



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN NAMBUR WARIGA MEETING ROOM
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, MORWELL
AT 6:30 PM ON
02 JUNE 2014

SM438

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Cr Sharon Gibson, Mayor	West Ward	
	Cr Dale Harriman, Deputy Mayor	East Ward	
	Cr Graeme Middlemiss	Central Ward	
	Cr Kellie O'Callaghan	East Ward	
	Cr Michael Rossiter	East Ward	
	Cr Christine Sindt	Central Ward	
	Cr Darrell White	South Ward	
	Cr Peter Gibbons	West Ward	
	Cr Sandy Kam	East Ward	
	Officers:	John Mitchell	Acting Chief Executive Officer
		David Elder	Acting General Manager Community Liveability
Chris Wightman		Acting General Manager Planning & Governance	
Geoff Hill		Acting General Manager Economic Sustainability	
Jamey Mullen		Acting General Manager Organisational Excellence	
Damian Blackford		Acting General Manager Recreation & Community Infrastructure	
Stacey Greenwood	Acting Manager Council Operations & Legal Counsel		

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1. OPENING PRAYER
2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND
3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE
4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Suspension Of Standing Orders

Moved: Cr White
Seconded: Cr Gibbons

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow members of the gallery to address Council in support of their submissions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Standing Orders were suspended at 6.31 PM.

Ms Kelly Ann Vardy addressed Council in relation to item 7.1 - Fees And Charges 2014/2015 – Submissions.

Moved: Cr Rossiter
Seconded: Cr Sindt

That Standing Orders be resumed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Standing Orders were resumed at 6.45 PM.

PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

7. PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE**7.1 FEES AND CHARGES 2014/2015 - SUBMISSIONS****General Manager****Planning and Governance****For Decision****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to have Council consider submissions received in relation to the draft 2014/2015 Fees and Charges schedule.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No officer declared an interest under the Local Government Act 1989 in the preparation of this report.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This report is consistent with Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley and the Latrobe City Council Plan 2013-2017.

Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley

Strategic Objectives – Governance

In 2026, Latrobe Valley has a reputation for conscientious leadership and governance, strengthened by an informed and engaged community, committed to enriching local decision making.

Latrobe City Council Plan 2013 - 2017

Theme and Objectives

Theme 3: Efficient, effective and accountable governance

Objective: To provide open, transparent and accountable governance

Strategic Direction – Continuously improve financial management and reporting

Legislation

Section 187 of the Local Government Act 1989

BACKGROUND

Annually, as part of the budget process, Council reviews user fees and charges.

The draft Fees and Charges were presented to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 April 2014 and Council resolved as follows:

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 02 JUNE 2014 (SM438)

That

1. *Council gives public notice of its intention to consider the draft Fees and Charges 2014/2015 and invites submissions; and*
2. *Council considers submissions in relation to Council's draft Fees and Charges 2014/2015 at a Special Council Meeting to be held on 2 June 2014; and*
3. *Council consider final adoption of the Fees and Charges 2014/2015 at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 June 2014.*

Public notices were placed in the Latrobe Valley Express on 1 May 2014 and 8 May 2014. Submissions closed on 28 June 2014.

At the close of the consultation period 50 submissions had been received.

ISSUES

A significant number of Council's fees and charges require notice to be given to users. By adopting the fees and charges it will allow sufficient notice to be given for any changes to fees and charges for implementation from 1 July 2014.

At the close of the consultation period 51 submissions had been received and these are set out at attachment 1. A brief summary of these submissions is shown below:

Brief summary of submission	Name of submitter	Officer Comment
Requesting consideration of a membership category for Emergency Services at Latrobe Leisure	Anonymous A	Emergency service departments are eligible under the corporate memberships offered in the draft 2014/15 fees and charges document. The proposed emergency services membership request will form part of a corporate membership review that is due to take place in 2014/15.

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
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Brief summary of submission	Name of submitter	Officer Comment
Request for review of pool fees applicable to Traralgon Swimming Club and its members.	Jane Mitchell President, Traralgon Swimming Club	A review of pool fees was undertaken in 2012-2013 in consultation with Latrobe City based swimming clubs. This review has informed the charges for 2013-2014 and was utilised for preparation of the draft 2014-2015 swimming pool related fees and charges.
Consideration of Pre-school fees being charged on a per session basis	Luke Yeates	The prekinder fee is an annual fee based on providing a two hour per week early learning and care service to children the year prior to their funded preschool program. The annual fee was calculated to reflect no cost to Council to provide the program and for payment in four equal instalments.
Request for Latrobe Regional Gallery fees to be funded through GDF Suez sponsorship	Irene Proebsting & Barry Brown Libby Witchell	<p>The current sponsorship agreement between GDF Suez and Latrobe Regional Gallery includes the gallery Education and Public Programs, but does not include the Community Access Gallery.</p> <p>The Gallery is a 'for hire' space and operates in line with other public regional galleries, which includes standard exhibition fees.</p> <p>Exhibition fees were established using benchmarking to ensure consistency with regional industry standards.</p>

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
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Brief summary of submission	Name of submitter	Officer Comment
Objecting to increase in Childcare Fees	Penny-Lee & Timothy Harris Josh & Stacey Jennings Christine McDonald <i>Lauren Whitehead</i> Jessie Bayley Gregory & Uwa Imhagwe Adam Auteri Vanessa Pavlic Belinda Hoffard Renee Paulet Samantha Salienko Ashly Casey Andrew & Alison Pigdon Emma Standen Ashleigh Cooney Kate Smith Rachel Smithson Kerby Robinson Dan H Teresa Forbes Jess Mackie Kylie Jennings Stacey Wolf Victoria Wilson Abbie McMahon Cassy Siddle Nicole Boothman Alex Wilson Jimi Hopkins Laura Buckton Sheila Wandue Lisa Pavlic Sheree Churchill Melanie Palmer Sharni Connolly Kym Charalambous Anonymous B Anna Demetriou Kelly Hewling Haley Taylor Julie Brown Amanda Waterston Ubaldo Peluso Louise Watson Helen Zandona Calida Havas	<p>The increase in long day care fees is proposed to decrease the current subsidy from rates for Child & Family Services.</p> <p>Day care services (unlike preschools) do not get grant assistance from the State or Federal Governments and is therefore a user pay service.</p> <p>The Child & Family Services budget is subsidised through rates in the current financial year by approx. \$1.15M. The proposed fee reduces the rate subsidy to \$1.05M. It should be noted that this places Council in the top quartile for cost for long day care fees (based on benchmarking of 13 day care service providers within Gippsland).</p>

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
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During the public consultation period The Department of Justice advised that the 2014/2015 fee and penalty unit values were gazetted on the 15 April 2014 and that the revised penalty and fee unit amounts effective from 1 July 2014 are:

Penalty Unit: \$147.61 (previously \$144.36 which equates to a 2.3% increase)

Fee Unit: \$ 13.24 (previously \$12.84 which equates to a 3.1% increase)

The Fees and Charges document has been updated to incorporate these changes.

Next Steps

Submissions to the draft Fees and Charges will be considered and the proposed final Fees and Charges 2014/2015 will be presented for consideration at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 June 2014.

FINANCIAL, RISK AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Risk has been considered as part of this report and it is considered to be consistent with the Risk Management Plan 2011-2014.

Fees and charges contribute significantly to Council's revenue. In 2014/2015 it is anticipated that fees and charges will provide approximately 12% of Council's total annual revenue.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION*Engagement Method Used:*

The proposed fees and charges for 2014/2015 were placed on Council's website, displayed at Council's Service centres, Leisure Centres, stadiums, libraries, and childcare facilities. Public notices were placed in the Latrobe Valley Express and Council officers have consulted with service users in relation to the proposed fees and charges.

Details of Community Consultation / Results of Engagement:

At the conclusion of the public consultation period, 51 submissions were received.

OPTIONS

Council has the following options for consideration:

1. Note the submissions that have been received in relation to the 2014/2015 Fees and Charges.

CONCLUSION

This report provides Council with an opportunity to consider all submissions received in relation to the proposed Fees and Charges 2014/2015.

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
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1. Submissions Received

RECOMMENDATION**That**

1. Council notes the submissions which have been received, and considers the submissions prior to the adoption of the 2014/2015 Fees and Charges; and
2. The 2014/2015 Fees and Charges be considered for adoption at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 June 2014.

Moved: Cr Middlemiss

Seconded: Cr White

That the Recommendation be adopted.

For the Motion

Councillor/s Gibbons, White, Middlemiss, O'Callaghan, Sindt, Gibson.

Against the Motion

Councillor/s Kam, Rossiter, Harriman.

The Mayor confirmed that the Recommendation had been CARRIED.

7.1

FEES AND CHARGES 2014/2015 - SUBMISSIONS

1	Submissions Received.....	11
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From: Tomkins, Penny L [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 May 2014 10:24
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Response to Council Draft Fee Changes

Hi Matthew,

I am just emailing to express by great concern and disappointment with the proposed fee changes for Latrobe City's Childcare.

A fee increase of \$10 a day is appalling and I'm wondering how returning to work mothers are expected to fit this increase into their already stretched budgets, especially families with more than one child attending multiple days a week. Latrobe City should be supporting this group of people who are ultimately responsible to sustaining the workforce within the Valley in the future as our children grow.

I think it is audacious to increase the fees to be comparable with other centres that actually provide meals and infants nappies when Latrobe City does not. Nonetheless Latrobe City is proposing comparable fee structures.

I strongly urge Latrobe City to reconsider this ridiculously large price increase that for some families would equate to nearly paying a 6th day of fees. I will be sharing my concern with fellow parents and urge them to respond in this manner also.

Regards,

Penny-Lee & Timothy Harris

From: joshua [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 5 May 2014 19:39
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Draft fees and charges

Dear Mr Rogers

I am writing this email to oppose the draft fees and charges that are out for public comment. As a user of Latrobe city councils early learning and care services I am extremely concerned about the \$10 per day increase council are proposing for day care. I have been using daycare services in the area for 4 years and never seen such a massive increase. Latrobe City don't provide meals or nappies like other private providers so I am unsure how you can justify this extreme increase. Regardless of what is being offered a \$10 per day is ludicrous. The last time a service increased fees like this was abc centres who received massive public outcry and media attention. As a working parent and a family who is not entitled to CCB this increase will put massive strain on our family. The increase is not encouraging families to work and I also question how you can increase fees without understanding what the government will be or not be increasing CCB rates. I am disappointed that the local council would even think this is acceptable. I strongly disagree with this and hope that council very carefully consider ALL options before stealing money from local families to make up for short falls.

Josh and Stacey Jennings

From: Dad [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2014 07:33
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Price increse

Hello my name is christine mcdonald, i have 2 little boys and a little girl that go to daycare and i have just hears that it is going to jump in price, of up to \$10 a day! Horrendous!! I am panaking so much and so scared this is going to happen. I work with 3 kids under 4 and day care is the only thing that allows me to work! And only just just just scraping bye!! I can not afford a extra \$40 or \$50 a week. I just can not do it or i will have to quit my job and pull kids out of care, i can not believe it can just go up like that, this will cause massive problems and grief with my family please do something PLEASE TO MAKE SURE THESE costs do NOT go up. Please we will not be able to have enough money !
Kind regards christine mcdonald

From: Lauren Whitehead [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2014 11:36
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Increase in Child Care Fees at Carinya Child Care Centre for 2014/15

Hi Matthew,

I am writing to express my concerns with the fee increase in 2014/15 at Carinya Child Care Centre.

Carinya is significantly different to the other child care centres in the Latrobe City Council, because each family **MUST** supply their own nappies and food for their children. As far as I'm aware that most, if not all other centres under Latrobe City Council's umbrella supply nappies and food as part of their fees.

Therefore, this is why I believe that Carinya Child Care Centre should be exempt from these fee increases.

I also believe that child care costs are expensive enough as they are, which makes it difficult for working families. We already had a price increase last year.

Please take this into consideration before you go ahead with your proposal. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Whitehead

From: Jessie Bayley
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2014 15:34
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Submission of concern for daycare fees

I would like to email my concern for the recent submission of the day-care fee increase.

This will affect me as my child attends the Traralgon Early Learning Centre 2 days a week. I would like to express my concern of the increase and how it will affect me as a working parent and my overall financial situation.

I hope that my opinion will be considered.

Kind Regards,

Jessie Bayley

From: Gregory O [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2014 22:01
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: In re: proposed fee increase for TELC for 2014/2015

Hello Matthew

I am writing to you with regards to the proposed fee increase for Latrobe City Council's Traralgon Early Learning Center for 2014/2015.

Presently, my 3 year old son attends for four days at the center, and my husband and I pay almost \$1000 per fortnight. We are a one income family; my husband being the sole earner, while I am a full time university student, and we have two children.

An increase of \$10 will be an additional strain on our family's already stretched income. We are aware that fees will be increased in July regardless, but urge the council to consider a lower rate as our income does not increase in conjunction with this fee hike.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Worried parents,

Gregory and Uwa Imhagwe

From: Auteri, Adam [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2014 22:15
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: child care fee increase

Mr. Adam Auteri
[REDACTED]

Dear Matthew,

I am emailing to express my concern in the proposed fee increase at Latrobe City Councils early learning centres. I have utilised these services for 3 years in both Traralgon and Morwell. In previous years we have endured fee increases in relation to CPI of 2 – 2.5%, however I am baffled at this 2014/2015 proposal of a half day rate to increase by 18.75%. How is this justified? If there is intention to include services such as meals, nappies, incursions, specialist programs or an increase of staff ratios?

Families are very busy and not all have time to search the Latrobe City Council website to find out what the proposed fee increase is. It would be open, honest and upfront of council to include these actual figures in the letter that informs us of the proposed fees.

This is my first attempt at obtaining some sense from this excessive increase in fees which I believe will be unable to be absorbed by most families within Latrobe City given the current cuts to health and family benefits by the current federal government.

I look forward to your response,

Regards

Adam Auteri

From: Vanessa [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 May 2014 14:03
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Daycare fee increase

To whom it may concern

I am a concerned about your proposal to increase the child care fees To \$84 a day.

I am a working mother trying to help provide for my family, with this ridiculous price Increase my whole wage will be going straight to child care.

I need to work to keep up my skills, to have some time to myself and to keep myself in the workforce. My child benefits immensely from attending Moe P.L.A.C.E He gets to interact with other children and learn the necessary skills needed for his development.

What will my child be getting for an extra \$10 a day?

I already supply all of my sons food, lunch and snacks. The centre supplies each child about \$2.00 of fruit each day!

You also have to supply your own nappies.

I am aware that for around the suggested new fee, other child care centres supply all food and nappies. Not to mention they offer longer opening hours.

I love the staff at Moe P.L.A.C.E and I know my son is being very well cared for, it would be a shame if I would have to pull him out because of a RIDICULOUS UNNECESSARY price increase.

I will be re assessing wether my son will be returning to Moe P.L.A.C.E next year, as I am about to have my second child and I really can't see how I am supposed to afford to sent two children at \$84 a day.

Regards
Vanessa Pavlic

From: Belinda & Greg [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 May 2014 12:45
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed fees and changes

Dear Matthew,

I am writing to request that the proposed fees and charges do not go ahead as my family along with others will suffer.

A \$10 per day increase of daily child care would be financially detrimental for a vast percentage of Latrobe City families including ours.

We place our two year old son in care two days a week and after the 50% rebate we would be out of pocket \$10 extra a week which would make a difference to us and be even moreso felt by other families struggling due to low income, illnesses, unemployment and high medical costs.

I accept an increase may be required but one so high is not a viable option. Please reconsider this dramatic increase.

Regards
Belinda Hoffard

From: John and Renee R [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 May 2014 13:50
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed fee increase at TELC

Dear Matthew,

I am writing in regards to the proposed fee increase for childcare at TELC. I understand the proposed increase is \$10 per day. While I have found all the carers at TELC to do an amazing job, I do believe such a substantial fee increase would be very difficult for most families to bear, my own included. I wish to encourage council to consider reducing this proposed fee increase.

Regards,
Renee Paulet

From: Samantha Salienko [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 May 2014 14:49
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: possible fee increase

Hi,

I'm writing in response to a letter that was put in my sons lunchbox at the Traralgon early learning centre re: fee increase.

Its a little alarming to think that the fees may go up ten dollars per child per day. This would mean we would be paying an extra twenty dollars a fortnight. Doesn't seem much but it definitely would impact on our home situation. Over a year it would certainly add up.

I understand childcare fees going up in general as do everyday items too. But it seems a bit of a jump don't you think???....

I guess if TELC provided extra meals then the variety of fruit for morning tea and afternoon tea that would be something I guess. Also if the parking improved and allowed for more parking spaces then it already does, then that would help too. As for the children's resource's they need upgrading and the centre needs plenty of hard wearing equipment when there is a high mass of children that use the service, then that would put me at ease in paying an extra twenty dollars a fortnight. But at the moment nothing like that seems to be happening at TELC.

Never an easy decision putting your child in childcare and putting the fees up drastically certainly adds to the everyday pressures that already exist for some families .

Thanks for reading over my email

Samantha Salienko

From: Ashly Casey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 May 2014 14:44
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: childcare fees

hi. Im writing to you in relation to the increasing childcare fees at Traralgon early learning centre. I currently only send my son on a casual basis as that's all I can afford. Im wanting to head back to the workforce next year but its looking near impossible at the moment if these fees keep increasing as I will be paying more in daycare than I will be earning for a days work. Please stop and think of us parents who actually want & need to work to make a living for our families

From: andrew pigdon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 May 2014 21:19
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed draft fees and charges for 2014/2015 - Child Care fees

Dear Matthew

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed childcare fee increases that were released for public consultation.

We believe that the proposed increase of \$10 per child, per day is excessive and unreasonable, especially for those families with multiple children attending the council's childcare centres.

Whilst we understand the costs of running these centres increases each year we don't believe they would increase by more than 10%.

Yours sincerely

Andrew and Alison Pigdon

From: Emma Standen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 26 May 2014 22:26
To: Matthew Rogers
Cc: Dale Harriman; Sandy Kam; Kellie O'Callaghan; Michael Rossiter
Subject: Increase in childcare fees for 14/15

Hi Matthew,

Re: Proposed Increases for Latrobe City Childcare fees for 14/15.

My family currently use the services of Latrobe City Council's Family Day Care as well as both Full Day & Occasional Care at TELC. I've read the document and I was appalled at the huge increase in the proposed 14/15 budget.

13.70% increase compared to 13/14 rates for Full Day Care at TELC

17.65% increase compared to 14/15 for Occasional Care at TELC

	2012/2013	2013/2014	% Increase	2014/2015	% Increase
Family Day Care per hour	6.00	6.50	7.69%	7.00	7.69%
Full Day TELC	68.00	73.00	6.85%	83.00	13.70%
Occasional Care TELC per hour	9.50	10.20	6.86%	12.00	17.65%

I urge you to re-consider these significant increases for the following reasons:

-The proposed increases will make it incredibly tough for already hard-working families. An increase of \$10 per day per child is not practicable for some families. Latrobe City needs to help working families, and as outlined in your Council Plan 2013-2017 the first listed value is:

"Providing affordable people focused community services"

-These increases are not in accordance with CPI or even industry average. According to the first line of the 14/15 Proposed Charges:

"Unless otherwise stated in the document, the following measures have been used to determine the 2014 / 2015 fees and charges:

o Consumer Price Index (CPI) (with a rounding factor)

o Competitive market influences

o The % increase in the previous financial year

o The type of service"

There is also a specific line indicating what ELC services have been reviewed based on:

"The Early Learning and Care Services have been reviewed in terms of proposed fees based on industry benchmarking information taking into consideration National Competition Policy requirements"

Somewhat contradictory, I also note that the 10 Year Financial Plan 2012-2022 states:

"Assumes an average increase in fees and charges of 3% per year in accordance with assumed CPI increases" (Page 24 of 10 Year Financial Plan 2012-2022)

I'll consider each of the 4 factors used to determine the increase as per the 14/15

proposed budget:

Consumer Price Index

CPI increase is 2.8% <http://www.abs.gov.au> – based on March Qtr 13 to March Qtr 14 (Melbourne)

The proposed increases are 4.89%, 10.9% and 14.85% HIGHER than CPI for Family Day Care, TELC Full Day & Occasional Care respectively.

Competitive Market Influences

The increases don't even appear to be based on Industry Average, or not for a regional area anyway. The proposed price per day would be comparable to some metropolitan day care centres, but using an industry average from a metro area for a regional area would be inaccurate.

I recently contacted Lil Bearz Day Care in Traralgon as a market comparison, where I received a quote of \$69.90 per day and this can be for the hours 6.30am-6.00pm and includes all food, nappies & drinks. Traralgon Early Learning Centre only provide care for the hours 7.45am-5.45pm and it will be \$83 per day! For 2 children, this is a difference of \$26 per day or \$130 per week – a significant cost saving to send them to a daycare that provides longer hours & food/nappies.

I understand there was a change to the ratios in 2012 where staff numbers changed to 1 to 4 for younger children and 1 to 12 for older children (previously 1 to 5 for younger children and 1 to 15 for older children), so it seems unlikely there would be another change to ratio in the next 12 months.

The % Increase in the previous financial year

The increases last year were 6.8% for TELC (both Full Day & Occasional Care) & 7.69% for Family Day Care. These % were not based on CPI either. A considerable increase in one year, you might expect the increase to be a lot less the following year. Doesn't seem to be the case – it's more than doubled going into 14/15.

Family Day Care has had 2 significant increases over the past 2 years, well above CPI or comparing to other industry award increases.

So, I ask – how is this increase justified? The last factor is:

The Type of Service

Are the increases proposed purely because it is Child Care Services? Are there increases in other areas of the council that are as significant as these? A quick summary of other fees and charges from 14/15 proposed budget (at random):

Entry to outdoor pool – only up 2.2% (\$4.50 was \$4.40)

Meals on wheels (subsidised) – up 6.25% (\$8.50 was \$8.00)

Senior Citizens Centre hire (for commercial organisations) – only up by 2.59% (\$27.70 was \$27.00 per hr)

Annual Renewal Commercial Hairdressing Registration – only up by 2.77% (\$370 was \$360)

Pound Release of small livestock – only up by 2.40% (\$85 was \$83)

Family Day Care Admin Fee – up by 13.33% (\$.85 was \$.75 per hour)

Occasional Care Childcare – up by 17.65% (\$12.00 was \$10.20 per hour)

I understand – as most families would – it would be natural for there to be a small increase each year. Price of utilities, insurance and I would think salaries are ELC's

main cost. However, when looking at salary increases – how do you justify a 17.65% increase for occasional care when salary increases would only be around 3%?? Also, many families that use Occasional Care (and even some full day services) are where one parent is not working and use the services for medical appointments, transition to kinder, or much needed breaks. Again, many families do not receive the 50% childcare rebate, it is only applicable for families where both parents are working or studying.

If these increases went ahead, I would consider sending both my children to an alternative childcare centre, one where they provide all the food, nappies & even have the ability to do kinder and school drop offs/pickups. These daycares charge a comparatively lower amount, but I have kept my children at Traralgon Early Learning Centre because the staff are fantastic and my children are settled there. I have always found the staff, policies and structure at TELC to be above standard and it is for this reason that myself (and many others) have chosen to keep our children there, we may reconsider if these proposed charges are adopted.

I'm also concerned that there are a number of families out there that have not been informed about this significant increase. We received a letter saying there would be an increase, but no further information, and it was difficult searching for the increases on the Latrobe City Council Website. Many busy families would've put this letter aside not realising the impact.

Based on the four factors outlined above, this increase is unreasonable, without justification and not consistent with your number one value in the Council Plan 2013-2017: *"Providing affordable people focused community services"*.

I urge that you and the Latrobe City Council Executive reconsider these increases and provide appropriate justification & communication to families in our community.

I look forward to hearing from you

Thankyou

Emma Standen



Head Coach
Brian Ford
Ph 0419 584 145
bmford@wideband.net.au



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A.B.N. 80176 391 924

www.traralgonswimming.org.au

From: Jane Mitchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2014 07:25
To: Matthew Rogers
Cc: Dale Harriman; Sandy Kam; Kellie O'Callaghan; Michael Rossiter
Subject: Review of Fees and Charges - Traralgon Swimming Club

Good morning,

Please find attached the Traralgon Swimming Club response to the proposed fees and charges for the coming financial year.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback.

Regards,
Jane Mitchell
Traralgon Swimming Club

Matthew Rogers
Manager Finance
Latrobe City Council

Dear Mr Rogers,

We read with interest the draft fees and charges for the coming financial year. As the Traralgon Swimming Club is one of the dependable, regular and larger user groups of the Latrobe Leisure Centres, we make the following submission regarding the Latrobe City Council Fees and Charges for 2014/15.

Memberships

The Latrobe Leisure membership structure (Bronze, Silver & Gold) does not meet the needs of swimmers at the Traralgon Swimming Club. There are NO junior or student memberships provided by Latrobe Leisure. Swimmers wishing to purchase memberships are required to purchase a full Bronze membership at a cost of \$43.50 per month, plus a once off joining fee of \$62. A 12 month membership will cost \$584 per year. No concession is available, as it is only offered to those on Aged

pensions, Senior or Disability Pension, not Students. Although visit cards have also been offered, these are also not cost effective in the long run, and certainly not beneficial to swimmers who are swimming more than 4 sessions per week.

The lack of a junior membership directly disadvantages the Traralgon Swimming Club, the largest Country swimming club in Victoria. The club's swimmers (approx 130) range in ages from 5 to 17 years of age. At least 75% of these swimmers would be swimming at a facility managed by Latrobe Leisure each week. Of these, most would be swimming at least 3 – 4 sessions per week, and the State, National Target and National swimmers (approx 50 swimmers) are accessing facilities over 5 sessions per week for at least 48 weeks of the year as swimming is an all year round sport.

The club is already disadvantaged by the tyranny of distance, with athletes and their families having to travel to Melbourne pools to attain Country, State and National qualifying times throughout the year as Gippsland does not have an indoor 50 metre facility. Families can spend most weekends in Melbourne during the season proper trying to get these times. It is expensive, with the cost of travel, entry fees, food and accommodation adding up to \$1000's each year.

Carnival Hire fees

The fees for the hire of a pool for a carnival/event is increasing by \$20 to \$870 for hire between the hours of 9am and 5pm (8 hours). However if you were to hire the facility just from 9 am to 1pm (4 hours) you would still pay \$720 (4 hours @ \$180 per hour). We struggle to understand why it is so expensive to hire the pool on an hourly carnival rate? It would be far more equitable to have the hourly rate at a more similar rate to the all day rate (approx. \$108 per hour). If you thought that your carnival was going to go for more than 4 hours, you will just book the pool for the entire day, and make use of the pool space for other activities such as cool-down, fun activities or a clinic.

We note that in the fees and charges relating to the Stadium (page 26 Fees and Charges), local associations are eligible for a 30% discount to host their association tournaments at their local facility to a maximum of 2 tournaments per year. The Traralgon Swimming Club does not have its 'own' indoor pool facility. We would request that this discount be also applied to both of Traralgon's club meets to be run in June and July each year during the winter short course season.

Although there appears to be no reference to it in the 2014/15 Fees and Charges document, the Traralgon Swimming Club has also been charged to use the meeting room, particularly at Latrobe Leisure Morwell during carnivals. This is a fee, usually \$30 – 50 on top of the pool carnival hire. This seems unreasonable given the large cost of hiring the pool.

Gippsland Swimming, the District Swimming Association, is currently considering the cost of pool hire across the district as many carnivals run last season resulted in a

loss for host clubs (currently covered by Gippsland Swimming) directly due to pool hire costs. As there is a vast difference in the cost of pool hire between Wellington, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe City and South Gippsland, the facilities in Latrobe City may not be used for carnivals in the coming season – with all the associated business for the area taken elsewhere.

Out of Hours hire

The Traralgon Swimming Club pay approximately \$15,000 in out of hours pool hire each year. Whilst the Traralgon Swimming Club recognises that this is in part a reflection on the wages that need to be paid for supervision of the site, Out of Hours hire continues to be a large portion of the club's pool costs each year, and there has been no room to negotiate a slightly more favourable rate with the management of Latrobe Leisure, which could benefit both Latrobe Leisure and the Traralgon Swimming Club. The club uses the pool out of normal operating hours on Saturday mornings (5.30 am – 9am), because it cannot access the amount of lanes and times through normal operating hours. Though the club pays this exorbitant rate for use of the pool and aerobics room, swimmers are still asked to pay upon entry using their multi-passes or membership cards.

We, as a club have worked hard with the Council over many years building a positive and strong relationship between your staff and our committee and coaches. Our success is due to this ongoing relationship and we want to continue to promote not only the Club but the region and Council from which we reside and operate.

We therefore seek your consideration (and perhaps propose a meeting with you) to discuss the issues we have raised above, issues which affect a significant and important part of your rate paying community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED] to arrange an ongoing dialogue which we trust can benefit both the Council and the Club

Regards,



Jane Mitchell

President, Traralgon Swimming Club

On behalf of the Traralgon Swimming Club committee, coaches and members

From: Ashleigh Cooney [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2014 09:13
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed fees and charges

Attention Matthew Rogers,

I am writing to you as a parent at Traralgon Early Learning Centre. I believe the proposed changes to the fees are very hefty and inconsiderate. An increase of \$10.00 per day is going to make daycare unaffordable for many families. I could understand an increase of \$3-\$4 but if we accept such a large increase it will set a precedent for future fee increases.

As a family we are very happy with the services provided at TELC and wonder why there is a need for such an increase in charges?

I hope you consider this submission.

Kind regards,
Ashleigh Cooney

From: Kate Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2014 19:50
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed Fees and Charges for 2014/2015

Dear Matthew,

I am writing to express my disappointment in the proposed fees and charges 2014/2015, for the Traralgon Early Learning Center. I strongly feel that the proposed fee increases are extreme. The proposed fee increase that is applicable to me is the full day care: a fee increase of 13.7%, \$10 per day. This fee increase will require us to pay an additional \$30 each week. In discussion with other parents through out Latrobe City it is apparent that other center's fees are less than \$83 per day, and they are supplied nappies and food. What additional services will we receive with the fee increase?

I hope this fee increase is reconsidered before application.

Kindest regards,

Kate Smith

From: Rachel Smithson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2014 20:50
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed fees and charges for Daycare

Hi,

I am writing to you about the proposed fees and charges that are available for public consultation.

My daughter currently attends Traralgon Early Learning Centre (TELC) 4 days per week. The proposed fee changes would cost me an additional \$80 per fortnight.

You propose to put the weekly fee up \$31.50 which equates to \$6.30 extra per day.

The half day rate is set to go up \$7.50 per half day.

\$10 is a very large jump from one financial year to the next.

Can you please explain the reasoning for such large changes in the fees?

I thought we were living in a society where we encouraged people to work and earn a living, increasing fees like this is going to make new mums returning to work really stop and think about whether it is worth returning to work or not.

Feel free to contact me on: [REDACTED]

Please reconsider raising fees so largely

Sincerely
Rachel Smithson

From: kerbyrobinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 27 May 2014 21:33
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Day care prices

The price increase is ridiculous with these prices I will never be able to afford to return to work with current prices I will b working for 48 dollars a day after paying for day care. Would you work for 48 dollars a day ?? or even less if this increase happens! How can you expect women to have children and return to work for that kind of money !! People can't afford to have children as it is let alone increasing day care fees!!

From: Luke Yeates [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 May 2014 22:55
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed fees 2014/15 - pre-kinder

Dear Matthew,

In response to a letter that I received from my sons 3 year old kinder session during the week, I offer the following suggestion based on my thoughts as detailed below -

I am struggling to see the justification and reasoning behind the current fee structure of \$180 per term. There is no equality between kinder that is attended on different days of the week. For example, those that attend a kinder session of a Monday this term (as my son does) will only have access to eight out of ten weeks of kinder due to public holidays, whereas those who may attend on a Friday will have access to the full 10 weeks - yet the per term fee remains at \$180 regardless of the pre-school facility attended.

Using the basis of this term and the Monday pre-school sessions that my son attends, I suggest that the new fee structure be set on a weekly basis as opposed to a per-term or annual basis. Therefore, this week being a ten week term at a cost of \$180 equates to \$18 per session. Apply this weekly fee basis to the Tyers pre-school facility, which is only offering eight weeks of 3 year old kinder sessions due to the public holidays - \$18 multiplied by eight weeks equals \$144.

This, in my opinion, is an equitable solution that is fair to the consumer - which enables parents to pay for the actual service provided. In effect I am billed for my son to attend a full term of kinder yet a full ten week term is not offered. I suggest a fee structure of this nature should be adopted sooner than next year.

I welcome your feedback to my suggestion, which I have already suggested to the Child and Family Services department via telephone and email to an individual - I am yet to receive a reply.

I have been unable to find the proposed fees document online, and would appreciate you forwarding it on to me.

Regards,
Luke Yeates

From: Dan H [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 10:47 AM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Fee/Charges Increase

Hi Matthew

Please see attached for my objections for the proposed fee increases
Dan

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed Day care Fee charges for 2014/2015 financial year.

It's disappointing that day care fees are rising on average of 17 per cent, which is the biggest increase of any of Latrobe City proposed fees and charges increase for the next financial year.

I currently have a child attending Day Care 5 full days and 2 half days a fortnight and the new charges would mean I would have to pay an extra 80 dollars a fortnight an increase of about 18 percent.

I understand that due to certain circumstances fees will need to increase, but I believe an increase of 18 percent is improper.

I believe this will be the biggest increase in Day Care fees in the history of Latrobe City Council if the councillors agree to the fee increase.

I would hope the current council will see how much these increases will affect Latrobe city families and reduce the proposed fees increase to an amount that families can absorb.

I have researched a number of other day care centres in the Latrobe City area and on average they charge 85 dollars a day. These fees include all nappies for the day and all meals which includes hot meals.

All day care centres I researched on average are proposing a 5 percent fee increase for next financial year.

Given the fact that all nappies and meals are provided at the other day care centres, if Latrobe City Councillors agree to the proposed fee increase I will be sending my child to one of the private centres I have researched even with their 5 percent fee increase, and I will be recommending to other families to do the same.

From: Teresa Forbes [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 11:23 AM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Childcare fee increase

Good Morning,

I'm writing in regards to the proposed fee increase for Latrobe City Council Early Learning Centres. I feel a \$10 a day increase is extreme and would impact the families currently using these services and potential new families. The early years are an important time in a child's life, learning and development is what early learning centres main focus is about and by keeping childcare fees at a minimum makes this possible for many children. We live in a low socio-economic area and many of the families living in Latrobe city will not be able to afford to provide this opportunity to their children.

I'm a mother of 4 children, currently on maternity leave with my fourth. The fee increase is a concern to me returning to work.

Please take very careful consideration before increasing fees and the impact this could have on children accessing the learning they are entitled too.

Kind Regards,

Teresa Forbes

From: Jess Mackie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 11:23 AM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: child care fees

Hi Matthew

I have been advised that latrobe city child care fees are rising by \$10 extra per day and have been advised to email yourself about this.

I think this is unacceptable as the services that the centre provide have not changed, improved and if anything have in a way reduced. I understand that they have to raise every now and then but a \$10 raise is a bit extreme.

Particularly I am upset that the snacks that are provided for morning and afternoon tea have been recently changed to be fruit only when it used to be a rotating selection of fruit, meats, cheese, biscuits, toast and sultanas. And now with it just being fruit I do not believe this is enough to sustain the children between each main meal.

With the reduction in the quality of snacks that are provided and the major raise in fees I am now seriously considering changing centres. There is another centre in Morwell that provides all meals and snacks (prepared by a qualified chef) for the children and nappies and they charge the same that Latrobe will be raising their fees too.

Thanks for your time and I would like to receive a reply to this email.

Regards,

Jess Mackie

From: Irene Proebsting [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 11:25 AM
To: Matthew Rogers
Cc: Sandy Kam; Libby Witchell
Subject: Draft Fees and Charges submission

Attention: Mr Matthew Rogers

Manager Finance
Latrobe City Council
PO Box 264
MORWELL 3840

Dear Mr Rogers,

In response to the Latrobe Valley Draft Fees and Charges Submission, we would like to respond by requesting that all fees for artists to use the Latrobe Regional Gallery Community Space be paid by the sponsor, currently GDF Suez.

The Latrobe Region, although being the 'Power House' of Victoria, has one of the highest areas for social disadvantage and poor health outcomes in the State.

In recent years the Art & Design course was cut from GIPPSTAFE by the State Lib/Nat Government, further disadvantaging local artists.

It is clear that everything possible needs to be done to help local artists continue to have the chance to exhibit their work and subsidised gallery spaces would be a start.

This would include the Community Gallery at LRG, the Traralgon Courthouse and any others in the Draft.

Yours Sincerely,

Irene Proebsting & Barry Brown

From: kylie jennings [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 11:26 AM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Childcare Fee's.

Dear Matthew,

I wish to express my concerns that you are wanting to increase the childcare fee's for you centre's by \$10 per session. I think it would be justified if the centre's supplied the food and nappies for the children in their centres but when all you get is a carer and some cheap wipes that leave most children with rash's on their behinds, I think it is not justified.

Not all your parents that put their child in care are full time workers and can afford that amount.

Please rethink your decision.

Regards
Kylie Jennings
Parent of child at Moe Place.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 11:42 AM

To: Matthew Rogers

Subject: Increase Childcare Fees

Im dissappointed that the childcare fees are going up again.

Im a mother of 2 girls who already attend one of Latrobe City's Daycare Centres.

Over half my wage already goes to our daycare bill, i have no other option but to put my girls into daycare on the days they attend, as i work part time and my husband works full time.

With the increase of fees we are going to find it more financially hard.

Yours Truley Stacey Wolf

From: Victoria Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 11:46 AM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Traralgon Early Learning Centre Fee Increase

Hello Matthew,

I wish to comment on the proposed fee increase at Traralgon Early Learning Centre. My son currently is cared for at this centre on a full time basis. As myself and my husband both work, we pay the full fee of \$328.50 per week.

Increasing this amount to \$360 is a large increase; 8.75%. This is an extraordinarily large increase in comparison to the 2.9% increase of CPI in Australia over the last year (source: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6401.0?opendocument>). It is an extraordinary increase when compared to the increase of 3% in teacher salaries over the last year. Many people would not have received a pay increase over the last year – this fee increase will cause hardship on those families.

In raising fees by this amount, I ask that you provide figures to justify the decision to raise fees. What is causing the increase in fees? Has the cost of staffing increased by 8.75%?

Have areas where costs could be saved been looked at? I, personally, am sick of getting overdue payment notices that are printed and sent out *before* the due date of payment has passed. Apparently there is no way to check these notices before they are sent out. How many other families receive these notices and at what cost to council?

Kind Regards,
Victoria Wilson.

From: Abbie Alexander [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 12:08 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Concern re: fee increase for child care

Hi Matthew,

I am writing to express concern over the proposed fee increase for Latrobe city child care.

I feel as though the proposed fee of \$84 per day to be excessive. There are other child care centres that provide nappies and food for the same cost per day, and I will be looking elsewhere for child care if the increase goes ahead.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards
Abbie McMahon

From: Cassy Siddle
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 12:26 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Draft Fees and Charges - Chile Care Fees Moe PLACE

Hi Matt,

I have just gone over the fees and charges and noticed the hike in the daily rate for child care at Moe Place. I and as do other parents expect a hike every year due to rising costs, however I don't believe a \$10 hike is justified.

This centre is renowned for being a tad overpriced in the childcare sector for the region/town considering that all meals are not provided at this centre and neither are nappies (all or most other centres in the town provide both, not just a few pieces of fruit a day). I was fine with this however I do not believe that a \$10 hike is justified in this instance compared to other centres in the town.

Please accept this as a submission in relation to the fees and charges.

Thanks.

Cassy Siddle

From: Nicole Boothman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 12:43 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: FW: Childcare Fee Increase
Importance: High

Hello Matthew,

I have just been advised on the increase in childcare fee's.

Please note that this increase is going to be hitting working families with great impact.

As a part-time working mum of 1 child the cost of childcare makes you question everyday 'IS IT WORTH IT' going to work. After taking out the cost of childcare my take home pay is minimal.

\$10 might not seem like much in the scheme of things but to us working mothers who rely on these childcare facilities to help look after and nurture our children it is a great cost, for myself an additional \$30 a fortnight. Not to mention in the greater scheme of things when you look at what women sacrifice to become a mother, unpaid time out of the workforce, reducing work usually from full-time to part-time, reduced superannuation contribution towards retirement, using sick leave and annual leave to tend to unwell little one's or times when the childcare centre's may be closed. So as stated earlier \$10 may not seem like much but when it is looked at overall that \$10 is money that we have sacrificed allot to earn.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Regards.

Nicole Boothman

From: Wilson, Alex F [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 1:09 PM
To: 'Matthew.Rogers@latrobe.vic.gov.au'
Subject: Fee increases 8.75% - Childcare - Maplestone Drive Traralgon

Hi Matthew,

I wish to object to such a large fee increase (\$328 to \$360 per week) which represents 8.75%.

How can you justify such a large increase when the CPI is 2.9% and wages growth is at a low level.

What cost increases justify such a large rise?

Alex Wilson

From: Hopkins, Jimi M [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 2:07 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed childcare fee increase

To Mr. Rogers,

I am writing to you with a concern over the \$10-a-day increase you are proposing. \$10 a day equates to \$50 a week, which seems like an extreme price increase. As a school teacher who plans to use childcare services when I have children, I feel the price of \$84 a day is extremely expensive. There are other childcare services who provide more than just "childcare", e.g food, nappies etc, and their prices seem much more competitive than yours. Friends of mine work in the childcare sector, and some specifically at Latrobe City, and I can envisage the impact of these price increases on their jobs, the wider community and numerous families.

Please consider whether a \$50 a week increase to all children is really necessary at this time.

Yours Sincerely,

Jimi Hopkins
Middle Years Coach

From: Laura Buckton
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 2:48 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed fee increase for long daycare

To Mr Rogers,

I'm writing as a fee paying parent with a child attending care 3 full days a week. I am writing this e-mail to formally object to what I feel is an unfair price increase for your services. I'm unable to see how a \$10 a day increase can be justified even with rising inflation costs. I think the real question is how is this large fee increase going to benefit my child ie are you going to be suppling more meals or supply nappies as I know that other local services supply for around the same price we currently pay.

I rang some of the local childcare centres to inquire about their services and found some interesting results. Mid Valley Kinder and Childcare's full fees for one day is \$78 and they provide, breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and nappies. I also contacted ABC Morwell to discover that for a full daily fee of \$81.20 Children received morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, milk and nappies. All parents have to supply is a change of clothes. So once again I would like to know how this dramatic fee increase is justified.

Kind regards
Laura Buckton

Sheila Wandue



Mr Matthew Rogers,
Manager Finance,
Latrobe City Council

Dear Sir,

PROPOSED FEES FOR 2014/2015

I would like to make my submission in relation to the proposed child care fees for 2014/2015 financial year. I understand that cost of providing care for our children have increased however I do not feel that the proposed increase of fees from \$73 a day to \$83 a day is fair.

An increase of \$10 a day is too high, especially since:

- we still provide nappies and food for our children
- We are not getting an increase in support for child care fees from Centrelink as a result of new budget

The money that we previously saved from paying a reduced fee compared to other child care providers was put towards food and nappies for the children.

If the proposed fee increase **would include nappies and food** for our children then it would be a fair fee increase.

Kindly put this into consideration before you amend the fees.

Thank you

Kind Regards,

Sheila Wandue

From: Lisa Pavlic [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 02:01 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Price increase.....

Dear Mr
Rogers,

28/05/14

I am writing to you to address my concerns regarding the increase of fees at Latrobe city childcare centres throughout the municipality.

Currently my 2 children are enrolled at Carinya childcare centre in Morwell, attending 3 days a week, and they are very happy there. With the \$10 a day increase x 2 children attend 3 times a week will force me to look at other centre as the increase will put a huge strain on my already tight family budget. Other childcare centres around the area cater for cook meals and nappies and are still cheaper than Latrobe City with the fee increase. My family will be very sad to say good bye to the friendly staff at Carinya but you have left us with no other option. I am very disappointed; councils should be caring for their communities and providing low cost affordable Child Care Centres.

Kind regards

Lisa Pavlic

From: Sheree [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2014 2:35 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Child care fees

To Matthew Rogers,

I have just been made aware of the substantial fee increase to child care services in Latrobe City.

As a Latrobe City employee I am extremely disappointed. I am reliant on my children attending Childcare while I work. If prices continue to rise I will personally find myself questioning if it is still economically viable for me to work while paying rising costs for Childcare.

I was under the impression that Childcare provided by Latrobe City was a more cost effective option for working parents but with these continuing price increases the gap between private and council run services is less noticeable than ever.

Please reconsider the fee increase for the benefit of working families. We are struggling enough as it is.

Regards,

Sheree Churchill

From: Mel Palmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2014 6:00 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Day Care Rate Rise Proposal

Dear Matthew,

I am writing to you in relation to the proposed Day Care rate increase that will directly affect my family. My children attend Mapleson Drive Early Learning Centre in Traralgon on a part-time basis whilst I work as a Child Protection Practitioner in Morwell and have for many years. At present over half my daily wage goes directly to provide care for my children whilst my husband and I work. By hitting families with this increase you will put more strain on young working families who are trying to do the right thing.

I know that my work place has a high turnover of staff given the demanding work and increasing these fees will no doubt reduce or force my hand to look at resigning.

Whilst the increase is at most \$10 a day, for me and many of my friends this will leave us with looking for an extra \$20-\$30 a day for our children to remain at the Centre.

I cannot fathom why our local government would consider making things financially and emotionally more difficult for young families within our community. I am very active within our community as I give back what I can and volunteer within the Latrobe area but the thought of rising living expenses and pressure for my young family - I just won't have capacity to continue the paid and unpaid work I do.

I hope that the concerns raised by the families within our community are heard and that this Day Care rate rise is abolished.

Yours Sincerely,

Melanie Palmer

From: sharni [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 May 2014 6:41 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Day care Fee Increase

It has recently come to my attention that my daycare fees are set to increase up to \$83 per day. My child goes to daycare so I can work this cuts into my income dramatically and with this fee increase I will need to start looking at alternative daycare. At Latrobe City Day Care Centres we provide our own nappies, food and formula and you still feel the need to increase our fees which are already more expensive than companies that are for profit and provide these extras. TELC is a great day care centre but at \$83 a day you have lost me - I can get a private nanny for a little more than that so please seriously reconsider this fee increase or I guarantee you will lose a lot of clientele Regards Sharni Connolly

From: Kym Charalambous [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 10:24 AM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Propose increase to daycare fees

To Mr Rogers,

I am writing to you to express my concern with the propose \$10 per day increase to daycare fees. As a childcare worker for many years now, I am concerned that this rise will cause families to go else where, therefore a loss of business for the Latrobe city services. \$84 is very high considering we do not provide all meals and nappies. There are lots of other services in the Latrobe Valley that provide hot lunches, morning and afternoon tea, some even provide evening snacks and nappies for the whole day. These services have a menu that changes week to week, so parents know exactly what their child is consuming. I understand that there is an increase every year however \$10 is a big jump from a few dollars. I hope you consider my concerns.

Thankyou for your time

Kym Charalambous

From: anna demetriou [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 3:23 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Childcare fee increase

Hi Matthew,

Just wanted to express my concerns regarding child care fee increases. My son attends the council Childcare daily, and I am extremely concerned about the increase. How is \$10 per hour justified? This will cause my family financial hardship and may have to re evaluate our circumstances. What is being proposed this \$10 be used for, providing food for all the children? My wage certainly hasn't gone up. When do you put a stop to the rising cost? The cost rose last year, so why again this year. Please also take into consideration that working families have more than one child in daycare and the extreme strain it will put on not only those families, but any other working family.

Look forward to your response

Anna

From: kelly hewling [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 3:35 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Childcare fee

Hi I am writing in regards to the outrageous childcare fee increase. I, as a parent would be removing my son from care as I would not be earning enough money to support my family, after I pay for childcare. My son is only in care when I work and no moment longer but if this increase occurs I would leave my job which is also with Latrobe city. My family comes first and I work to earn money to support them with a roof over there head and food on the table. If childcare costs more then I earn I will be better off at home with me son.

Please don't increase the fee. My son does love childcare and as I love my job but it all comes down to money.

Regards,
A parent of Carinya Early Learning Centre.

Thank you.

From: Haley Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 3:26 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: daycare

I am a mum of 2 kids. My husband works full time, and I am at university whilst working casually at night in a restaurant. Increasing the fees by \$10 per child per day means I have to pay an extra \$20 a week so that I have a day to get all my studying done. The uni recommends that I study 10 hours a week per unit, so I study part time, which means I should delegate 10 hours, I only get time to do it while the kids are at day care. Please don't up the fees. The government is already trying to hurt us with healthcare and uni increases, it would be nice if our local council would look after us. If there must be an increase, how much a small one. Even slowly increase it over a few years.

Haley

From: Julie Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 4:06 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Daycare Fee Increase

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a concerned parent to address the proposal for a fee increase in Latrobe City Childcare and Family Day Care Centres.

It is hard enough for working parents to pay fees to stay in the workforce, and finances are only going to be even more stretched for families once the current Federal Budget takes hold.

I am extremely opposed to this fee increase, and I am disgusted that Latrobe City families have not had more of an opportunity to express their concerns on this matter. I, myself only just found out through social media.

Sincerely,
Julie Brown

From: Amanda Waterston [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 4:18 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Strongly against fee increase.

> Hello,
>
> I currently have a daughter who attends Moe Place 2 days a week while I'm at work.
> I am a single mother of a 3yr old & to keep my foot in the door at my work I had to return to work before my daughter turned 1yr.
> I receive very little child support & after bills, rent, car loan & paying for 4 days a f/n my daughter & I already have very little money left to live on, so I know \$40 a f/n may not sound a lot to others but to my daughter & I who live on very little anyway \$40 is a lot of money.
> I send my daughter to Moe Place because of the structure & rules, however I know now after researching that I can send her to another early learning center who will provide her with food etc for cheaper than what I pay now & all I have to do it drop her off there with a change of clothes!
> What we my daughter get back for this \$10 increase, because the way I see it from research we are currently already paying top dollar!
>
> I strongly appose this suggested fee & fear having to remove my daughter from careers she loves & children she has formed attachments to all because I'm unable to afford the fees.
>
> Yours Sincerely
>
> Amanda Waterston

From: U P [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 4:20 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed Fee increase objection

Hi Matthew,

Please find attached my submission regarding the current proposed fee structure increase/s.

Regards,
Ubaldo Peluso

May 28, 2014

Att: Matthew Rogers
Manager Finance
Latrobe City Council
PO Box 264
MORWELL VIC 3840

Dear Matthew Rogers,

As a current resident and daycare customer, I am writing in to object to the proposed current increase in the daycare/preschool fee structures.

I currently have my 4 year old in a Latrobe City Council managed daycare, and in comparison with other Early Learning/Child Care centres in Latrobe Valley, our fee increase is quite substantial.

With the current state of government budget cuts and decreased support for families, this increase will be another stress that will force us to reconsider our options.

The proposed increase in daycare fees (14-16% approx) is comparatively large with majority of private daycare/early learning centre increases around 5-6%.

Hopefully the current councilors take into regard these proposed increases, and the possible affect it will have on families.

I hope that the right choice is made with regard to these increases.

Sincerely,

Ubaldo Peluso

From: Louise Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 4:41 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Subject: Proposed Childcare fee changes

Dear Matthew,

I am unimpressed by the huge \$10 a day increase in daycare fees with nothing new being added for my extra money! Families struggle enough without having to put an extra \$10-\$50 a week aside for daycare fees. This increase is excessive when budgets within the daycare are not being increased as well. If I am expected to pay more I expect to see that in the daycare be that with a larger budget for staff, food, toys, play equipment, etc. something that will actually benefit my child and the many other children and families that use the centre.

Louise Watson

From: Libby Witchell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 5:59 PM
To: Matthew Rogers
Cc: Sandy Kam
Subject: Rates and Charges

Attention: Mr Matthew Rogers

Manager Finance
Latrobe City Council
PO Box 264
MORWELL 3840

Dear Mr Rogers,

In response to the Latrobe Valley Draft Fees and Charges Submission, we would like to respond by requesting that all fees for artists to use the Latrobe Regional Gallery Community Space be paid by the sponsor, currently GDF Suez.

The Latrobe Region, although being the 'Power House' of Victoria, has one of the highest areas for social disadvantage and poor health outcomes in the State.

In recent years the Art & Design course was cut from GIPPSTAFE by the State Lib/Nat Government, further disadvantaging local artists.

It is clear that everything possible needs to be done to help local artists continue to have the chance to exhibit their work and subsidised gallery spaces would be a start. Also making the requirements of the Gallery more encouraging and user friendly to local artists, would be welcomed.

This would include the Community Gallery at LRG, the Traralgon Courthouse and any others in the Draft.

Yours Sincerely,

Libby Witchell

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	
RECEIVED	
26 MAY 2014	
R/O:	Doc No:
Comments/Copies Circulated to:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy registered in DataWorks	<input type="checkbox"/> Invoice forwarded to accounts

22/5/2014

Helen Zandona

To Mr Matthew Rogers,

I am writing this letter to strongly highlight my objection to the Proposed Fees and Charges for 2014/2015, scheduled to take affect from 1st July 2014.

At this point in time I have my child at T.E.L.C three times a week. Therefore my main focus is on the fees charged for a full day booking, although I believe the fee increase across all levels of care is unreasonable. I am fully aware that the fees are reviewed annually, but I also know that in previous years they have simply increased by an extra dollar or two for a full day booking and perhaps some years stayed the same. I am currently very distressed about potentially having to pay an extra \$10 a day, when it was just in the last financial year that the fees had already increased by \$5 a day. I thought that increase was sizeable enough, compared to any other fee increase that the centre has had to implement over the last several years.

I would also like to highlight the fact that just recently the centre has gone from offering my child fruit, cheese, dried biscuits, rice cakes, crackers, custard and pan cakes for morning and afternoon tea, to now only fruit. So not only do I supply my child with his lunch for the day, I have also been advised by the staff to pack any additional snacks that he may require due to this recent decrease in what the centre offers children at meal times.

I am trying to understand how it can be seen as reasonable and justified to increase the fees yet again by such a significant amount. When as I highlighted earlier the service has recently made cut backs off its own. I am now packing more into my child's bag to see him through the day. Whilst this may seem insignificant to you, it adds a little extra cost to my day. Mean while the centre has reduced an element of what it once offered families as a part of its daily programme/ routine. This in it's self has been disappointing, particularly when I am looking at value for money and the centre promotes its self as a "Healthy Eating" centre.

In conclusion, The Latrobe City's Mission Statement for Early Learning Centres is to provide an affordable childcare option for the community, at this stage looking at the proposed fees and charges for 2014/2015, I don't believe that has been fully considered, especially considering the large fee increase that was handed down last financial year.

Thank you for your time Helen Zandona

H. Zandona .

From: Calida Havas [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 May 2014 7:15 PM
To: Katrina Pizzi
Subject: Childcare increase

Hi Katrina

I feel \$84 per day is far too expensive for childcare!

I understand price increases, but \$84 a day seems too much for most families.

I hope you take into consideration how this will effect families.

Kind regards

Calida Havas

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
02 JUNE 2014 (SM400)**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 6.55 pm.

I certify that these minutes have been confirmed.

Mayor: _____

Date: _____