

Item 13.2**Notices of Motion****Calling on the City of Sydney to Urgently Take Over Operation of Goodstart Early Learning East Sydney**

By Councillor Maxwell

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) that the East Sydney Early Learning Centre (affectionately known as Darlo) was constructed by the City, and was built to an extraordinary standard, for the explicit purpose of providing desperately needed childcare in the City of Sydney
- (ii) that the centre has been run since that time by Goodstart Early Learning
- (iii) that on 17 August 2026, Goodstart wrote to parents and informed them that they would close Darlo on 27 November 2026, leaving staff and parents with nowhere to go
- (iv) that parents instantly mobilised to start the 'Save Darlo Early Learning' campaign
- (v) that on Friday 21 August 2026, Council offered Goodstart one year of absolute rent relief in order to keep Darlo open
- (vi) that on Monday 24 August 2026, Goodstart rejected that offer and asked for 5 years of rent relief in order to keep operating Darlo

- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate urgently taking any and all steps necessary to keep Darlo open, to avoid as much disruption as possible, including by Council taking over direct operation of Darlo on either a temporary or ongoing basis and report back to Council on the implications of doing so.

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