

2013 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Chigwell Child and Family Centre

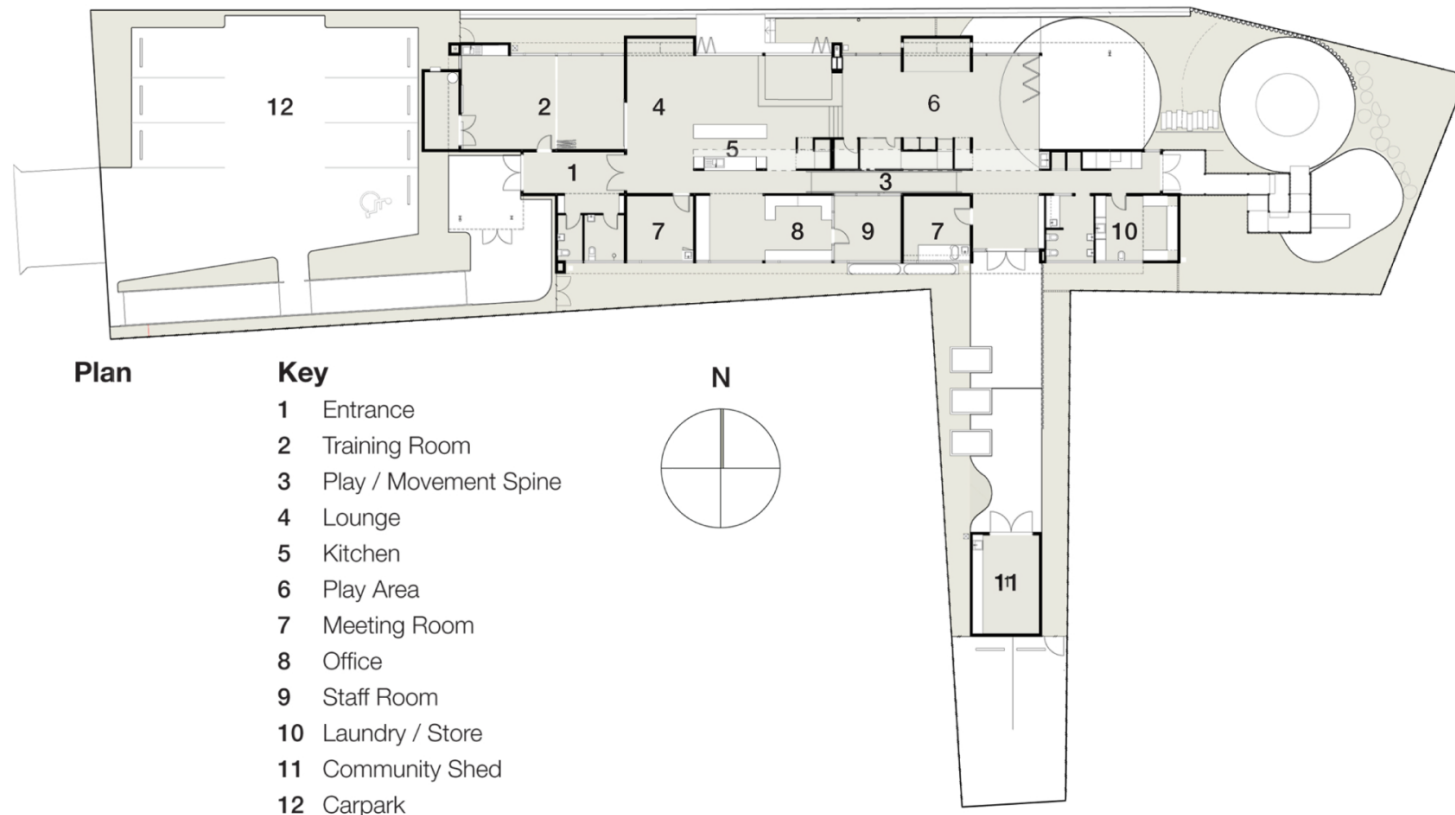
Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Chigwell Child and Family Centre



Chigwell Child and Family Centre

Site and Floor Plan



Community Environment:

The Chigwell Child and Family Centre assists in the promotion of the health and wellbeing, education and care of young children and their families within the local area. This facility began with a conversation with the community. Prior to the construction of the Centre, such a facility did not exist in Hobart's northern suburbs.

The Centre provides integrated service delivery to the Chigwell community, bringing together a range of services, where practitioners work collaboratively to deliver services and support children, families and communities. The guiding principles of the Centre are:

- Connect with those hardest to reach – *inclusiveness*
- Changing the way government and the community work together – *reaching out*
- Listening, understanding and acting on experiences different from our own – *mutual respect*

Celebrating local indigenous culture



Promoting community interaction

Community Environment:

Increasing participation by parents, children and community members is an exciting feature of the Centre.

Services are challenged to work together in the delivery services in partnership with parents, the community and other services while ensuring there is clear focus on the child.

An important feature of this building was to make it a 'welcoming' place for families and children. Families and visitors are quick to comment on the overall ambience the design of this building generates.

The Chigwell Child and Family Centre is open plan creating a flow that enables parents to socialize as well as monitor their children.

Parents report that they feel comfortable sitting in the communal lounge area with full view into the main play space.



Learning Environment:

The pedagogical emphasis on child centred activity requires an environment that fosters imagination and allows for children's free movement, from the security of small cubby scaled spaces to the challenge of larger communal areas with the scope for adventure.

The distinction between building structure and play equipment is blurred, engaging children in exploration and play, interspersed with running, climbing and sliding fun.

The mezzanine play spine generates excitement and wonder as soon as people walk into the building. It's innovative design encourages people into the space to explore its tunnels and places to hide and climb. 'Sleep nests' allow children a place to lie down and take time to wonder.

Mezzanine play spine



Learning Environment:

The Chigwell Child and Family Centre provides a range of volume, scale, and level changes defining areas for different uses. Spaces are opened up for larger activities or partitioned down to suit small group activities providing a range of learning opportunities.

Since the Centre has operated, education has been provided to the community in many fields including:

- Pre-school learning;
- Art;
- Family finances;
- Cooking;
- Baby massage;
- Parenting courses;
- Breastfeeding;
- Computer literacy;
- Family planning;
- Job seeking.

Interactive learning and play



Physical Environment:

The building form has responded to the steep and narrow site, the breathtaking views of the River Derwent below and a backdrop of Mount Wellington.

Sustainable design features include passive solar design, double glazing, insulated thermal mass, in-floor hydronic heating with an energy efficient reverse cycle heater, a solar hot water system, ample natural lighting and excellent cross ventilation.

A healthy low toxic internal environment is achieved with finishes with little or no formaldehydes or volatile organic compounds. Rain water is captured and used for watering the vegetable gardens and toilet flushing.

Centre at handover, views to the River Derwent



Physical Environment:

Features that enhance the site's natural assets include:

- The building steps down the narrow site emphasising the spectacular river views and encouraging the development of gross motor skills in very young children while achieving access for all;
- The external play space encompasses a series of decks incorporating cubby nooks to accommodate the sloping nature of the site;
- The floor plan maximises privacy for the Centre and the very close neighbouring homes; and
- Folding doors merge indoor and outdoor play spaces optimising use of the site, views of the river and connections to the adjacent community park.

Community park in foreground and Mount Wellington in background



Planning Process:

Evidence of parent and community involvement can be seen in the Local Enabling Group, community forums and workshops and activities undertaken within the Centre.

The Local Enabling Group is a group of interested and committed community members that guides service delivery in the Centre. The group meets regularly and to make key decisions on the operation of the Centre.

Community members have reported they are more confident and skilled and feel more valued as a result of involvement in the Centre community. The resulting positive impact on community capacity has seen the emergence of community leaders who are fully involved in the operation of the Centre.

Chigwell Child and Family Centre



Planning Process:

The Local Enabling Group has facilitated local community participation and involvement in the planning, design and construction of the Centre.

The Architects met with the Local Enabling Group regularly throughout the design process and the group was a key driver in shaping the design response.

The Local Enabling Group was invited to participate in supervised tours during construction to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Centre and assist in decision making associated with fit out requirements.

The Local Enabling Group was involved from the site selection and concept design stage through to project completion, a period of approximately two years.

Independent learning opportunities



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Project Data

Submitting Firm :	Department of Education Tasmania
Project Role	Authority
Project Contact	Todd Williams
Title	Manager Asset Planning, Facility Services
Address	GPO Box 169
City, State or Province, Country	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
Phone	03 6233 7773
Joint Partner Firm:	Morrison & Breytenbach
Project Role	Lead Architect
Project Contact	James Morrison
Title	Director
Address	GPO Box 725
City, State or Province, Country	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
Phone	03 6231 9093
Other Firm:	Scott & Ryland Architects
Project Role	Consulting Design Architect
Project Contact	Sarah Scott
Title	Director
Address	91 Glenmore Road
City, State or Province, Country	Paddington, New South Wales, Australia
Phone	03 9331 5307
Construction Firm:	Maveric Builders Pty Ltd
Project Role	Building Contractor
Project Contact	Mark Verdouw
Title	Commercial Supervisor
Address	PO Box 556
City, State or Province, Country	Kingston, Tasmania, Australia
Phone	03 6229 1430

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Project Details

Project Name	Chigwell Child and Family Centre
City	Chigwell
State	Tasmania
District Name	Learning Services (South)
Supt/President	Judy Travers, General Manager
Occupancy Date	3 October 2012
Grades Housed	Birth to 5 years
Capacity (Students)	40
Site Size (acres)	0.37140
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	5167
Per Occupant (pupil)	129 sf / student
gross/net please indicate	gross
Design and Build?	No
If yes, Total Cost:	-
Includes:	-
If no,	
Site Development:	included below
Building Construction:	\$2,099,251
Fixed Equipment:	included above
Other: loose furnishings	\$140,000
Total:	\$2,239,251.00

Special Attributes:

One of the most popular features of the Chigwell Child and Family Centre is the play 'nest'.

This sunken section allows parents to gather together on cushions on the floor with their children, for babies to roll around the floor and for pre-walking babies to safely navigate their way around the edges of the 'nest'.

Play nest



Special Attributes:

Another exciting feature of the Centre is the provision of consulting rooms for specialist health services. The objective of the Centre is to improve health and wellbeing of 0-5 year olds and their families.

The local child health nurse is located permanently in the Centre. This allows for informal interaction with community members as well as private appointments.

Maternity services are also provided and paediatric doctors can operate from the Centre.

Play area

