

The Principal Research Officer,
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee,
Legislative Assembly,
Parliament House,
Perth WA 6000.

26 February 2009

Subject : Inquiry into the Adequacy of Services to meet the Developmental Needs of
Western Australia's Children.

I am making a submission on this very important issue that affects the community in the
local authority of the City of Belmont.

- (a) The existing government programs do not adequately address the social and cognitive developmental needs of children. Community health officers lack suitable premises to deliver programs to the people who need their services the most.
- (b) There is no better place to identify developmental vulnerable children than by the teachers, community health workers and volunteers that work within the education system. Where a local authority has been identified as disadvantaged due to high public housing, low education levels, high aboriginal representation and higher than average unemployment a community health/cultural centre should be built on the local school site.
- (c) With a facility such as a community health/cultural centre on a local school site all government departments can help where services are required. An example would be dentistry, drug & alcohol rehabilitation and domestic violence as well as positive programs such as pre-school play-groups, kindergarten, parents & citizens groups and a child minding centre. In this way parents of young families feel they belong to a community and there is a continuous connection to the one place.
- (d) Refer point c.
- (e) Government statistics, current services provided to the school such as chaplaincy and breakfast programs.
- (f) Dental hygiene, police figures , participation rate of community members in activities run through the centre, school results, and health reports.
- (g) The link between health, culture and learning is very important.

Yours sincerely,
Mayor Glenys Godfrey
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