NINA TAYLOR MP

Labor Member for Albert Park

Dear Mayor Makin,

3/8/2026

RE: Proposed closure of Coventry Children's Centre

Parents from the Coventry Children's Centre have reached out to my office, deeply concerned about the proposed closure to the Centre for 2027-2028.

Choosing childcare is one of the most important decisions parents make. Parents have reflected on the high regard they have for the Centre's educators, welcoming environment and genuine care. Parents have also lamented that the proposal is not simply about changing childcare providers; it is about disrupting relationships, and a trusted community that has supported families.

Closing the services to the Centre will not only deeply inconvenience impacted families, but it could have a very destructive impact on the future viability of the Centre. Early childcare education services cannot simply be stopped and started, and rely on continual service delivery to maintain the trust and reliability for those they serve.

The partnership between the Victorian Labor Government and the City of Port Phillip supports delivery of the Victorian Government's Best Start, Best Life initiative, including Free Kindergarten for 3- and 4-year-old children. Upgraded infrastructure helps children's services remain fit-for-purpose as demand grows and service models evolve.

The $16.5 million investment in infrastructure upgrades for 6 local early childhood education centres, should not come at the expense of other centres, but rather to enhance the delivery of services in the City of Port Phillip (COPP).

Moreover, there appears to be confusion in the messaging to the community as to the actual position of the COPP on this issue. The alleged proposed timeframe is also very concerning to parents. If approved on 19 August, families will have only four months to secure alternative childcare.

It is also unclear what will happen to the Coventry site once the upgrades at the other two centres are complete. If those relocations are temporary, families deserve a clear explanation of the long-term future of Coventry before any decision is made.

I note further, the last time COPP proposed significant changes to its childcare services, an overwhelming community response and petition led to those changes being abandoned, and our Victorian Labor Government was on the side of the community. That demonstrated how deeply Port Phillip families value Council-operated childcare. The community's position was clear then, and it remains clear now.

151 Park Street South Melbourne, Victoria 3205
T 03 9646 7173 E nina.taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au
ninataylormp.com.au NinaTaylorMP

Victorian Labor



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Questions for the COPP:

1. Can COPP please clarity what it is intending to do with regard to the future of services at Coventry Childrens Centre?
2. Would COPP be prepared to listen to the wishes of impacted families, and find an alternative solution to the proposed closure of the Centre, that therefore allows its' services to continue?

I strongly encourage COPP to genuinely listen to the families, educators and residents who will be directly affected, and reject the current proposal that purports to be in train.

Coventry Children's Centre has supported Port Phillip families for more than 26 years. I recommend COPP protect this valuable community asset and allow it to continue supporting future generations.

Yours sincerely,



NINA TAYLOR MP
MEMBER FOR ALBERT PARK