcom have provided guidelines for planning a community centre<sup>20</sup>. These would need to be considered in greater detail in planning additional community centres, along with the trends and best practice outlined in Chapter 2. To be well utilised and serve identified social needs, community centres need to be accessible and visible. Community centres should be located so that they:

- Are central to their catchment area and provide equitable access to all potential users.
- Are accessible by public transport (i.e. public transport stops within 400 metres walking distance).
- Have good pedestrian and cycling connections.
- Are on a main street with ground floor street frontage for optimum visibility and accessibility.
- Are clustered with other facilities, such as shops, schools and public libraries to promote convenient access and help create a focal point for community activity.
- Are not sited to conflict with neighbouring uses.
- Have room to expand and adapt as needs change.
- Are near open space, to allow for related outdoor activities and community events, such as festivals and markets, where possible and appropriate.
- Are near sporting, recreation and leisure facilities, to create a health and activity focus, where possible and appropriate.

Not all these requirements can be met in an established community such as Marrickville.

In addition to meeting the needs generated by new population growth, the provision of multi-purpose centres can facilitate rationalisation of existing spaces, particularly if located in the same area, and consequent availability of funds for other works and reduction in maintenance liabilities.

Other functional and design features of a successful community centre as identified in the Landcom guidelines include:

- Provide a range of spaces suitable for a variety of activities and user groups.
- Provide multi-purpose spaces capable of being configured into different sizes and for different activities.
- Allow for concurrent activities by different user groups.
- Be designed so that different functional areas can enhance social interaction, but also minimise potential conflict associated with privacy and noise impacts.

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<sup>20</sup> Landcom Design Guidelines – Community Centre Guidelines 2008

- Provide a safe and secure environment, especially for night users (incorporating crime prevention through environmental design principles).
- Be designed to be flexible and adaptable to meet changing user requirements.
- Include spaces designed to reflect the desired uses of the centre. These might include, for example, kitchens capable of use for private functions, facilities to support creative activities or performing arts or office space for service providers.
- Be designed for the life cycle groups likely to use the centre now and in the future and provide facilities appropriate to their needs (e.g. nappy change areas, children's play areas, "youth friendly" spaces, or features for older people with limited mobility).

In considering the co-location and/or integration of future community facilities, and the possibility of creating a community 'hub', careful consideration should be given to the types of facilities which are likely to work well together. Uses and services should be complimentary, and provide 'pull-factors' that will encourage the community to use them on a regular basis. Incompatible uses may deter potential users, and decrease the utilisation rates of the facility.

Consideration should also be given to the extent to which facilities can be made accessible to people living with a disability. This will include looking not only at any potential site itself, but also area around the site (including footpaths and gradients), and the presence or absence of appropriate public transport.

This leads to the conclusion that community centre facilities are best provided in multi-purpose facilities designed to current standards and located within or near other facilities or an activity hub.

The options include:

- An upgraded or new facility on the Seaview Street, Dulwich Hill site as part of the current master planning exercise;
- A new facility located in the Sydenham-Tempe area, potentially on Sydenham Green;
- A new facility complimentary to and co-located with the library on the Marrickville Hospital site.

Consideration was given to the Australia Street buildings as a location for an additional community facility. This facility contains vacant and underutilised spaces. The potential for the museum to be relocated in another format to the new library building or the Marrickville Town Hall provides the opportunity for improvements to these buildings to meet the need of development currently occurring in the Camperdown area. Thus the recommendation for these buildings is that they be adapted for reuse as a community centre seeking to meet the demands generated

by recent development in the Camperdown area.

This report recommends two additional multi-purpose facilities although the space required by additional development can be provided as additional to existing facilities or new facilities.

Consideration was also given to the reuse of the Marrickville Town Hall on completion of the library relocation. It is recommended that any upgrade to this building to adapt it for use for community purposes should address existing demand for space in areas such as meeting rooms, spaces for arts and culture and offices for community service providers.

### 6.3 Children's Services – Long Day Care

#### Strategic Direction

Marrickville Council is committed to providing a high standard of childcare, and its childcare service is important to parents and workers in the LGA. One of the strategies outline in Council's *Marrickville Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program 2011-2015* is to 'ensure that children's education and care services provide a strong foundation for lifelong learning', towards meeting the outcome of lifelong learning opportunities; the program also commits to 'ensuring children's education and care services are high quality and accessible', to meet the outcome of providing a range of services to the community. The program specifies KRA key performance measures related to the provision of childcare services. These are as follows:

**Table 101: Performance measures: Child care services**

Outcomes	Action	Performance measure	Target
Outcome 1.3 Marrickville communities have access to a range of services for people of all ages and abilities	1.3.3 Provide equitable access to high quality children's education and care services	Council's early learning centres comply with current High Quality accreditation rating and transition successfully to the new National Quality Standard and Framework	As determined by Federal Government
		Council's family day care services comply with current High Quality accreditation rating and transition successfully to the new National Quality Standard and Framework	As determined by Federal Government
Outcome 1.5 Marrickville communities have access to learning opportunities at all stages of life	1.5.1 Deliver children's education and care services that provide a strong foundation for lifelong learning	Council's OSHC care services comply with current High Quality accreditation rating and transition successfully to the new National Quality Standard and Framework	As determined by Federal Government
		Facilities comply with satisfactory condition standards	100%

## Qualitative Needs Assessment

### Outcomes of Audit

Long day care facilities across the Marrickville LGA are currently operating at a full capacity. Discussions indicated that there was a strong need across all age groups, with extensive waiting lists in place at each facility. Facilities generally work well from the perspective of staff, but there is little room to expand on any of the sites. Facilities will need to be upgraded in the near future to ensure compliance with incoming childcare regulations.

## Benchmarked Needs & Future Provision

### Council-operated Long Day Care

As outlined in Chapter 4 Marrickville is undergoing a baby boom and expects an increase in the number of children resident in the LGA to 2031. As the number of children increases, there will be a corresponding increase in the demand for childcare. To adequately assess future childcare needs, projections must account for not only this residential need but also some of the needs of Marrickville's non-resident workforce. Both these groups' childcare requirements are considered below.

The methodology employed to assess the future needs of non-resident workers in the LGA is based upon calculations, specifically designed to assist local Councils in the preparation of S94 contribution plans for childcare, detailed in the report *Encouragement of Work-based Childcare through Town Planning Requirements in NSW* (Lang & Edmondson, AGPS, 1991). This method involves estimating the future number of working women with children under 5 in the LGA, the proportion of these women who would use childcare services, and the average number of children per woman (1.14 children per woman, based on the 2006 Childcare Census). This data is displayed in the table below. Using this calculus there are currently 101 children with non-resident mothers working and requiring long day care in the Marrickville LGA; with the additional growth in working population to 2031 this figure is set to rise to 108, an additional 7 places from present levels. Council currently provides 27.7 per cent of childcare provision in the LGA; at this level of council-public provision council will need to provide an additional 2 childcare spaces by 2031 for non-resident workers.

Table 102: Work based long day care needs

Table 103: Work based long day care needs	Workforce	Non-resident workforce	Women with children 0-4	Women needing childcare	Children requiring places	Additional places required	Council-provided additional places
2011	28037	21544	885	89	101	-	-
2021	28972	22263	916	92	104	3	1
2031	29908	22982	946	95	108	7	2

Demand for child care is sensitive to costs, with changes in policies at the State and Commonwealth level in relation to operating subsidies and rebates critical to community access to, and thus demand for, child care. There are a range of benchmarks and standards for the provision of child care. However there are large variations in the rates of provision recommended under to different guidelines (ranging from one space for every three children with a working parent, to one space for every ten children). These guidelines are also often unspecific, and do not identify whether 'childcare places' refers to long day care services exclusively or include preschools. After an extensive review of childcare provision benchmarking methods, none have been found to be suitable for use in the context of the Marrickville LGA.

The current level of provision of childcare in the LGA is considered insufficient to meet demand, with most childcare centres contacted as part of this research reporting that they were full and with waiting lists; all council-run childcare centres have extensive waiting lists. The future provision of childcare services then has been calculated on the underlying principle that the level of provision of community facilities to existing residents and workers should not worsen as a result of new development – that is, that childcare services continue to be supplied at the same rate of provision as currently exists, relative to the number of children requiring childcare.

264 long day care places and 80 preschool places are currently provided in Council-owned facilities, a total of 344 childcare places in council-owned facilities. This figure does not include family day care. This represents 27.4 per cent of the total provision of preschool and LDC places in the LGA (1253 places), at a rate of one place in council-owned facilities for every 14.5 children.

It is estimated that there will be an additional 650 children between 0 and 4 years

resident in the LGA in 2031. Capacity for an additional 650 children at a rate of one place for every 14.5 children between 0-4 will require an additional 45 childcare places in facilities provided by council. This forecast level of provision is calculated independently from privately-operated childcare, given its difficulty to predict and the sensitivity of such provision to changes in subsidies and regulations. Total childcare provision needs in Council-owned facilities is shown in

**Table 104: Total childcare needs in Council-owned facilities**

Year	Resident children 0-4	Total resident places	Additional resident places from 2011	Additional worker-places	Total increase	Total places
2011	4990	344	-	-	-	344
2021	5390	372	28	1	29	373
2031	5640	389	45	2	47	391

In order to maintain current standards of provision of childcare, Council will need to provide facilities to accommodate an additional 47 childcare places by 2031. This would mean a total of 391 childcare places housed in Council-owned facilities.

#### **Options to meet needs**

In order to maintain current levels of provision relative to the overall need of the community, an additional 47 Council provided long day care spaces is required to meet the needs of population growth to 2031. This equates to one medium sized centre, or a significant expansion of an existing centre. Existing childcare facilities are already at site limits, and would require upwards expansion, rather than outwards; even under this scenario some facilities are not upgradeable given that they are at the limits of regulatory requirements for indoor : outdoor space ratios. The preferred options then involve the construction of a new, purpose-built childcare facility possibly co-located with other social infrastructure, and located on council-owned land to minimise costs.

As discussed in Section 4, consultation with council staff has suggested that physical location is generally not a determining factor in families' choice of childcare centre; rather, they are likely to attend the centre that best suits their needs and that they judge to be of the highest standard, and are willing to travel to the centre. The small size of the LGA supports this observation. As a result the locations of future centres are not critical to their success; if a future council-run centre is of a high standard it is likely to attract families from across the LGA, and relieve pressure upon other facilities.

Thus there would appear to be flexibility in the location of centres. Generally new centres should be located within close proximity (say 200 metres) to a community

focal point or facility, which may include:

- an activity centre or node;
- a major employment establishment;
- a shopping centre;
- a library;
- a place of worship;
- an active parkland area;
- a school;
- a sporting ground.

LGA residents select childcare facilities according to the quality of the service and their perceptions of how it meets their needs, in addition to physical proximity. Accordingly, location in relation to specific catchment population need not be a critical factor in identifying options for future childcare centre locations. The provision of a new high-quality facility will likely have a flow-on effect in alleviating the demand at other centres in the LGA.

Nonetheless, the existing distribution of private and public childcare centres creates a childcare 'black hole' in the Dulwich Hill, Lewisham and South Marrickville west of Illawarra Road, with only one long day care centre located in this area. Given the 'Dulwich Hill Baby Boom' identified in discussion with Council officers, and the large number of new dwellings expected in the Dulwich Hill area, a potentially-located facility on the Seaview Street site is an option.

Other options include:

- Housing childcare facilities in currently vacant properties, including the Livingstone Road cottages;
- The provision of new facilities on Council-owned parkland (similar to the Pathways centre), possibly Sydenham Green if appropriate soundproofing solutions can be found;

Consistent with other areas, demand is strongest in the 0-2 age group, which is a need met to a greater extent by Council facilities.

Opportunities for integrated service provision should be considered where possible. Appropriate facilities for co-location with childcare centres may include libraries and children's health services.

### **Children's Services – Before and After School Care**

Before and after school care services provide care for school children before and after school and during the day on designated school development days and vacations. Most are located on government school sites with services provided by a range of operators including Council, P&C Associations and not for profit organisations.

Services operate under a lease or licence with the Department of Education and

Communities (DEC). Use can be made of existing buildings if available (which is the preference) or purpose built facilities can be provided. The DEC does not construct facilities and thus any additional accommodation or refurbishment required to operate a service must be provided by the operator. The facilities become the property of the DEC at the end of the agreement period.

The DEC recommends that needs be determined by survey of the school community. There are no reliable standards or benchmarks for the provision of before and after school care.

The estimated number of children in Marrickville between the aged of 5 and 12 in 2011 is 5,142 children with the number of before and after school care places being 695 (330 places in Council run facilities). This represents 1 place per 7.3 children.

By 2031 there will be a demand for an additional 131 spaces if this rate is to be maintained (based on an estimated number of children aged 5 to 12 of 6,100 by 2031).

As these facilities are generally provided on land not owned by Council and in facilities that are owned by DEC, or will become the property of DEC at the termination of the licence or lease, the provision of these facilities is generally not within the ambit of S94 of the EP&A Act unless there is a long term lease and Council provide the facilities.

## 6.4 Libraries

### Strategic Direction

Marrickville Council operates a library service, providing the LGA's residents and workers, and any other members of the public, with a range of borrowing, information training and event services. One of the strategies outline in Council's Community Strategic plan and Delivery Program 2011-2015 is to 'ensure local libraries are important community centres which are high quality and well resourced', towards meeting the outcome of lifelong learning opportunities. This program includes several library-related Key Results Area performance measures:

**Table 105: Performance measures - Libraries**

Outcome	Action	Performance measure	Target
1.5 Marrickville communities have access to learning opportunities at all stages of life	1.5.2 Provide high quality library and history services to the Marrickville community	Mean satisfaction rate with provision of library and history services (Community Survey)	>3.79
		% of local residents who have visited one or more of the libraries in last 12 months (Community Survey)	>42%
		% of residents who are aware of home library	>30.5%

		service (Community Survey)	
	1.5.3 Provide community facilities, including technology facilities, and manage the library and history services as an important community centre	% of residents who are aware of free wireless and internet access offered by libraries (Community Survey)	>53%
	1.5.4 Ensure an efficient loan system, proper record-keeping and currency and relevancy of the collections	Ratio of items purchased: items deleted	1:2
		Turnover rate – physical items	4
		Turnover rate – electronic items	4
		% of residents who are aware of availability of free downloadable e-books and MP3s (Community Survey)	>15.7%
	1.5.5 Engage the community in recreational and lifelong learning activities	% of residents who are aware of programs and collections for children (Community Survey)	>47.3%
		% of residents who are aware of programs and collections for adults (Community Survey)	>43.1%
		% of residents who are aware of programs and collections for the multicultural community (Community Survey)	>42%
		% of residents who are aware of programs and collections for young people (Community Survey)	>39.2%
		% of residents who are aware of tutoring programs (Community Survey)	>27.2%

## Qualitative Needs Assessment

### Outcomes of Audit

While libraries are well used and appreciated by the community, the buildings housing library services are generally not fit for the purpose to which they are put. Buildings in the library portfolio are not purpose-built, and have instead been occupied on an ad hoc basis as they become available. As a result their internal layouts are often unsuited for library uses. Reading rooms, seating areas, computing sections and separate collections are made to fit into available spaces, sometimes leading to incompatible uses alongside each other (such as children's sections and

reading areas in the Marrickville Central Library). Dulwich Hill is particularly problematic, with rooms of an older house converted into separate library sections.

Space constraints imposed upon the central library by its site are severely impacting upon operations, and the areas of all branch libraries are smaller than the minimum recommended standard outlined in SLNSW publication *People Places*. Given the difficulty likely involved in the expansion of any of the branch libraries it is recommended that any additional future demand be accommodated in new facilities.

In Marrickville Library there is insufficient space for library clients and stock, with staff describing a lack of room for collections that they would like to keep in a separate area. Collection turnover is also faster than would be ideal, as space constraints mean that newer and more popular books can be kept on shelves. Dulwich Hill staff mentioned in particular that they would like to expand the community language collection but that this was not possible due to space limitations.

The lack of back-of-house operating room in the branch libraries has not been identified as a serious problem, but should be noted. There is no running water to the library staff offices in Marrickville Town Hall, other than taps in the bathrooms.

### Demographic Trends

Traditionally the age groups which are high library users are pre-school (0-4 year olds) and school-aged children (5-17 years old), young adults and students (18-25 years old), and older persons (65 years and older). As described in Chapter 4 these groups collectively comprised 28.5 per cent of the 2011 population, and are expected to grow to 30.1 per cent by 2031.

In 2009/10 there were 20,645 LGA-resident members of the library, or 26.1 per cent of the LGA's total estimated population.

Population projections for the next twenty years anticipate an increase in population of 10,174. Assuming that current levels of demand remain constant and approximately one quarter of these new residents become registered library users, the library facilities will be required to accommodate around 2,540 new members by 2031.

There are a number of trends, outlined in *People Places* (3rd prepublication edition), which impact on the demand for library services. These include:

- Libraries increasingly functioning as 'community living rooms', rather than lending services, and can provide a focal point for parts of the community to spend time;
- Less spatial programming, with fixed carousels and reading tables being replaced by flexible open study spaces and informal seating areas;

- Libraries as drivers of urban and socio-cultural regeneration, reaching out into their surrounding neighbourhoods;
- Library and event programming attracting the interest of the wider community;
- The ageing population is affecting services and collections offered, and demand for library services is likely to increase as the population continues aging;
- Different youth library use patterns, requiring collaboration, discussion and IT equipment;
- New information technologies have reduced the demand upon libraries as sources of information, while enabling more flexible working patterns (including tele-working);
- An increasing recognition of the needs of multicultural communities, resulting in foreign language collections and multicultural events/programming;
- Increasing urban density causing increases in the population of libraries' catchment areas.

The future planning of library services and facilities will need to be informed by these trends, and develop services that cater to an increased need for flexible and usable library space and reduced demands on physical collections.

#### Outcomes of Consultation

The most often used library by respondents was Marrickville Branch with a total 33 per cent of respondents using the branch once or more each week. The least used was Dulwich Hill Branch with 47 per cent of respondents saying they never use it.

The most popular activity at every branch was clearly borrowing items such as books, DVDs etc. with 72 respondents (31 per cent) saying they borrowed items.

Participating in activities and events, research and study, participating in classes and groups, and using the Internet were the next most popular activities at libraries with 14 per cent, 11 per cent, 9 per cent and 9 per cent of respondents undertaking these activities respectively. The least popular activity was using the home library service at 1 per cent.

Generally, libraries rated well across most services and features. The top three rated features were the 'cleanliness of facility' (61 per cent rated good or very good) 'access by public transport' (60 per cent) and 'operating times' (59 per cent).

Around half of respondents found the three features of 'lighting (internal)', 'general presentation (internal)' and 'general presentation (external)' to be good or very good at 54 per cent, 53 per cent and 46 per cent respectively.

The three features which received the lowest ratings (poor and very poor combined) were 'adequate parking (25 per cent)', 'toilets' (21 per cent), and 'size' (20 per cent).

## Benchmarked Needs & Future Provision

The State Library of New South Wales provides a detailed methodology to assess the library size needed to house sufficient services to meet its community's needs<sup>21</sup>.

Two different benchmarking approaches are provided to calculate floor area requirements. The first is a measure based on the proposed level of provision of resources, and the second is based upon population projections including non-resident workforce. The latter, population-based benchmarking, is used in this report.

*People Places* advises using this approach with reference to an area's ten-year population projections; within this report 20 year projections (to 2031) have also been used. Under the population-based benchmarking methodology a standard floorspace requirement, the local area factor (LAF) is calculated, and additional floorspace ratios are provided to accommodate circulation and services requirements; i.e.

$$\text{GFA} = (\text{LAF} + \text{CAF}) \times 1.2$$

GFA = Gross floor area

LAF = Local area factor (projected catchment resident and non-resident workforce population, calculated according to the building area factor table below)

CAF = Central area factor (15 per cent of the product of the projected LGA resident and workforce population, calculated according to the building area factor table below; used only when calculating central library floorspace, and allows for circulation, offices and other administrative functions)

1.2 = Circulation / services allowance

**Table 106 – Building area factor for *People Places* benchmarking**

Projected population served (resident and non-resident workforce)	m2 per 1,000 population
Less than 20,000	42
20,001 – 35,000	39
35,001 – 65,000	35

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<sup>21</sup> *People Places: A Guide for Public Libraries in New South Wales* (3rd ed. (prepublication ed.), 2012)

65,001 – 100,000	31
Over 100,000	28

As outlined in Section 4.3, 1,454 m<sup>2</sup> floor area is currently being utilised as library space within the Marrickville LGA. It is understood that this figure is Net Floor Area; utilising the *People Places* assumption of GFA being 20 per cent larger than NFA, the total provision of gross floor area to library functions in all libraries is estimated at 1,745 m<sup>2</sup>.

The benchmarked recommendations are provided below in Table 107. *People Places* provides benchmarking calculations for two models of library service – a single central library model, and a central- and branch-libraries model; the recommended central library GFA is smaller in the branch library system. The table below indicates the benchmarks provided under both models, assuming 3 branch libraries each with a catchment area of 10 per cent.

**Table 107 – Benchmark library space provision**

	Resident Population	Non-resident workforce	Total population served	Recommended GFA – single library model	Recommended GFA – branch libraries model
2011	79,000	21,513	100,513	3,884 m <sup>2</sup>	Central – 3,124 m <sup>2</sup> Branch - 507 m <sup>2</sup>
2021	84,487	22,230	106,717	4,124 m <sup>2</sup>	Central – 3,317 m <sup>2</sup> Branch - 538 m <sup>2</sup>
2031	89,974	22,948	112,922	4,363 m <sup>2</sup>	Central – 3,510 m <sup>2</sup> Branch - 534 m <sup>2</sup>

Note: In the absence of firm catchment data branch libraries have been assumed to each have a catchment of 10 per cent of the LGA's resident and worker population.

Applying the *People Places* benchmark to the current and future population of the Marrickville LGA suggests a shortfall of library space provision. Under the branch library model, Marrickville Central Library should have a GFA of 3,124 m<sup>2</sup> and each branch library should have a GFA of 507 m<sup>2</sup>.

According to these calculations each of the branch libraries are undersized, falling below or just above the recommended absolute minimum standard outlined in the report (190 m<sup>2</sup>), and well below the population-based benchmark. To bring these branch libraries up to standard would require increasing their GFA several times over. Similarly, the current central library provision of space is short of the benchmark figure suggested by *People Places*. The Marrickville Library's GFA is 1170 m<sup>2</sup>,

compared to a benchmark figure of 3,124 m<sup>2</sup> under the branch model.

An assessment of the floorspace requirements and accommodation schedule for the new library has been conducted in December 2011 by an external consultant, Dr David Jones, at Council's request. Using the *People Places* population-based benchmark, this assessment concluded that a total 3,101m<sup>2</sup> floorspace for the provision of library services would be required in a new central library to serve the needs of the population into the future. The assumptions employed to arrive at this figure differ in several aspects from those employed in this study. These differences are:

- Dr Jones' report considered the needs of the population in the year 2026, while the scope of this report extends to 2031.
- Dr Jones' report employed population projections sourced from the Department of Planning, identifying a population of 84,800 by 2026; this report employs population projections provided by Council and identified as more accurate, which identify a total 89,974 residents by 2031.
- Dr Jones' report employed workforce projections that predicted no growth in non-resident workers, for a non-local workforce of 20,000 by the year 2026; this report employs workforce projections provided by Council and identified as more accurate, which identify a total 22,948 non-resident workers by 2031.
- A slightly higher proportion of the LGA's population has been estimated as central library users in the present report.

Council is planning to provide a new central library on the former Marrickville Hospital site. This library would have a gross floor area of approximately 3892 m<sup>2</sup>. Of this area 3230 m<sup>2</sup> will be devoted to core services and facilities, with 664m<sup>2</sup> reserved for the provision of community hub style services in line with recent changes in library design and service delivery. These include gallery and exhibition space, an auditorium, historical archives, and an auditorium. Given the high identified unmet demand for community facilities in the LGA, it is considered that these spaces will contribute towards meeting the needs of the existing community.

Given the impracticalities and expense involved with upgrading the branch libraries and relatively small geographical size of the LGA, it is recommended that the provision of future library space continue to be provided under a model in which branch libraries assume more of a 'community living room' role. This would include providing daily newspapers and relevant CALD resources, children's services such as story reading and homework help, and quiet places at the neighbourhood scale to sit and read or work, with less emphasis on holding a full range of collection materials (but with access to collections at the central library).

Under such a provision model the new central library could assume a greater role in holding the library services' collections, as appropriate given its larger floor area,

and would function as a library for the whole of the LGA.

The new library would meet the needs of existing and future population. Consequently, the cost of a new facility would need to be apportioned between existing and future residents and workers.

### **Options to meet need**

The construction of the new central library on the old Marrickville Hospital site, according to the accommodation schedule, would provide a gross floor area of 3,893.4 m<sup>2</sup> with 3,230m<sup>2</sup> providing core library services and 664m<sup>2</sup> providing extended 'community hub' services housed within the library building; this is in line with the trends for library service delivery identified in the upcoming third edition of *People Places*. This total approximates the size required to meet projected community needs in 2031, with benchmark standards recommending a central library GFA of 3,510 m<sup>2</sup> under the central- and branch-libraries model. However given that there is a predicted floorspace shortfall of approximately 1,000m<sup>2</sup> amongst the three branch libraries in 2031 the provision of library space will still fall short of the *People Places* population-based benchmark levels.

The community spaces within the library complex could include medium sized meeting rooms addressing an identified need. This provides greater flexibility with existing facilities in proximity to the library site such as Marrickville Town Hall to be adapted to meet the needs of the existing community.

By utilising a hub-and-spoke model, the branch libraries are likely to provide services to some regular library users (such as those accessing daily foreign language newspapers, or using the library as a quiet space for reading), somewhat lightening the load placed upon the central library.

For this reason the construction of the new central library is seen as a strong option to meet the future needs of Marrickville's residential and working communities.

## **6.5 Arts and Culture**

### **Strategic Direction**

Marrickville Council has a strong commitment to the arts and cultural development of the LGA, and the existing levels of arts facility provisions reflect this commitment. One of the outcomes stated in Council's *Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program 2011-2015* is that 'Marrickville is a creative community participating in arts and cultural activities at all stages of life.' To achieve this outcome Council identifies three strategies:

- Ensure all community members have access to arts and cultural activities and facilities;
- Engender a community where everyone feels comfortable expressing their chosen cultural life, including their cultural practices and languages;

- Ensure the community has access to the collective culture of the local area through community events, festivals and exhibitions.

Several arts-related performance measures have been set to measure Council's progress towards these goals. These are as follows:

Action	Performance measure	Target
1.7.1 Undertake arts and cultural development for the area	Proportion of residents who participate in arts and cultural activities daily, weekly or monthly (Community Survey)	>54%
	Mean score: Ease of finding out information about local arts and cultural activities (Community Survey)	<2.5
1.7.2 Implement Council's arts program	Proportion of residents who participate in arts and cultural activities daily, weekly or monthly (Community Survey)	>54%
	Mean score: Ease of finding out information about local arts and cultural activities (Community Survey)	<2.5

### Needs Assessment & Future Provision

Consultation with council has identified high demand for studio space, and the provision of other non-programmed space for performing arts rehearsal groups. This demand is felt by both hireable community spaces, and by Arts and Culture; applications to exhibit at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery have increased significantly over recent years.

There is a significant provision of non-council arts facilities in the LGA, including:

- The Addison Road Centre, providing several different facilities in a large non-profit complex;
- Four galleries available to rent;
- Community theatre space, including Inner West Cultural Services and the Red Rattler Theatre; and
- A range of live music/art venues.

Council provides accommodation for the display of items and records of the collective culture of the local area including the Portuguese Ethnographic Museum and there is a need for space for the display and appreciation of local history items. Such displays of the history and life of the City should be located in accessible

places where they can be appreciated by the general community. Display cabinets in the foyer to public buildings such as the library or a community centre together with displays in the local history section of the new library are one possible option for providing a home for these items and access by a greater number of people.

There are very few relevant benchmark standards for the provision of cultural facilities such as galleries, studios and a residence provided by Council. Most of the commonly used standards apply to regional art galleries or museums which tend to be larger specific projects. In the context of Marrickville the most appropriate indicators of demand for arts and cultural facilities provided by Council are derived from consultation and expressed demand.

There is an expressed demand for general purpose activity space for workshops and rehearsals as well as display space.

Arts and cultural groups can be creative in the use of space with most facilities being in buildings adapted for use. This process is likely to continue whereby there is the potential for utilising available space and buildings for arts and cultural purposes in response to expressed demand by the community.

Such uses can be opportunistic with available space capable of being adapted for use including space made vacant by the relocation of other uses such as the new library, space in older industrial buildings becoming available for use by arts groups, and other buildings in Council's property portfolio.

The requirements for this space are driven by the expressed needs of the community and the infrastructure available to implement Council's strategic intention to provide support and assistance to arts and culture.

Such groups would have access to space in a multi-purpose community centre that should be provided with facilities such as sinks and wet areas for artistic endeavours.

## 6.6 Young people

### Strategic Direction

Marrickville Council has a commitment to provide for the area's youth, which is reflected in its *Community Strategic Plan* and *Delivery Plan 2011-2013*. In order to achieve Council's outcome of providing access to a range of services for people of all ages and abilities, one of the plan's strategies is to 'engage young people in the community through relevant services and events'. This is supported by several performance measures, as follows:

Table 108: Performance measures - Youth

Outcome	Action	Performance measure	Target
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<p>1.3 Marrickville communities have access to a range of services for people of all ages and abilities</p>	<p>1.3.1 Collaborate with citizens, service providers and agencies to plan services that meet the needs of all members of the community</p> <p>1.3.2 Deliver and improve access to services that produce better outcomes for people of all ages and abilities</p> <p>1.3.2 Deliver and improve access to services that produce better outcomes for people of all ages and abilities</p> <p>1.4.3 Provide and promote sport and recreation opportunities for all sectors of the diverse Marrickville community, including those with special needs</p>	<p>Mean satisfaction rating (from maximum score of 5): Services and facilities for young people (Community Survey)</p>	<p>&gt;3.22</p>
<p>Outcome 1.5 Marrickville communities have access to learning opportunities at all stages of life</p>	<p>1.5.5 Engage the community in recreational and lifelong learning activities</p>	<p>% of residents who are aware of programs and collections for young people (Community Survey)</p>	<p>&gt;39.2%</p>

Council's *Youth Strategy 2009-2011* sets further goals for the provision of youth services; these include:

- To encourage and facilitate genuine participation by young people in Council decision making and community life in general
- To improve access to a range of government and non-government community services and facilities for young people;
- To utilise technology and communication strategies that are relevant and accessible to young people;
- To consider young people's expressed needs in council planning processes such as land use, strategic, environmental and recreation planning.
- To encourage and enable young people to engage in positive artistic, cultural and recreational activities.
- Council will support the development of education, training and employment opportunities that are relevant to and prepare young people, in all their diversity, to succeed in the modern world.

- To support programs addressing the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of young people.

### **Needs assessment and future provision**

Youth centres provide an important service to the community by allowing young people to spend time engaged in structured or unstructured activities and have a place where they feel safe, and providing counselling services and life skills training. While in many cases adequately maintained outdoor recreation spaces and multipurpose community centres will provide the space needed by young people, dedicated youth facilities are in some cases required to provide specialist services.

Numerous benchmarks, including those utilised by the Queensland State Government and those supplied by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, recommend a rate of provision of one dedicated youth facility per 20,000 population. The provision of youth centres in the Marrickville LGA currently stands at one centre, for the LGA (approximately 79,000 residents). There is also access by youth to other facilities such as libraries and community centres.

Several mitigating factors suggest that Marrickville's needs for youth facilities may be lower than in other areas. Marrickville is located in a gentrifying, densely built-up inner city area. As a result, more activities are available to young people to keep them engaged and active, such as a range of sporting clubs and activities, facilities and organisations focused around art or music, other service providers and options for general entertainment. This is likely to reduce the need for a place to spend time. Similarly, the density of the areas means that young people are able to reach other facilities outside the LGA more easily than they would be able to in suburban or rural regions.

Even assuming a less intensive provision of one youth centre per 30,000 population Marrickville is still underserved; according to this calculus Marrickville should currently house two youth centres, and with a population approaching 90,000 in 2031 will have a need for three centres.

### Proposed Facilities

The provision of future youth facilities is dependent on Council's strategic direction. As assessed by benchmark guidelines, there is an under provision of youth centres in the LGA.

A number of options are available for meeting the facility needs for youth. One option is that these needs can be met in part through access to space in a multi-purpose facility. Such multi-purpose space would need to be designed with the needs of youth in mind. This provides the potential for the co-location of office or organisational space for youth-oriented service providers. An alternative strategy may see council providing single purpose space to youth at existing facilities following the provision of additional facilities as recommended in this report. The needs of youth can be met in a number of way.

## 6.7 Older people

### Strategic Direction

In order to meet Outcome 1.3 of its Delivery Program 2011-2015, Council has committed to a strategy to 'Facilitate the participation of older people in local activities and services'. Performance measure to support this strategy include those set out below.

Table 109: Performance measures - Older people

Outcome	Action	Performance measure	Target
1.3 Marrickville communities have access to a range of services for people of all ages and abilities	<p>1.3.1 Collaborate with citizens, service providers and agencies to plan services that meet the needs of all members of the community</p> <p>1.3.2 Deliver and improve access to services that produce better outcomes for people of all ages and abilities</p> <p>1.4.3 Provide and promote sport and recreation opportunities for all sectors of the diverse Marrickville community, including those with special needs</p>	Mean satisfaction rating (from maximum score of 5): Services and facilities for older people (Community Survey)	>3.35

Council also has an Aging Strategy that outlines Council's vision and commits to providing an age-friendly community and environment. In addition to housing and built environment goals, the *Aging Strategy* 2008-2011 identifies facility- and service-oriented needs in the community that will need to be provided for. These include:

- anticipating the demand for and type of services that will be required;
- planning for facilities that encourage participation and healthy living;
- making the community safe and inclusive;
- improving access to information and encouraging awareness of ageing issues;
- more and different community care services;
- different public library facilities, collections, programs and activities; and

- different cultural facilities, services, technologies, programs and improvements.

### **Needs assessment and future provision**

Previously local government has tended to provide community centres exclusively for the use of older people at a benchmark provision rate of one centre for every 8,000 – 20,000 residents. However recent trends in the provision of facilities for older people indicates a preference for the provision of multi-purpose community spaces designed in ways that make them readily usable to older people. The provision of well-designed community centres in sufficient quantity therefore would be able to accommodate this group of residents. This is supported by observation of Herb Greedy and Seaview Street Halls, both of which provide accessible, well-maintained flexible spaces in a built-up areas, and are well used by older residents.

The number of older people in the LGA is expected to increase significantly by 2031, with the over-65 population expected to increase by over a third from 2011 levels. There is a pre-existing shortage of community space for older people in the community, viewed from either qualitative or quantitative metrics – from the rates of utilisation and operational capacity at the small halls, and against the provision of older people community space relative to recommended benchmarks. This is likely due to fit-for-use issues relating to the larger halls, discussed earlier in this chapter, which prevent them from being used for small gatherings.

It is likely that the provision of additional multipurpose community facilities, as discussed previously, will meet the space needs of older members of the community. However associated needs should also be considered; this particularly includes transport required for any activities or outings, as with the van service provided at Tom Foster Centre, and possible catering in association with the existing meals on wheels service.

### Dementia Day Care Centre

As the population of the LGA ages, there will be increased demand placed upon aged care services in the community. The 2008-2011 *Home and Community Care Regional Plan for the Metropolitan South Region* discusses the challenges faced by each Local Planning Area (LPA) under the HACCC system.

Marrickville is part of the Inner West LPA, which comprises a total seven LGAs (Ashfield, Strathfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Canterbury). The Inner West is identified in the Regional Plan as having a higher rate of dementia prevalence than the other LPA in the South West Sydney LPA; significant to the planning of health and aged care services is the prediction that the prevalence of dementia is predicted to increase by 70.6 per cent between 2006 and 2031. Dementia rates in the Inner West were 7.9 per cent of the total population over 65.

In 2011 there are an estimated 4,690 people with dementia living in the Inner West

LPA, with 7,168 predicted by 2031. There were 418,870 residents in the Inner West LPA in 2006; should the distribution of people with dementia be spread proportionately there would be 804 people with dementia resident in the Marrickville LGA as of 2006.

Assuming a rate of dementia prevalence of 7.9 per cent of over 65s, Marrickville had an estimated population of people with dementia of 651 in 2011; with an increase of 2978 people over 65 predicted by 2031, there is likely to be an additional 235 people with dementia in the Marrickville LGA.

Dementia care is currently a priority issue for state and federal governments, and the importance of appropriate CALD-specific care in diverse communities has been emphasised in recent strategies and reports including the Metropolitan South Regional Plan.

While there appears to be a need for a dementia day care centre in the community, Council should consider its role and strategic priorities determining whether to provide such a facility; considerable ongoing expense and compliance with regulatory requirements are involved with the operation of such a facility, and council should determine the type of contribution it can make towards the wellbeing of older people in the LGA.

**Table 110: Needs and Gap Analysis**

Facility type	Current utilisation	Benchmark	Current level of provision	Current benchmarked needs	Future benchmarked needs (2031)	Qualitative need
Venues / community space	45.3% <sup>22</sup>	Old Office of Urban Management Social Infrastructure Guidelines (7,000 m <sup>2</sup> total space excluding community organisation provision)	107.7 m <sup>2</sup> per 1,000	8512 m2 total space	9694 m <sup>2</sup> total space	Need for smaller spaces, particularly for non-incorporated performing arts groups
Childcare	100%	Existing rates of provision	335 places in Council-owned buildings	335 places	381 council-operated childcare places	Need for Council facilities in South Marrickville and facilities in Dulwich Hill and Lewisham
Libraries	N/A	People places calculations for central library	1454 m2	Central library – 3,124 m <sup>2</sup> Branch - 507 m <sup>2</sup>	Central library– 3,510 m <sup>2</sup> Branch - 534 m <sup>2</sup>	Under provision of space to be rectified by the provision of the new central library
Arts and culture	90% (approx.)	-	790 m2	-	-	Shortage of studio space for rehearsals and displays in the LGA
Youth	N/A	1 centre per 30,000 residents	1 centre for 79,000 residents	2 youth centres	3 youth centres	Needs best met in multi-purpose spaces

<sup>22</sup> This figure is calculated on the basis of 100% utilisation being in use for 8 hours per day, 7 days per week

## 6.8 Sources of funding

### Section 94

A key component of this study has been the identification of any shortfall or gaps in facility provision both currently, and in anticipation of population growth to 2031.

The study recommendations include, amongst other things, proposals for the following new facilities to meet the needs of future population as a consequence of growth and development:

- a contribution to the cost of the new central library planned to meet the needs of existing and future population;
- a new child care centre having the capacity for 47 places on Council land;
- two multi-purpose neighbourhood community centres each having an area of approximately 400-500 square metres on Council land.

This section addresses opportunities for the levying and allocation of Section 94<sup>23</sup> contributions towards the infrastructure required to meet the needs of the additional population growth. The focus is on the open space and needs of the forecast future population which is anticipated to increase from an estimated resident population of 79,000 in 2011 to a maximum of 89,974 in 2031.

This population growth will necessitate the provision of additional community facilities to ensure that existing levels of amenity, enjoyed by the current populations, are not eroded.

### S94 Planning

Council's current S94 Contributions Plan came into force in 2004 and identified facilities required to meet growth projections over a 5 year period.

Contributions can be levied under the existing plan towards the cost of library facilities and general purpose community space.

As at 30 June 2011, \$2.2m was held by Council resulting from contributions towards the cost of community facilities.

Council will prepare a new Contributions Plan following completion of this Study.

This section identifies key S94 principles and then establishes the relationship (nexus) between the expected development in the area, the associated population growth, and the demand for facilities generated by that development. It then summarises the facility requirements that can be funded through S94.

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<sup>23</sup> Section 94 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

## Principles of S94

Under the provisions of Section 94 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act) councils are able to obtain development contributions as a means of funding local infrastructure required as a result of the new development(s).

The principles of Section 94 are fully espoused in the Department of Planning's Development Contributions Practice Notes, July 2005 (2005 Practice Notes) and other guidelines and manuals such as the Section 94 Contributions Plan Manual (Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Second Edition, 1997). Key principles include *nexus*, *reasonableness* and *apportionment*. The following extract from the *Local Development Contributions Practice Note For the assessment of Local Contributions Plans* by IPART dated November 2010 summarises the key principles that underlie local development contributions.

### General requirements

- If councils wish to seek a contribution under Section 94 they are required under Section 94B of the EP&A Act to prepare contributions plan. The aim of that plan is to establish the relationship between the expected types of development in the area to which the plan applies and the demand for public amenities and services to meet that development.
- Section 94 contributions are imposed by way of condition of consent (or complying development).
- The requirement for a contribution can be satisfied either by paying a monetary contribution or dedicating land free of cost. The requirement for a contribution can also be satisfied by the provision of a material public benefit (works-in-kind).
- Councils as consent authorities may impose conditions under section 94 and section 94A of the EP&A Act only if it is of a kind allowed by, and that is determined in accordance with, a contributions plan.
- The contribution must be towards 'public amenities or services' (S94 of the EP& A Act). What constitutes public amenities and public services is not defined. Public amenities and public services are however expressly defined to not include water supply or sewerage services (S93C of the EP&A Act).
- Generally, contributions can only be sought for:
  - Capital costs, including land acquisition costs
  - Public facilities that a council reasonably has to provide
  - Public facilities that are needed as a consequence or to facilitate new development.
- The condition must only be imposed for the provision, extension or augmentation of public amenities and public services (S94 (2) of the EP&A Act). That is, generally, contributions cannot be sought for recurrent funding such as maintenance.
- A contributions plan can require the payment of a monetary contribution towards recoupment of the cost of providing the public amenities or public services (being the cost as indexed in accordance with the regulations) (S94 (3) of the EP&A Act).

## **Reasonableness and Accountability**

Section 94 contributions are based on the key concepts of reasonableness and accountability.

Reasonableness relates to nexus and apportionment.

- Nexus refers to the connection between the development and the demand created. The requirement to satisfy nexus is based on ensuring that there is a link between the development and increased demand for facilities. In addition, the infrastructure needs to be provided within a timeframe that meets the demand.
- Apportionment refers to the share borne by the future development. The concept of apportionment is based on ensuring that developers are only paying for the portion of demand that results from their development.

Accountability relates to both public and financial accountability.

- Accountability is a basic requirement of Section 94. Public accountability may be sought through open decision making, maintenance of appropriate financial records and community involvement, while financial accountability may be sought through the works schedule to the contributions plan, annual reports and a contributions register.
- A key issue with accountability in relation to reasonableness relates to the completion of the works program within the contributions plan, ensuring that the infrastructure is provided within a timeframe that meets the need of the development.

## **Nexus**

Nexus is the relationship between the expected types of development and the demand from the new population for additional public facilities created by that development. The demonstration of nexus is one of the core requirements for charging S94.

The link between the proposed development and the increased demand for public facilities can be demonstrated through causal nexus (what is needed), spatial nexus (where it is needed) and temporal nexus (when it is needed).

Causal nexus is the most crucial of the three. Above all, it must be remembered that S94 cannot be used to make up existing shortfalls or backlogs.

## **Reasonableness**

The concept of reasonableness entails the philosophy underlying the preparation and administration of an S94 Plan. The responsibility is on Council to determine what may be 'reasonable' and to ensure the reasonable application of S94 in terms of the dedication or contribution required and the provision of facilities or services in a

reasonable time.

### **Apportionment**

Apportionment is a process which seeks to ensure that the contributing population pays only for its share of the total demand for a facility. The cost of a facility may need to be apportioned on the basis of:

- The regional - local use of the facility
- The LGA - the non-LGA population
- The existing population - the expected new population.
- Full cost recovery (i.e. no apportionment) can only be used where the facility is provided to meet the level of demand of the new development only, and there is no spare capacity available in the area. Funds can only be recouped later when a public facility was provided in anticipation of that development.

### **Types of Developer Contributions**

There are three developer contribution options; Section 94 contributions, Section 94A levies or a voluntary planning agreement (VPA) i.e. an agreement negotiated between the developer and the Council.

Section 94A levies are easy to administer but with a low levy limit (currently 1 per cent of the cost of development), they cannot meet many of the demands generated by development.

Voluntary planning agreements are more flexible and can address wider demands, but this is unlikely to occur in most circumstances.

These principles have guided the assessment of community facility needs in this chapter.

### **Recent Amendments to S94**

The NSW Government has recently set limits on the quantum of contributions for residential development and the types of infrastructure for which contributions can be levied. The contributions ceiling has been \$20,000 per dwelling since 4 June 2010. This limit does not apply to conditions to development consents granted in Marrickville LGA in accordance with the 2004 Contributions Plan.

This was part of a range of reforms aim to increase housing supply by lowering development charges for infrastructure to stimulate housing construction. The reforms included a revised approach for setting local development contributions and local council rates<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>24</sup> Local Development Contributions Practice Note for the assessment of Local Contributions Plans by IPART dated November 2010.

The EP&A Regulation requires that a contributions plan must be prepared having regard to any relevant practice notes adopted for the time being by the Director-General. This includes the 2005 practice notes and the 2010 practice note.

The 2010 practice note assists councils in understanding the new framework for development contributions in NSW and the role of IPART in development and review of contributions plans.

New Section 94 contributions plans which propose a contribution level above the relevant cap require review by IPART. IPART will review plans based on identified criteria including whether the public amenities and public services in the plan are on the *Essential Works List*. Public amenities and public services on the list include:

- land for open space (for example, parks and sporting facilities) including base level embellishment;
- land for community services (for example, childcare centres and libraries);
- land and facilities for transport (for example, road works, traffic management and pedestrian and cyclist facilities), not including car parking; and
- land and facilities for stormwater management.

The new contributions system includes alternatives to contributions above the cap including the establishment of a Priority Infrastructure Fund and Special Rates Variations which also require review by IPART.

### **Section 94A levies**

Section 94A levies (or 'indirect' contributions) are currently limited to a maximum of one percent of the cost of development but the Minister for Planning can vary the rate.

As part of the recent review of council submissions seeking approval for higher than \$20,000 per dwelling contributions, the Minister-appointed a review panel which recommended that councils within existing urban areas give consideration to employing a section 94A (rather than section 94) approach, with a levy 'struck at an appropriate level to the circumstance'.

### **Facility Needs of Incoming Populations - Marrickville**

This Study contains a series of recommendations for capital infrastructure to meet future needs in Marrickville. Council can use these recommendations as a basis for the proposed future development contributions plans.

The incoming resident and worker population arising from new development will contribute to the demand for facilities in Marrickville. The current Study provides a sound basis for anticipating the specific facility needs of these incoming

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populations.

### **Factors affecting supply**

The study has found that the Marrickville's existing supply of community facilities across all types generally meets the needs of existing populations as detailed in Chapter 4.

The key conclusion is that existing facilities, while sufficient for the needs of the existing population, will have a limited capacity to meet the needs of incoming populations. This will be offset somewhat by the new Marrickville Library development. This will free space in the Marrickville Library when vacant which together with the re-use of currently vacant stock, will enable additional space to meet the needs of existing residents in areas such as meeting rooms and general purpose spaces to be used by the existing community.

In the area of child care, it is assumed that the private sector will continue to have a role in meeting child care needs with Council and the private sector responding to growth needs through the provision of additional facilities.

### **Basis of nexus**

Marrickville's population is expected to increase by up to 10,974 (or 12.2 per cent of 2031 population) between 2011 and 2031 mainly due to new residential developments throughout the City but predominantly in:

- Petersham
- Lewisham
- Dulwich Hill
- Marrickville
- Enmore/Newtown.

Marrickville's employment base is expected to increase by up to 1,871 workers (or 6.7% of 2031 workforce) between 2011 and 2031.

This population and workforce growth will contribute to the demand for community facilities provided by the Council.

The small area of the LGA means that it will not be necessary to provide community facilities on a precinct basis. Rather it is considered that while logical locations will be identified, facilities anywhere in the LGA should be accessible to all new residents and/or workers and those that meet the requirements identified above, eligible for S94.

The location of the facilities and services should be determined having regard to the location of increased demand, accessibility to the identified facilities and services and the manner in which such need, in Council's view, may best be satisfied.

### **Basis of apportionment**

The proposed community facilities required to meet the needs of the forecast new residents can be 100 per cent apportioned to new development. Where facilities are provided to meet the needs of existing and future residents, the cost are shared proportionally.

### **S94 works scheduling**

An indicative S94 work schedule (Table 111) has been prepared based on assumptions of facility provision.

Additionally, given the very high cost of land and the unpredictability of land availability, it is assumed that facilities will be provided on Council owned land.

Identification of specific works and firm costing can be undertaken following adoption of the recommendations made in this study.

Table 111 – Indicative work schedule

FACILITY	TOTAL CAPITAL COST	TOTAL CAPITAL COST RESIDENTIAL	TOTAL CAPITAL COST WORKFORCE	ADDITIONAL RESIDENT POPULATION	ADDITIONAL WORKER POPULATION	APPORTIONMENT FACTOR TO NEW DEVELOPMENT	OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING	S94 CONTRIBUTION RESIDENTIAL (per person)	S94 CONTRIBUTION WORKFORCE (per worker)	SHORTFALL TO BE PROVIDED BY COUNCIL
<b>LIBRARY SERVICES</b>										
New central library	\$27,100,000	\$21,592,764	\$5,507,236	10,974	1,870	12.2%	\$0	\$240	\$184.15	\$23,793,800
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$27,100,000</b>	<b>\$21,592,764</b>	<b>\$5,507,236</b>				<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$240</b>	<b>\$184</b>	<b>\$23,793,800</b>
<b>CHILDCARE FACILITIES</b>										
Provision of 47 place multi-purpose child care centre	\$2,500,000	\$2,393,617	\$106,383	10,974	1,870	100.0%	\$0	\$218	\$56.89	\$0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,393,617</b>	<b>\$106,383</b>				<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$218</b>	<b>\$57</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>COMMUNITY CENTRES</b>										
Multi-purpose community centre land acquisition and capital cost	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000		10,974		100.0%	\$0	\$246		
Multi-purpose community centre land acquisition and capital cost	\$2,700,000	\$2,700,000	\$0	10,974	N/A	100.0%	\$0	\$246	\$0.00	\$0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$5,400,000</b>	<b>\$5,400,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>				<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$492</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,000,000</b>	<b>\$29,386,381</b>	<b>\$5,613,619</b>				<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$950</b>	<b>\$241</b>	<b>\$23,793,800</b>

**Table 112 – Indicative contributions**

	Persons / Dwelling	Community Facilities
Per Person		\$950
Small dwelling (under 75 sq.m)	1.33	\$1,264
Medium dwelling (75 – under 92 sq.m)	2.05	\$1,948
Large dwelling (92 – under 150 sq.m)	2.83	\$2,689
Very Large dwelling (150 sq.m or more) and New Lot Subdivision	3.75	\$3,563
Per Worker		\$241

### **Conclusions on S94 Issues**

This Study has provided recommendations on the provision of community facilities for which Council has a strategic planning intention to provide to the community.

It is concluded that there is potential to levy for contributions towards the cost of the new library, a child care centre and multi-purpose community space.

However Council will need to clarify and confirm details concerning the scale, location and detailed costings of the works - before levels of contribution and Council's liabilities can be accurately quantified.

### **6.9 Long Term Financial Plan implications**

Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is a key component of its Integrated Planning and Reporting framework. It provides the mechanism for modelling the financial implications of the (short, medium and long term) strategies included in Marrickville's Community Strategic Plan. Its main purposes are to assist in strategic planning and to ensure financial sustainability.

The findings of this study relevant to Council's LTFP are:

- An on-going commitment to maintenance of a range of existing facilities that have been identified as being well utilised and appreciated by the community;
- An on-going commitment to improvements in facilities to improve sustainability, accessibility and functionality;
- The potential for rationalisation of facilities at key locations and specifically Marrickville Town Hall, Livingstone Street buildings, Seaview Street and Australia Street as a consequence of the new library and potential for

decanting and reuse of space to meet current needs;

- An on-going commitment to improvements in child care centres to ensure regulatory compliance and accreditation;
- The need for additional facilities in the form of multi-purpose community centres and child care spaces to meet the demand generated by new development;
- A future commitment to staffing new community centres or entering into arrangements with operators willing to provide services in accordance with community needs.

## **6.10 Governance**

This Report supports the view that Marrickville Council is strongly committed to, and understands the value of community engagement in all its diverse facets; from exercise for older people to childcare for the very young, from libraries for quiet reading or for educational purposes, to activities which strengthen cultural heritage and contribute to the diversity of the Marrickville community.

As reflected in the Marrickville Community Strategic Plan – ‘Our Place Our Vision’ Council is committed to the provision of facilities that allow the community access to a range of equitable services, and participation in a range of diverse activities and ensure the existence of a flourishing local not-for-profit sector is maintained to service the community.

Council clearly recognises the contribution its community services make to culturally vibrant and diverse community, to the promotion of health and wellbeing, to social connection, and to the facilitation of participation of previously underserved groups such as Aboriginal people, young people, older people, people with a disability and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex residents.

Over time there has been an ongoing expectation by the Marrickville community that the Council will continue to provide both the services and the facilities that enable its members to engage in a diverse range of community activities at a minimal cost. However, while community expectations continue to increase, the capacity of Council to finance the resources required to meet those expectations is limited.

This situation presents Marrickville Council with some difficult decisions and some significant challenges, challenges that all Councils across Australia are currently facing as community needs and expectations increase and budgets remain finite. The most basic of these challenges is determining to what extent it is Council’s core business to provide facilities for the community, and what should, or could, be provided by the private sector or the not-for-profit sector – independent of, or in partnership with Council.

The reality is however that whatever the answer(s) to this question, Council is always likely to be involved in the provision of at least some community facilities. This means that there will be ongoing challenging financial and other decisions that Council will need to make e.g. How best to use limited financial resources so that they will provide maximum benefit for the community? How to determine priorities when there are so many valid and competing needs? What new facilities are required to meet future needs and where should they be located? Would it be more effective and efficient to embellish an existing facility than to build a new facility to meet a specific current or future community need or a new legislative requirement? In the light of potential amalgamations and, in order to maximize the benefits of economies of scale, should Council be considering the provision of new facilities, or the embellishment of current facilities, in partnership with other councils?

This Report provides Council with both an evidence base and guidance to assist with some of these decisions, now and into the future, but ultimately it will be up to the governance body - the Councillors - to make final the decisions.

In order to ensure that whatever decisions Council makes are of the highest quality, Council staff will need to work closely together to provide Councillors with the best possible advice. This means that those areas across Council that have either direct or indirect responsibility for the provision of community facilities and their associated services (e.g. Community Services, Asset Management, Finance, Culture and Recreation Strategy and Planning etc.) - but which may have a different perspective regarding what is 'needed' and what is 'possible' - will need to engage with each other at every stage of the decision making process. While this will not mean that all aspirations, and indeed all needs, will now be met it will result in a much higher quality, testable making process which will ultimately lead to better outcomes – if only because Councillors are provided with the best quality advice on which to base their decisions.

From the perspective of the community it is critical that Council is able to demonstrate that all decisions are evidence-based and that the processes both staff and Councillors undertake in reaching their decisions are transparent and accountable – especially in such a highly contested area as the provision of community facilities.

Similar principles of good governance that were incorporated in the recent Marrickville Recreational Study as a guide for Council are equally relevant with respect to the provision of community facilities. They are:

1. Using the evidence base
2. Improving cross-division collaboration and strengthening the culture
3. Demonstrating transparency and accountability.

### **Using the evidence base**

In order to understand the extent to which existing facilities meet community needs,

and to plan effectively for future needs, the Study Team undertook extensive community consultation. They also completed site visits, facility audits and reviewed the relevant policy context and other activities being undertaken by Council.

All of these activities combine to provide Council with a substantial evidence base upon which to base its decisions.

In demonstrating the required strong leadership when determining how best to meet the current and future facility needs for a diverse community such as Marrickville, it will be critically important that Council is able to justify its decisions on the basis of evidence, since it has already been acknowledged above that, with finite resources and expanding community expectations, not all groups will have their expectations met.

These decisions will test the quality of Council's leadership and decision-making processes. While they are never easy, difficult decisions are always less complex, and indeed more transparent, more effective, and more readily accepted by the community when they are underpinned by a solid evidence base and when the community has access to that evidence – as in this Report.

### **Cross division collaboration and organisational culture**

Effective decision-making in local government has traditionally been limited by poor communication and coordination across and between different areas. This is often referred to as the existence of 'internal silos'. While acknowledging that the 'silo syndrome' represents a problem for almost all complex organisations, it is a particular issue for local government as councils are at the interface of the community, and the decisions they make, and the services they provide, generally require input from different areas in order to be effective, and to reflect the diversity of the community.

The provision of community facilities that meet current and future community needs requires input from a range of different areas across council e.g. community services, environmental services, strategy, planning, engineering, property and assets, infrastructure etc.

The traditional 'silos' that exist in Marrickville Council (and in almost every Council) and which impact on facility development, have been acknowledged in this study by Council staff in much the same way as they were in the Recreation Study<sup>25</sup>. In both instances however, what was recognised by staff was the potential opportunity for using the two studies and their findings to improve communication across

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<sup>25</sup> It is extremely pleasing to know that the Council is currently developing an internal strategy to address this issue.

different areas in Council, and to develop more coordinated decision-making processes by engaging the different, relevant parts of the Council in those decisions.

There will always be different lenses through which specialist staff view the needs pertaining to their area of interest and expertise, however the understanding of 'core business' as it pertains to the planning and delivery of community facilities should not be limited to a particular component of one or two Divisions within Council, but should incorporate a 'whole of council' approach. By acting on that understanding, and by including the input from, and contribution of, all of the different 'players' *from the beginning*, both Councillor and staff decisions will be more effective, and time and money will be saved.

The extent to which cross-divisional collaboration functions effectively is often a measure of the strength and the positive nature of the Council's organisational culture.

An emphasis on the culture of the organisation is sometimes thought to be a 'soft' governance area, having little impact on day-to-day work performance or effective leadership and management. However this is far from the case. Research indicates that organisations where people feel that others understand both the challenges they face and the efforts they make, and where they feel their contribution is valued by others, have the highest levels of employee satisfaction. They are also organisations where staff strive to achieve high performance levels.

The culture of the organisation is generally set by its leaders. In the case of councils this includes both the GM and the senior staff and, most importantly, the governing body – the Councillors. In setting a leadership example by adhering to the three governance principles identified at the beginning of this chapter, Council's leadership teams will not only set the tone, they will lead by example. This will have a positive impact not only on decisions regarding community facilities, but across all areas of council work

### **Demonstrating transparency and accountability**

At times when growing community expectations exceed Councils' capacity to deliver – as will in all likelihood continue to be the case with respect to the provision of high cost, high quality community facilities - negative community feedback can be anticipated. However this feedback is often the result of the community's lack of awareness of the extent of the economic and other resource pressures councils are under. This is exacerbated when councils make little or no effort to explain what those pressures are, or how restricted their options are.

The community consultations for this study indicated that the Marrickville community is far more likely to understand, and even to accept that their demands cannot be met – at least in the immediate term – if Council responds quickly, and they know that the Council is doing the best it can within the context of finite resources. This is particularly the case if the speedy response and transparency is combined with

evidence-base decisions. Small but important examples include ensuring that halls and meeting rooms are clean and maintained so that equipment is in working order, and that those who do not abide by Council's rules are no longer permitted to use the relevant facility. The community needs to see that Council is listening to their concerns and complaints about poor maintenance and is taking appropriate action.

The facility itself may not be brand new or state of the art. For the majority of the users of Marrickville's community facilities this is not the major concern. They understand not everything will be new, but they do not understand why it cannot be maintained so that it is at least clean and functional.

Continuous effort across all areas of Council, aimed at achieving and maintaining consistently high standards of accountability and transparency - whether it is communicating a hard message and explaining honestly why it is not possible to build a large new facility - even though the need is acknowledged - , or making and delivering on a commitment that a small, well used facility will be well maintained, are both demonstrations of transparency and accountability. Equally they are both important ways of building trust with the community and strengthening community support

# CHAPTER 7: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND ACTION PLAN

## 7.1 Strategic Framework

### Vision

Marrickville will provide a range of functional, accessible, well managed and sustainable community facilities that meet the priority needs of the LGA's residents and workers both now and in the future.

### Desired Outcomes & Strategies

#### **A sufficient quantity and diversity of facilities to meet community need**

- Providing enough supply of facilities to meet the current and future population and workforce and in accordance with locally relevant planning standards
- A diversity of facilities to meet the demonstrated needs of a diverse community in line with the Community Strategic Plan Our Vision Our Place

#### **High quality accessible, sustainable and socially inclusive facilities and spaces**

- Ensuring that facilities provided for the community are of a sufficiently high quality and are cost effective
- Providing accessible facilities for Marrickville residents throughout the life cycle and in response to specific needs
- Ensuring that Council's sustainability policies and goals are built in to the maintenance of existing and the development of new facilities
- Facilitating community connections and well being through facilities locations, service programming and the promotion of community service hubs
- People-oriented facility design

#### **Participation Options for Everyone**

- Planning a mix of services and programming within facilities that meets the needs of a diverse community and the breadth of life cycle needs
- Balancing the provision of traditional activities and facilities with new and emerging demands
- Ensuring transparent pricing and policies for facilities use including hire, lease and free access
- Promoting an integrated provision of services across government, not-for-profit and for profit sectors

## 7.2 Action Plan for Community Facilities

The following Action Plan provides prioritised actions and indicative costs for a series of recommended actions that seek to realise the above outcomes and which are organised according to the *typology of Council's* community facility provision.

Actions have been given a *high, medium, low* or *ongoing* priority rating, which has been broadly attributed according to the following criteria:

High priority actions are:

- urgent;
- mandatory/statutory requirement;
- outstanding actions from studies and plans; and/or
- suggested to occur within a 1-2 year time horizon.

Medium priority actions are:

- important but not urgent;
- reliant on other high priority actions being undertaken;
- subject to other agency programming; and/or
- suggested to occur within a 3-5 year time horizon.

Low priority actions are:

- reliant on high and medium priority actions being undertaken;
- timing subject to other agency programming; and/or
- suggested to occur within a 5+ year time horizon.

Ongoing priority actions are:

- actions of high to low importance which require ongoing rather than 'time limited' management attention.

## 7.3 Action Plan

### Facilities Planning

Goal/Strategy	Action	Priority	Indicative Cost (\$)
<b>Strategy 1: A sufficient quantity and diversity of facilities to meet community need</b>			
1.1 Providing enough supply of facilities to meet the current and future population and in accordance with locally relevant planning standards	Maintain existing facilities in line with recommendations of this report and current community population  Prepare S94 Contributions Plan to include:	<b>MEDIUM</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 900sqm of additional community space in the form of 2 multipurpose community centres</li> <li>• one additional Council owned child care centre (47 spaces) to ensure supply for incoming population matches or maintains current provision</li> <li>• Collect contributions towards the cost of a new library to benefit existing and future population.</li> </ul> Identify opportunities to provide more access to meeting rooms which can be used by medium sized groups of between 20-50 people.	<b>HIGH</b>	

<p>1.2 A diversity of facilities to meet the demonstrated needs of a diverse community in line with the Community Strategic Plan Our Vision Our Place</p>	<p>Continue to provide a diverse suite of facilities including Libraries, Halls and Meeting Rooms, Child Care, Arts and Cultural and Community Centres generally and increase the stock by three units (see above) by 2031.</p> <p>Completion of the new Marrickville library will open up opportunities for additional services through the reuse of the current library location at the Marrickville Town Hall.</p> <p>Marrickville Town Hall should be upgraded and adapted for use for community purposes to address existing demand for space in areas such as meeting rooms, spaces for arts and culture and offices for community service providers.</p> <p>Australia Street group of facilities to be adapted for reuse as a community centre seeking to meet the demands generated by recent development in the Camperdown area maintaining art usage.</p> <p>Better utilisation of Debbie and Abbey Borgia Recreation Centre to ensure that residents in South Marrickville get improved access to general meeting and community space</p> <p>A centralised, coordinated booking system that includes all spaces run by different services (including the library, venues and community organisations and also potentially spaces in recreation facilities).</p>	<p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	
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<p>1.3 Improved management of existing facilities to improve usage and accessibility</p>	<p>Improved management and maintenance protocols, particularly with regards to kitchen equipment for facilities that are not staffed on a regular basis.</p> <p>A centrally maintained directory of all Council and non-Council community facility spaces for use by community</p> <p>Upgrade of furniture (i.e. ergonomics), storage and AV equipment to ensure standardisation and accessibility</p> <p>Market all facilities more effectively to maximise community awareness and usage. Including intended upgrades and new uses</p>	<p><b>MEDIUM</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p>	
<p><b>Strategy 2: High quality accessible, sustainable and socially inclusive facilities and spaces</b></p>			
<p>2.1 Ensuring that facilities provided for the community are of a sufficiently high quality and cost effective</p>	<p>Within current budgetary limits continue to maintain the facilities to the high level of standard currently provided</p> <p>Ensuring that services providers and lease holders benefit from affordable pricing to meet community needs</p>	<p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	

<p>2.2 Providing accessible facilities for Marrickville residents throughout the life cycle and in response to specific needs</p>	<p>Continue programming to meet the increase in older residents</p> <p>Maintain and expand Tom Foster facility where possible to ensure provision and quality of service for elderly residents</p> <p>Provide one additional child care centre for parents and carers of young children</p> <p>Continue to support OSHC for residents of Marrickville</p> <p>Determine ways to expand provision of MYRC for young people</p> <p>Carefully consider the needs of young people in the design and programming of the new multi purpose community facilities as there is a need for better access for this group</p> <p>Ensure that the new Library maximises options for services to seniors, youth, Aboriginal people and CALD groups</p> <p>Design upgrades and new facilities to ensure accessibility for all in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- people with a disability</li> <li>- parents with mobility issues</li> <li>- frail elderly</li> </ul>	<p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p> <p><b>ONGOING</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p>	
<p>2.3 Ensuring that Council's sustainability policies and goals are built in to the maintenance of existing and the development of new facilities</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to reduce green house gas emissions through retro fitting existing facilities with energy saving measures</p> <p>Integrate sustainable design principles into the design and development of all new facilities</p>	<p><b>HIGH</b></p>	

<p>2.4 Facilitating community connections and well being through facilities locations, service programming and the promotion of community service hubs</p>	<p>In determining locations for new facilities ensure that the current trends in provision and access are brought together for example in the precinct around Marrickville Town Hall.</p> <p>In determining locations for new facilities ensure that these align with other strategic plans such as improved open space and public domain planning</p> <p>Consider the needs of areas where there are currently less facilities or social connectedness including South Marrickville and Tempe/St Peters</p> <p>Build on existing infrastructure in particular public transport access and cycle/walkability</p>	<p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>ONGOING</b></p>	
<p>2.5 People-oriented facility design</p>	<p>Encourage facilities that are staffed to enable co-location of services and sharing of resources and programming which are inviting to the general community.</p> <p>Integrating universal design principles in all new buildings and upgrades including accessibility to meet the DDA standards for public access buildings.</p> <p>Continuing to consult the community closely on design and impact of new facilities to ensure community needs are taken into account.</p>	<p><b>ONGOING</b></p> <p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>ONGOING</b></p>	
<p><b>Strategy 3: Participation for Everyone</b></p>			
<p>3.1 Planning a mix of services and programming within facilities that meets the needs of a diverse community and the breadth of life cycle needs</p>	<p>Provide and maintain facilities that enable Council's policies for the delivery of services to be implemented</p>	<p><b>HIGH</b></p>	

<p>3.2 Balancing the provision of traditional activities and facilities with new and emerging demands</p>	<p>Review utilisation of facilities and adapt as required to ensure that facilities are capable of providing the services council seeks to provide to the community</p> <p>Review adequacy of facilities in the light of changing trends and the provision of new facilities and identify opportunities for rationalisation of buildings and land holdings</p>	<p><b>MEDIUM</b></p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p>	
<p>3.3 Ensuring transparent pricing and policies for facilities use including hire, lease and free access</p>	<p>Completion of the new leasing policy to ensure pricing and other policies are consistently applied across service areas</p>	<p><b>HIGH</b></p>	
<p>3.4 Promoting an integrated provision of services across government, not-for-profit and for profit sectors</p>	<p>Establish a community facility directory including facilities and services provided by a range of organisations across the City.</p> <p>Ensure that internal Council planning and special projects include input from all key stakeholders from Council, not-for-profit, private sector and the community</p>	<p><b>HIGH</b></p> <p><b>ONGOING</b></p>	

## **7.4 Performance indicators**

### **Purpose**

This Report has made a range of recommendations for improving the provision and impacts of resources and services in Marrickville LGA. The recommendations are aimed at optimising the quantity and quality of Marrickville's facilities and services, with a view to enhancing the LGA's social, environmental and economic sustainability.

This Chapter proposes a set of suitable indicators to facilitate Council's measurement of progress in implementing the recommendations, and the extent of subsequent improvements in the social, environmental and economic sustainability of Marrickville.

Specifically, the indicators will assist Council in understanding how existing and new programs and services are perceived by residents and program users; whether or not programs are meeting their stated objectives; the efficiency of program delivery, and (in some instances) how service efficiency and effectiveness compares with that achieved by other providers (such a surrounding councils).

It is important to note that while performance indicators do not provide solutions, the full reasons for particular levels of performance, or the corrective actions required, they are important 'signposts' that indicate where performance and progress is good, average or poor. They are therefore particularly valuable tool as they can often provide the first verifiable indication that further investigative work is needed, or that Council may need to prioritise certain actions or resources.

### **Types of Performance Indicators**

Performance indicators can measure inputs, outputs, outcomes and processes. They can be quantitative or qualitative or both. They can be directional (e.g. Are we improving or lagging?), procedural (e.g. Are our processes efficient? Are we exploiting synergies through our partnerships?) or financial (e.g. Are our processes cost effective? Are we obtaining sufficient return on investments?).

Whatever types of indicators are used they should be based on verifiable standards relevant to Marrickville, and on identified community need, such as the needs identified by the community in this Study.

### **Data collection and methodologies**

There are an infinite number of potentially useful performance indicators. However, without unlimited finances and human resources, Council will always need to make determinations about which of all the potentially available indicators can, or should be, used. We have therefore selected the indicators set out below with this in mind and have used the following criteria:

- They can be drawn from easily accessible, inexpensive and credible data sources which facilitate benchmarking if warranted e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) or the NSW Division of Local Government (DLG)
- They can be easily acted upon
- Rather than selecting a large number of performance indicators priority should be given to a limited number that reflect core objectives and can clearly demonstrate progress in achieving them.

Depending on Council's financial and staff capacity, some of the indicators we have identified could be collected on an annual basis either in a 'stand alone' process or as an element of an ongoing annual data collection process. For example Council undertakes an annual community survey, and it may be possible to incorporate some additional questions about progress, performance etc. in this survey. As a minimum, the performance data should be collected and analysed on a three to five year planning cycle.

### **Benchmarking**

Performance indicators can be used to compare outputs and outcomes with other councils (e.g. per cent of people with disabilities and older people accessing facilities, per cent of young people accessing facilities etc.) but differences need to be interpreted with caution due to the non-standardisation of running programs and collecting performance data in different councils and the differential resources available to different Councils.