

Brad ROWSWELL MP

LIBERAL MEMBER FOR SANDRINGHAM



The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn
Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Minister Blandthorn

I write with some urgency regarding the reported imminent closure of 12 childcare centres in Victoria operated by G8 Education. It has been reported that reduced public confidence regarding child safety, affordability pressures and increasing regulatory burdens are contributing factors.

This raises serious questions about whether the Victorian Labor Government's current policy and regulatory settings are right or in fact a contributing factor to the imminent closure of these centres. As you would appreciate, the potential impact is significant, with many families, children and staff affected, especially those in regional areas who already suffer from limited childcare access.

In Victoria, the following centres are expected to close:

- Community Kids Early Education Centre **Bayswater**
- Penguin Childcare **Epping**
- Casa Bambini **Blackburn**
- Community Kids **Horsham**
- Creative Garden Early Learning **Point Cook**
- Great Beginnings **Mt Clear**
- Greenwood **Scoresby**
- Kindy Patch **Chelsea**
- Penguin Childcare **Parkville**
- World of Learning **Point Cook**
- **Springvale 2** World of Learning
- The Learning Sanctuary **Cranbourne West**

Given the scale and seriousness of this issue, I seek clear advice on the following:

1. When was the Victorian Government first made aware of the issues contributing to these closures, and what specific actions were taken at that time to prevent or mitigate this outcome?
2. What detailed information has the Government received about the drivers of these closures, including the role of recent child safety incidents in reducing enrolments and community confidence?
3. What immediate, practical measures are being implemented to ensure affected families are able to access alternative care without disruption?
4. What support is being provided to educators impacted by these closures, including redeployment or transition assistance?

This situation raises significant concerns for families, educators, and the stability of the early childhood sector in Victoria. It is important that you as Minister provide comprehensive answer to these questions as a matter of priority.

I look forward to your urgent response.

BRAD ROWSWELL MP
Member for Sandringham
Shadow Minister for Education
Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations
Shadow Minister for Government Services

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