



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

Submission No. 4-1

Our Ref: 147222

Dr. Bill Pender
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr. Pender

I am writing further to the National Capital Authority's (NCA) appearance at the public hearing before the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories held 11 June 2013. Responses to the questions provided on notice following the hearing are set out below.

1. *How many childcare facilities operate within the areas subject to this inquiry (i.e. the Central National Area) and how many childcare places do they provide?*

NCA response:

The NCA does not have land/building management responsibility for all of these areas and is unable to provide an accurate answer to this question.

The NCA is aware of two childcare facilities in Parkes, three in Barton and one in Russell. There are additional childcare facilities in adjacent areas such as the ANU and Civic and in the suburbs of Campbell, Forrest, Manuka and Kingston.

2. *Is the NCA aware of waiting lists for some or all of these facilities?*

NCA response:

The NCA does not have land/building management responsibility for any property currently containing a childcare facility and is unable to answer to this question.

Availability of places is subject to the enrolment levels and policies of each facility.

3. *Does the NCA believe there is unmet need for more childcare places in these areas?*

NCA response:

The NCA is not involved in the operation of any childcare facility and is unable to answer this question.

4. *If so, what steps is the NCA taking to satisfy this need?*

NCA response:

In a general sense, the NCA acts to ensure that provision of childcare facilities is permitted/enabled by the planning system, but not necessarily mandated.

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Childcare facilities are permitted in virtually all new developments in the subject areas. It is a matter for building owners/managers to consider whether inclusion of a childcare facility is appropriate in their location.

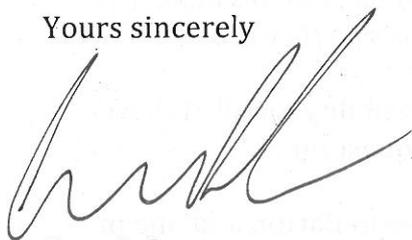
Subject to public consultation, the views of the Minister responsible for the NCA and Parliamentary disallowance, it would be possible for the NCA to amend the National Capital Plan require inclusion of a childcare facility in new development on a site that is, or sites that are, presently unleased.

There are two such sites remaining in Barton and several in the Russell area (all are managed by the Department of Finance and Deregulation). The inclusion of such a planning requirement may impact on the value of the land when sold by the Commonwealth.

There may also be additional constraints within the childcare regulatory system. The NCA is unable to comment on the particulars of that system.

I hope this information assists the committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Rake', written in a cursive style.

Gary Rake
Chief Executive

13 June 2013