

OBERON COUNCIL

18 FEB 2011

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Combined Oberon Playgroup/
Mothers Groups
c/o 1 Tasman Street
OBERON NSW 2787

Dear Ms Mash,

We write to provide some feedback on the Library and the Community Centre. We represent 3 different playgroups that cater for an average of 25 children and careers (per group). We currently use the library facilities to meet, conduct activities and support each other as parents. The success of these groups and increase in new members means that the library facilities in which we meet are inadequate when you consider the numbers of children, carers, prams and the space needed to conduct activities.

We are eagerly waiting for the new room in the community centre to be finished and hope to use the new room on a weekly basis. The new 'large' room will suit our needs by accommodating the large numbers in the groups much better than the existing L-shaped room in the centre. The current room in the centre is an unmanageable shape for activities and too small for the number of children, carers, prams and activities. Could you please tell us when the centre will be completed and ready for use?

We are concerned with the announcement that the Heritage Tapestries (currently displayed in Cobweb) will be housed in the new community centre room. To our knowledge the tapestries are not protected with glass and will have to be at a height that children and adults can easily touch them. As children are boisterous and unpredictable we would hate to see the tapestries accidentally damaged with finger marks, paint, food or accidental brushing etc. We will not be the only community group using the facility where possible damage can occur- even by adults.

We can not understand the decision to house the Tapestries in the Community centre (which is locked) when they are easily accessible in Cobweb to both locals and visitors. We were not aware of any community consultation about this decision that would have allowed us to voice our concern at an earlier time.

When we are able to use the improved Community Centre we hope that shade in the backyard area will be a priority so we can conduct outdoor activities. Although winter will soon be approaching, those warm sunny days can do a lot of damage to skin and make outside activities unpleasant.

On another note, we would like to commend the library staff who are extremely accommodating to our groups, are fantastic with our kids and are always going above and beyond to meet our needs as best they can. Without them our current mothers groups would not be enjoyable and successful. We are thankful to have the 'Storytime' each Thursday. The library staff work very hard to include all of the children and are so very patient. Our groups are supportive of this activity and look forward to the community centre being finished so we can continue meeting there after story time

(as the back room in the library is too small) and continue to encourage our children and carers to use this wonderful resource and participate in library activities.

If you would like to respond or discuss our concerns please send any information to the above address or call Kim on 0408 947 692.

Kind Regards,

Kim Hill
Thursday Group Representative.

Yasmine Jecht
President-Oberon Playgroup

Emma Mclean
ABA (Australian
Breastfeeding
Association)
Group Leader