

Springvale Service For Children

Local Integrated Early Years Services

Presenters

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(Acknowledge the former Manager for Children, Youth and Family Services – Pam Regan and the Centre for Community Child Health – Murdoch Children's Research Institute)



Building an integrated child focussed service from the ground up



**The challenge...
to move from this...**

**Warner Reserve
Child Care**

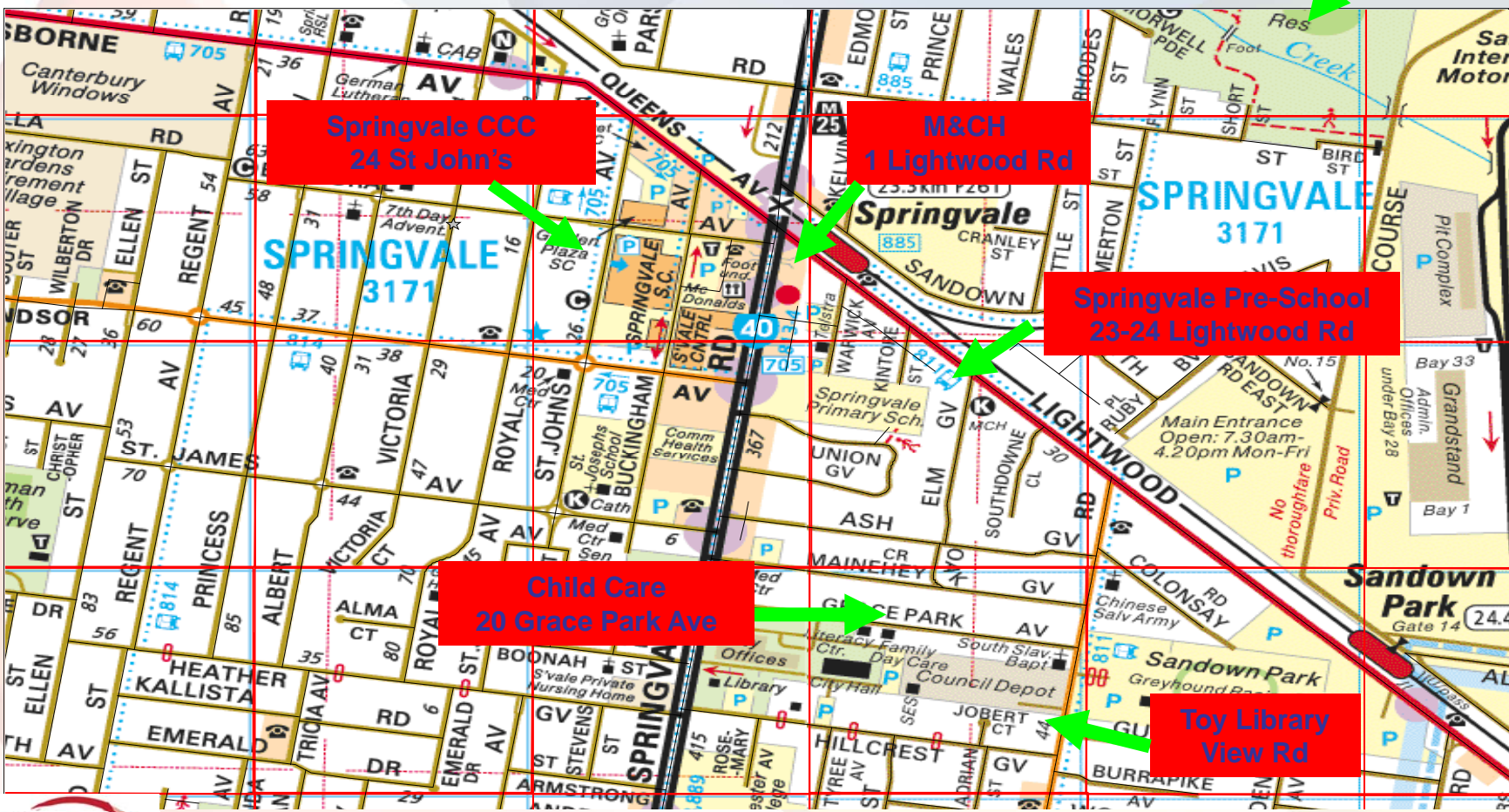
**Springvale CCC
24 St John's**

**M&CH
1 Lightwood Rd**

**Springvale Pre-School
23-24 Lightwood Rd**

**Child Care
20 Grace Park Ave**

**Toy Library
View Rd**



Transforming this site...



Into an integrated service through a purpose built facility...

'Working in partnership with families, the Springvale Service for Children reflects awareness of the critical importance of the early years by providing children with a range of high quality experiences and opportunities that promote their healthy development, learning, well being and supporting families in their child rearing'.



The integrated floor plan...



- **Child Care**
- **Kindergarten**
- **MCH**
- **Toy Library**
- **Playgroups**
- **Support Services**
- **Community Space**



Greater Dandenong Stats...

- 135,000 people – 7% future growth
- 56% born overseas – 156 birthplaces
- 60% speak a language other than English
- 12,000 children 0-6 years – 14% growth



Greater Dandenong Stats (cont)...

- 79% of children with overseas born parents
- Lowest proportion of couple families – high proportions single parent
- Socio-Economic scope lowest in the State
- AEDI analysis – 34% of children vulnerable in more than one score area



Getting started...

- Council decision 2006
- Consultation – Consultants – Architect – Community – Services
- Search for a site and acquisition
- Purpose – Philosophy – Governance
- Service Model
- Concept – Design
- Management Handover
- Build
- Move in (just getting started)



Counting the cost...

Expense

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| • Land acquisition | \$2M |
| • Construction | \$4.5M |
| • Project development | <u>\$0.2M</u> |
| | \$6.7M |

Income

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| • Property sales | \$1M |
| • State Government (CSF) | \$0.5M |
| • Council | <u>\$5.2M</u> |
| | \$6.7M |



Advancing a child friendly city...

- Influence decisions
 - Participate in family and community life
 - Basic services
 - Meet friends and play
 - Walk safely in the streets
 - Be an equal
 - Be protected
 - Consultation – design – family
- Design features
 - Child centered – integrated – multiple programs and services
 - The ‘home around the corner’
 - A strong statement
 - Culturally appropriate staff, programs and training
 - Community engagement – family support



Learnings...

- Ground up engagement
- Build a purpose before the building
- Understand the framework
- Be prepared to go the distance (\$'s and time)
- Decision makers have to be engaged and committed
- Work at 'integration'

