Keith Street Childcare Centre - St Lucia

Consideration:

Supply of childcare places at the University’s St Lucia Campus is currently provided by four onsite childcare centres managed by independent operators. In February 2014 the University undertook a childcare survey which sought to more closely determine childcare requirements for UQ staff and students.

The survey clearly identified that access to quality childcare is a pressing issue faced by UQ staff and students returning to work or study from parental leave. The key issues highlighted by the survey were as follows:

- waiting lists for the existing facilities are excessively long (up to two years in some cases) forcing staff and students to use non UQ based centres that are less convenient;
- demand for childcare is heavily skewed to the early age groups primarily under two years of age; and
- there is clearly a substantial unmet demand for additional childcare places at St Lucia.

There are a number of unused licenced places in the early age group, and a small number of vacancies in the older age groups in the existing four childcare centres. Even with these places opened up to UQ staff & students there remains a significant demand for a fifth childcare centre to be established at St Lucia.

The proposed site for the UQ Student Housing development includes the site which currently houses the Margaret Cribb Childcare Centre. As such, the University is currently in discussion with the executive of the Margaret Cribb Centre regarding their potential relocation and expansion into the proposed 154 place facility on Sir Fred Schonell Drive.

Description

A new 154 place centre is proposed to be constructed in the existing front carpark site along Keith Street and Sir Fred Schonell Drive. The preferred site location was established outside the flood plan and was approved at B&G in November 2015. This location allows the development to be single storey, generally on ground with an RL above the 2011 flood + 500mm.

The floor is a combination of slab on ground with some raised/elevated sections where natural levels fall away. The building form consists of a long single storey form, clad with a combination of timber, glass, and fibre cement. Landscape elements are brought up onto the facade where appropriate. The roof form will comprise steel members or timber truss design, creating a low impact residential type approach. A metal clad roof with traditional eve gutters will collect water for irrigation/play purposes.

The building will have a high level of natural light, and accommodate natural/stacked ventilation to all play rooms.
Forgan Smith Forecourt view

New child care development beyond and hidden from direct view at Forgan Smith Apex.
ELEVATIONS