



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lady Gowrie to manage Barrier Reef Childcare

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COOKTOWN

Lady Gowrie Queensland, a service provider with more than 75 years experience in early childhood care and learning, will manage Cooktown's only childcare centre, Cook Shire Council decided at its general meeting on Wednesday.

Council has been seeking an interim provider for the Barrier Reef Childcare Centre since the resignation of current operator the Catholic Diocese of Cairns in late May. Cook Shire Council Director Community, Economy and Innovation Lawrence Booth said, "We are delighted to have the Council's approval to move forward with a 12 month agreement with Lady Gowrie Queensland to manage the centre. This ensures the doors stay open under the management of an extremely experienced and well-resourced provider."

Lady Gowrie has operations across Australia, including experience delivering childcare services in remote Queensland in locations including Barcaldine, Blackall, Dysart and Thursday Island. Lady Gowrie was established in Brisbane in 1940, and has since grown to providing early childhood education and care services nationally. "Council will also form a management committee for the centre, which would comprise representatives from Lady Gowrie and Council as well as parents who use the childcare centre," Mr Booth said. "We will also organise a community forum within the next few months to gain a better understanding of the childcare needs in Cooktown and to discuss childcare options moving forward."

Lady Gowrie Queensland Chief Executive Officer Louise Jackson said, "Our organisation believes that childhood is a unique time of life, to be valued and enjoyed. Lady Gowrie Queensland is excited to become part of the Cooktown community and continue to grow and improve the early childhood experience."

For more information contact Mr Booth via email to mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.

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