

The Hurstbridge and Ferguson Park Preschools will run as normal through 2012.

It will be business as usual through 2012 at the Hurstbridge and Ferguson Park Preschools, following unexpected delays with the Hurstbridge Family Centre.

Any children registered for the three or four year old preschool programs at the two Hurstbridge preschools will be unaffected throughout 2012.

The delay to the construction of the Hurstbridge Family Centre follows the identification of a significant shortfall in funding due to site specific design requirements.

During the design phase of the new centre, flood issues and significant trees on the site were identified that necessitate specific and more costly design and build requirements.

Council has been in contact with both the Victorian and Australian governments to identify the potential to source further funding to overcome this shortfall to ensure this important project for Hurstbridge families continues.

In the event that no additional funding can be found, Council has requested both governments consider the option of extending the existing Community Centre on Graysharps Road. This would also need to include some road and footpath works.

The Community Centre facility would provide long day care, occasional care, maternal and child health and allied health services, while preschool programs would continue to operate from the existing Hurstbridge and Ferguson Park preschools. This option would create a 'walkable' community precinct, rather than offering all programs integrated under the one roof.

Council currently leases the Community Centre building from the Department of Education and negotiations regarding the purchase of the property will need to be approved before this option is explored.

Once a decision has been made about whether funding is available from either the Victorian or Australian governments, we will inform you.

Council will continue to advocate for the best possible outcome for current and future Hurstbridge families.

To receive regular updates on the progress of the Hurstbridge Family Centre, visit www.nillumbikfamilies.com > Information > Hurstbridge Family Centre or subscribe to our email distribution list by contacting us at hurstbridgefamilycentre@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

For general enquiries, or to make an appointment to meet with an officer at the Hurstbridge Projects Office, contact Nichole Johnson, Community Services Strategic Project Coordinator, on 9433 3134 or email at hurstbridgefamilycentre@nillumbik.vic.gov.au.

