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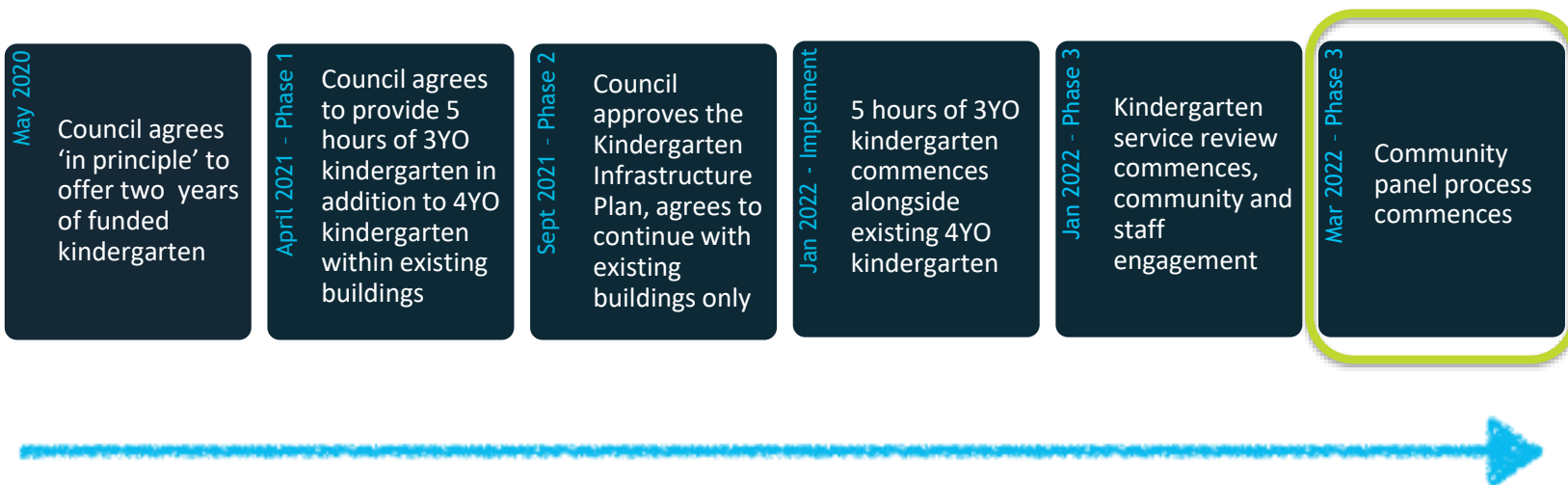


Community Panel: Initial Session Overview

In this session we want to share;

1. The history and context of the Kindergarten Service Review
2. What is driving the need for change?
3. What constraints and opportunities is Council facing?
4. The negotiables and non-negotiables
5. What the community has said so far
6. What staff have said so far

The story so far...



What is considered during a service review?



Benefits &
opportunities



Sustainability
& viability



Constraints &
challenges

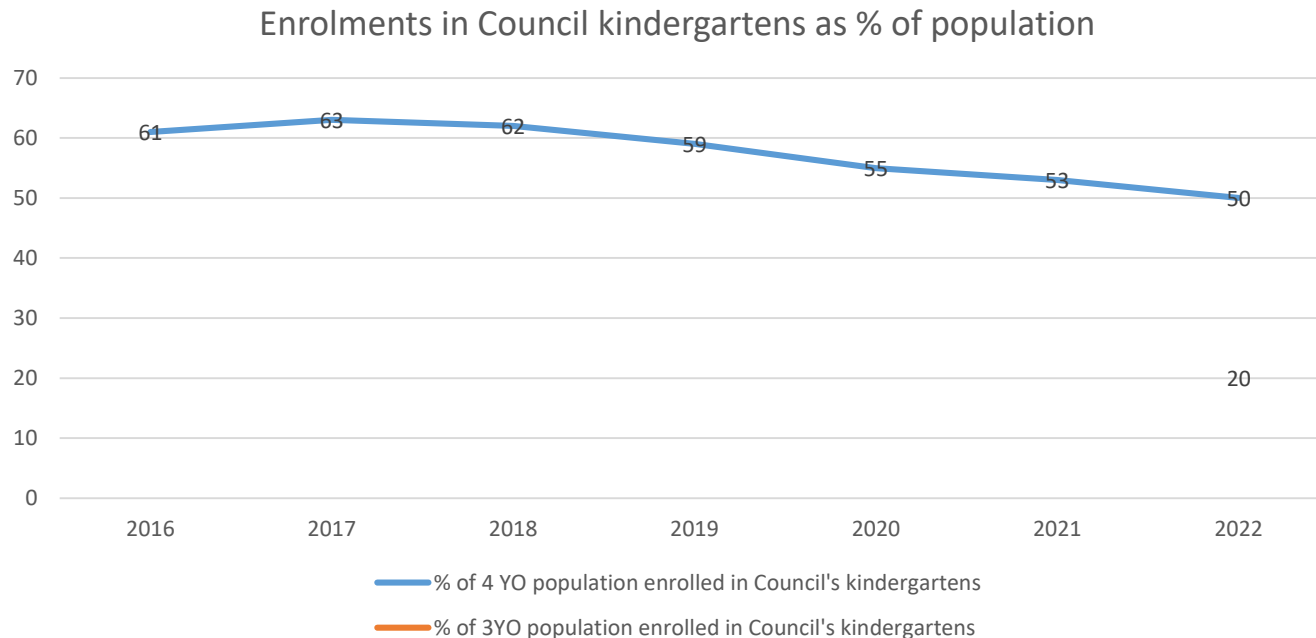


Why is change needed?

- Ongoing statewide reforms
- Changing funding and policy settings
- Choice of providers available
- Changing demand and needs
- Challenges to sustainability and viability
- Small and ageing facilities
- Service Agreement expiry

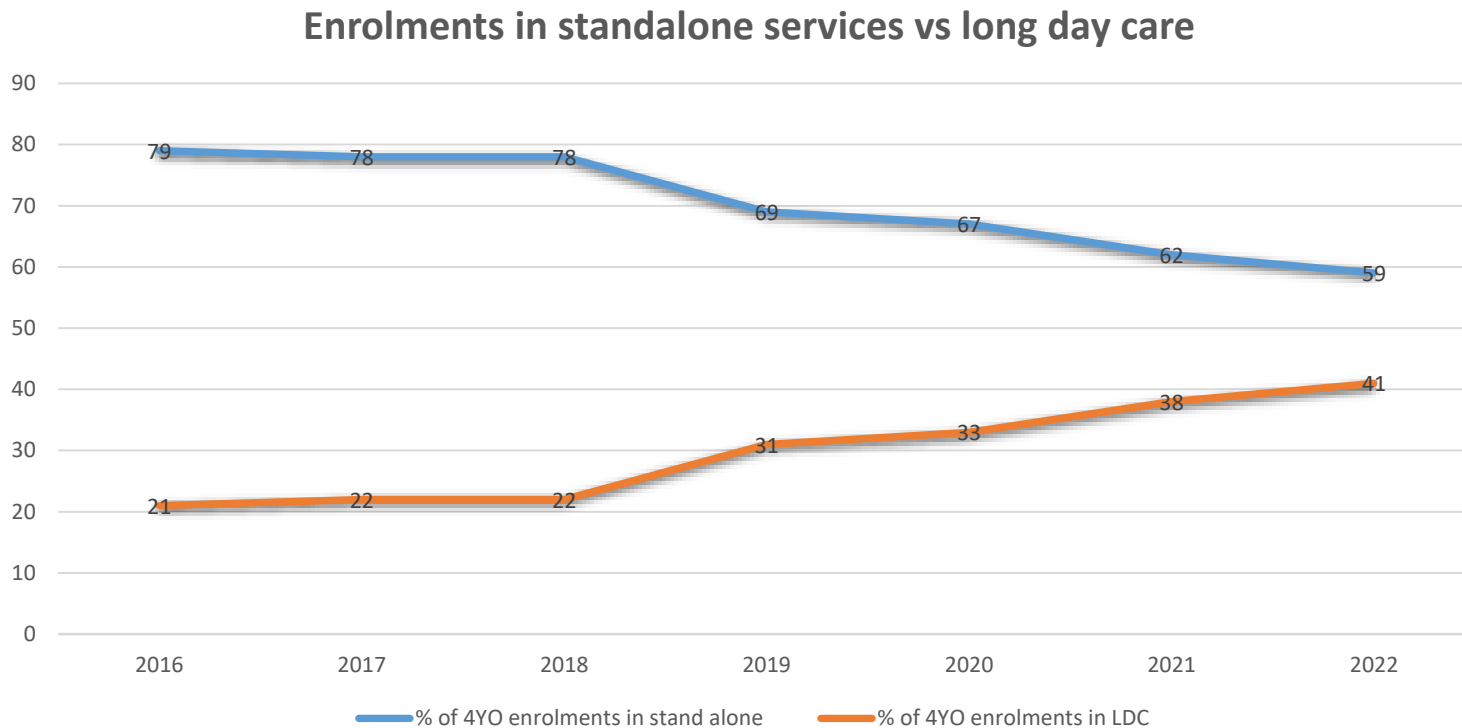


Enrolments in Council services are dropping



Historically, we have aimed to cover 60% of the population in our services

More families are choosing long day care settings



What opportunities does this present?

There will always be kindergarten in Knox, regardless of whether Council is a provider. We are committed to ensuring all families have access to high-quality local kindergarten.

- Optimise the early years hubs
- Have a robust conversation with community
- Review the mix of providers and programs
- Respond to community choice / preferences
- Support independent providers to expand
- Attract new providers to invest in buildings and programs
- Advocate to state government on behalf of community



Negotiables and non-negotiables

What's up for discussion, and what isn't?

Negotiables	Non-negotiables
• Whether Council continues to run kindergartens and to what extent (in line with the three options presented) • How Council might manage change • How Council supports families as a municipal planner i.e. what role Council plays in kindergarten if not as a provider	• Staying as we are - the service cannot continue as it has previously • Fees – Council cannot charge fees or increase rates to cover costs of running kindergarten • Compliance with regulatory requirements and standards • Planning scheme requirements • How we consult our staff • Operational matters of planning kindergarten such as: • Group sizes – fuller groups are required. • Hours – 15-hour programs will be required. • Which kindergarten sites change

What the community has said so far

Kids value a range of experiences



- Play equipment (162 responses)
- Friends (99 responses)
- Arts & crafts (90 responses)
- Toys (86 responses)
- Nature (49 responses)
- Outdoors (36 responses)

Adults told us they value



- Quality teachers and forming relationships (43 responses)
- Council's sessional kindergarten services (31 responses)
- Quality of Council programs (20 responses)
- Local community feel (17 responses)

Kindergarten workforce



Community Panel: Knox Kindergarten Service Review – March 2023

Options for Council's kindergartens

Option 1

Remain a kindergarten provider

- Council would directly operate kindergartens and employ staff
- Our services would be consolidated but would offer 15 hours for all 3- and 4-year-olds
- Families would have a choice of provider
- More opportunity for independent providers to expand or establish services

Option 2

Continue Hubs kindergarten services only

- Council would no longer operate stand-alone kindergartens which would impact staff
- Council would work with DET to transition to new providers
- Council would continue to operate kindergarten at the Hubs in Bayswater and Wantima South
- More opportunity for independent providers to expand or establish services
- Council would explore other roles to support families
- Some co-located services may be moved to different sites

Option 3

Cease providing kindergarten services

- Council would no longer operate kindergartens which would impact staff
- Council would work with DET to transition to new providers
- More opportunity for independent providers to expand or establish services
- Council would explore other roles to support families
- Some co-located services may be moved to different sites

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