

get involved

Smithton Child and Family Learning Centre

Community Engagement Outcomes Report



Table of Contents

Version 1.0 – 7/07/2026

Executive Summary	3
Background.....	4
Campaign outputs.....	6
Participation	6
Interpreting feedback	7
What we heard.....	7
Next steps.....	9
Analytics and written submissions.....	10

Executive Summary

The Tasmanian Government has committed \$24 million for three new Child and Family Learning Centres (CFLCs) across the State. The Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) *Get Involved* consultation for the new Smithton CFLC commenced on 14 April 2026 and closed on 22 May 2026. The consultation sought feedback from the Smithton community and communities in the Circular Head Local Government Area (LGA) on the types of services and support facilities the new CFLC should provide, as well as the preferred location.

The *Get Involved* campaign included an online feedback form, which was open until 22 May 2026. A total of 110 unique feedback forms were received during this period, and 46 people attended a community workshop held on 20 May 2026.

Feedback received through the consultation process indicated there is strong support for the new Smithton CFLC.

From the online feedback form, the most utilised ongoing services at the new Smithton CFLC might be child health nurse; parenting programs; children's therapies, and early identification of children with developmental delay or disability.

The most utilised occasional/special activities at the Smithton CFLC might be dads' activities; cooking lessons, and weekend activities.

The most common time of day that users might seek to access the new Smithton CFLC is between 9am and 12pm.

Online feedback form respondents were asked whether they would utilise different types of child care provision at the Smithton CFLC. This included adjunct care (short term), occasional care (defined as irregular/infrequent long day care), and long day care (regular weekly) at the CFLC, noting that respondents could select more than one option.

63 respondents said they would not utilise childcare at the CFLC (this included 19 who said they wouldn't because they already access childcare elsewhere), 32 said they would utilise occasional care, 25 said they would utilise adjunct care, and 14 said they would utilise long day care.

Of the total of 110 online feedback form respondents, 67 provided feedback in relation to the preferred site located at 33A King Street Smithton. Of these, 38 respondents viewed the location as favourable, 22 viewed the location as unfavourable or expressed preference for another site, and seven were deemed neutral (left blank or feedback unrelated to site). Of the 67 respondents, 38 identified themselves as parents/carers and of these, 26 viewed the preferred site as favourable, seven were opposed, and three were neutral.

47 respondents said they would be interested participating in the Local Enabling Group (LEG) for the new Smithton CFLC, 34 respondents said they might be interested (upon receiving further information), and 22 respondents said they would not be interested.

The most common ways respondents heard about the *Get Involved* campaign for the new Smithton CFLC were word of mouth (41); social media (40); direct mail (28) and approached by a CFLC representative (28).

Background

DECYP has committed to undertaking community consultation for all major capital works projects. This is to provide local communities and stakeholders with the opportunity to provide input on capital works projects – ensuring a co-designed approach to delivering facilities that improve outcomes for learners and their families.

An extensive review of demographic data for the Circular Head LGA area was undertaken to understand the specific needs of the region.

There are two Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) providers in Smithton, which provide services accredited under the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority.

There are six primary schools, one high school and one K-12 school in the Circular Head LGA. These are Smithton Primary School, St Peter Chanel, Stanley Primary School, Forest Primary School, Edith Creek Primary School, Redpa Primary School, Smithton High School and Circular Head Christian School.

The Circular Head LGA has the 12th lowest (out of 29 LGAs) number of 0-4 year old children in Tasmania, with 508 children as at ABS Household census in 2021.

The region has an 11.1 per cent rate of children's developmental vulnerability (AEDC).

ABS Census 2021 demographic snapshot of the Circular Head LGA:

Demographic snapshot – Smithton

- Unemployment rate is 5.6 per cent
- 2 per cent of the population are Housing Tasmania tenants
- 222 children aged 0-4

Demographic snapshot – Marrawah

- Unemployment rate is 6.2 per cent
- 0 per cent of the population are Housing Tasmania tenants
- 10 children aged 0-4 years old

Demographic snapshot – Stanley

- Unemployment rate is 3 per cent
- 3 per cent of the population are Housing Tasmania tenants
- 26 children aged 0-4 years old

Demographic snapshot – Edith Creek

- Unemployment rate is 0 per cent
- 0 per cent of the population are Housing Tasmania tenants
- 16 children aged 0-4 years old

Preferred site

DECYP currently operates 18 CFLCs across Tasmania. Approximately two thirds of these existing CFLCs are located on DECYP school sites, with the remaining CFLCs located on other DECYP owned sites.

In assessing potential sites for the new Smithton CFLC, DECYP undertook a high-level desktop review of:

- DECYP-owned sites in Smithton
- Other Crown-owned land in Smithton
- Local government-owned sites in Smithton
- Privately-owned sites in Smithton.

The following criteria was applied in the assessment of potential sites.

1 - Size - large enough for the CFLC, including ECEC space if deemed required, and associated car parking, outdoor areas.

2 - Zoning – appropriately zoned for the proposed use under the relevant local government planning scheme.

3 - Ownership/tenure – potential cost to acquire the land.

4 - Build costs – consideration of site complexities, cost of services, access requirements, anticipated build timeframes.

5 - Current usage – potential use conflicts, duty of care requirements, similar/complimentary functions.

6 - Accessibility – user site access, transport, centralised location, nearby conveniences/services.

DECYP then undertook a more detailed review of two sites. These were Smithton Primary School and a Circular Head Council owned site located at 33A King Street Smithton (Anzac Park).

A review of the Smithton Primary School site identified several challenges. These were:

- insufficient available land on the school's road frontage
- reduced accessibility to available land located at the rear of the school site
- more challenging build and higher anticipated build costs due to required replacement of school infrastructure, or services and access infrastructure
- fewer nearby services and conveniences for CFLC users.

As a result of this review, the site at 33A King Street Smithton (Anzac Park) was identified as the preferred site for the new Smithton CFLC.

Campaign outputs

The *Get Involved* consultation for Smithton CFLC commenced on 14 April 2026. The campaign ran for six weeks and concluded on 22 May 2026. Campaign outputs were:

- Direct emails to stakeholder groups and service provider representatives
- Local government communications
- Ministerial media release
- School-based communications
- Community workshop
- Smithton CFLC *Get Involved* page on the DECYP website
- Online feedback form
- 3,258 direct mailouts to residents and businesses in the Circular Head LGA
- Dedicated *Get Involved* email box to receive submissions
- Three weeks of Facebook and Instagram advertising geo-targeting users in the Circular Head LGA
- Direct community outreach by DECYP family engagement staff.

Participation

Community participation in the *Get Involved* consultation for the new Smithton CFLC was strong.

Participants in the consultation came from a mix of parents and carers, community members, service providers, not-for-profit groups, school staff and 'other'.

Online feedback form

A total of 110 unique feedback forms were received.

Email submissions

Three enquiries were received via the *Get Involved* email box.

Community workshop

A community workshop was held at the Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre on 20 May 2026.

This workshop was promoted via:

- Local government communication channels
- direct stakeholder outreach
- Smithton Primary School and other government school channels in the region
- DECYP website
- Social media advertising
- Direct emails to stakeholder groups and service providers.

Registration to attend the workshop was via the Microsoft Forms platform. A total of 40 individuals registered for the workshop and 46 attended.

Following the community workshop, the workshop notes were circulated to all attendees. These stakeholders were then asked whether they wished to join the LEG being established for the new Smithton CFLC. Invitations to join the LEG were then sent to those who wished to.

Interpreting feedback

All feedback received through the consultation has been reviewed and best efforts have been made to interpret it to ensure accuracy and integrity and support informed decision-making.

What we heard

The analytics section of this report contains the full submissions and feedback received during the *Get Involved* consultation period via all channels (online feedback form, emails, and community workshop). A summary of this feedback is provided below.

Online feedback forms

Response summary

- When asked what areas respondents lived, the top responses were 69 from Smithton (63 per cent), 15 from 'other' (14 per cent) and six from Forest (5 per cent).
- When asked how they will be involved with the new Smithton CFLC (noting that respondents could choose more than one option), 67 respondents (61 per cent) said they were parents/carers, 56 (51 per cent) said they were community members, 24 (22 per cent) said they were school staff, 13 (12 per cent) said they were service providers, 12 (11 per cent) said they were from not-for-profit organisations, seven (6 per cent) said they were 'other', two (2 per cent) said they were from state government, and one (1 per cent) said they were from local government.
- 105 respondents (95 per cent) identified as female, and five (5 per cent) respondents identified as male.
- 39 respondents (35 per cent) said they were aged 25-34 years, 31 (28 per cent) were 35-44 years, 18 (16 per cent) were 55-64 years, 12 (11 per cent) were aged 45-54 years and six (5 per cent) was 18-24 years.
- 38 respondents (34 per cent) said they have two children, 24 (22 per cent) said they have three children, 18 (16 per cent) said they have no children, 17 (15 per cent) said they have one child, and 13 (12 per cent) said they have four or more children.
- 61 respondents (55 per cent) said they were most likely to use the Smithton CFLC between the hours of 9am-12pm, 12 (11 per cent) said they wouldn't use the CFLC, 10 (9 per cent) said between the hours of 12pm and 3pm, 10 (9 per cent) said after 3pm and one respondent said before 9am.
- 67 respondents provided a response in relation to the preferred site for the new Smithton CFLC at 33A King Street Smithton (Anzac Park). Of these, 38 respondents (57 per cent) viewed the location as favourable, 22 (33 per cent) viewed the location as unfavourable or expressed

preference for another site, and seven (10 per cent) were deemed neutral (left blank or feedback unrelated to the preferred site). Of the 67 respondents, 38 (57 per cent) identified themselves as parents/carers and of these, 26 (68 per cent) viewed the preferred site as favourable, seven (18 per cent) were opposed, and three (8 per cent) were neutral. Of the 22 respondents opposed to the preferred site, 12 (54 per cent) identified themselves as school staff.

- The two most common reasons that respondents said might stop them from visiting the new Smithton CFLC were hours of operation (22 per cent) and being too busy (20 per cent).
- When asked whether they would utilise childcare services at the new Smithton CFLC (noting that respondents were able to choose more than one option), 44 respondents (40 per cent) said they would not utilise childcare at the CFLC, 32 (29 per cent) said they would utilise occasional care, 25 (23 per cent) said they would utilise adjunct care (childminding), 19 (17 per cent) said they already accessed childcare elsewhere, and 14 (13 per cent) said they would utilise long day care.
- The top responses for what types of ongoing services respondents would like to see available at the new Smithton CFLC (noting that respondents were able to choose more than one option) were child health nurse 96 (87 per cent), parenting programs 90 (82 per cent), children's therapies 89 (81 per cent) early identification of children with developmental delay or disability 88 (80 per cent), organised play sessions 83 (75 per cent), antenatal/maternity services 79 (72 per cent) family assistance 74 (67 per cent) and child safety services 73 (66 per cent).
- The top responses for what types of special activities respondents would like to see available at the new Smithton CFLC (noting that respondents were able to choose more than one option) were dad's activities 68 (62 per cent), cooking lessons 61 (55 per cent), weekend activities 60 (54 per cent), health and fitness activities 56 (51 per cent), and grandparent/carer support 56 (51 per cent).
- 47 respondents (43 per cent) said they were interested in becoming a member of the LEG for the Smithton CFLC, 34 (31 per cent) said they might be interested with more information, and 22 (20 per cent) said they were not interested.
- 31 respondents (28 per cent) provided additional feedback in the free text field.
- 92 respondents (84 per cent) said they would like to receive more information as the project progresses.
- The top three ways respondents heard about the *Get Involved* campaign for the Smithton CFLC were word of mouth, social media and direct mail.

Email submissions

A total of three emails were received via the *Get Involved* email box. All three emails were enquiries to join the Smithton CFLC LEG.

Community workshop

Response summary

Attendees to the community workshop held on 20 May 2026 raised several questions in relation to the new Smithton CFLC. These included:

- What was the selection criteria for choosing/considering land.
- Why was 33A King Street Smithton chosen as the preferred site for the new CFLC.

- Why is Smithton Primary School not the preferred site.
- How to ensure most-at-risk families can access King Street.
- Is King Street accessible to all.
- Can information be shared with the community about the new Health Hub.
- What is the process for communicating with the community regarding the preferred and other site options.
- Has 28-30 Upper Havelock Street been considered for the new CFLC.
- Why is the land between Smithton Primary School and Circular Head Christian School not being considered.
- Will transport be available for parents of CFLC.
- Can the CFLC include some events for parents with school-aged children in the school holidays.

Responses to these questions were provided to community workshop attendees via email on 9 June 2026 and are provided in the analytics section of this report.

Next steps

This report will be provided to the Minister for Education, and to the LEG (including the project architects) to inform development of the scope of works for the new Smithton CFLC.

The report will also be made available on the DECYP website.

Analytics and written submissions



Online feedback form

Question 1

Please provide your full name

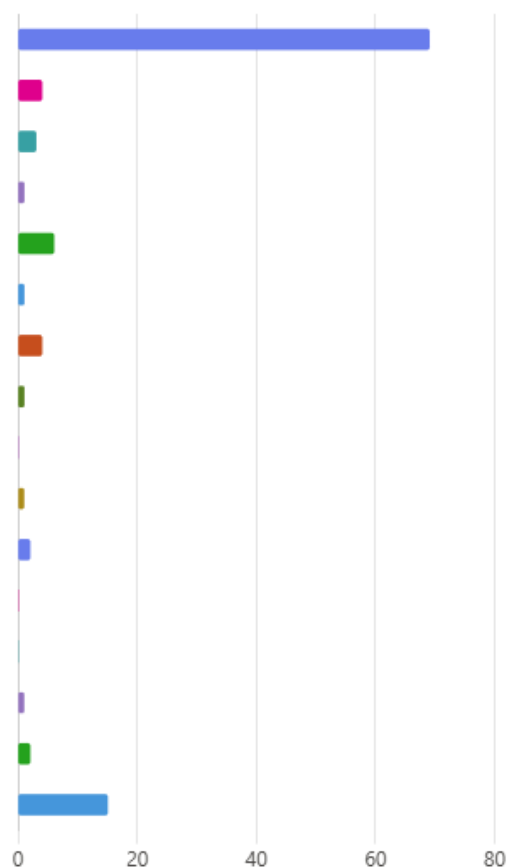
Question 2

Please provide your email address

Question 3

3. In what area do you live?

● Smithton	69
● Stanley	4
● Redpa	3
● Edith Creek	1
● Forest	6
● Hellyer	1
● Montagu	4
● Arthur River	1
● Nelson Bay	0
● Rocky Cape	1
● Woolnorth	2
● Trowutta	0
● Mengha	0
● Mawbanna	1
● Marrawah	2
● Other	15



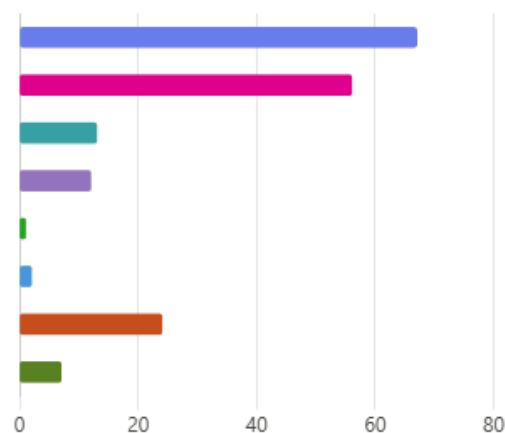
*Other

- Christmas Hills (x2)
- Out of area
- Irishtown (x4)
- Roger River (x2)
- Scotchtown (x2)
- Latrobe
- Wynyard (x2)
- Brittons Swamp

Question 4

4. How will you be involved with the new Smithton CFLC? You may choose MORE than one.

Parent/carer	67
Community member	56
Service provider	13
Not-for-profit organisation	12
Local Government	1
State Government	2
School staff	24
Other	7



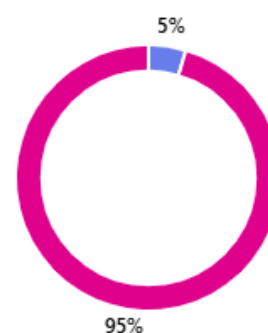
*Other

- CFLC staff
- Local midwife
- Tasmania Police
- School psychologist
- School social worker
- Grandparent
- Family violence consultant

Question 5

5. What gender do you identify as?

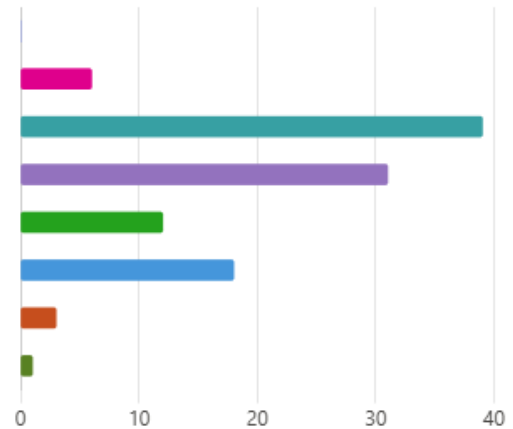
Male	5
Female	105
Non-binary	0
Prefer not to say	0



Question 6

6. What is your age?

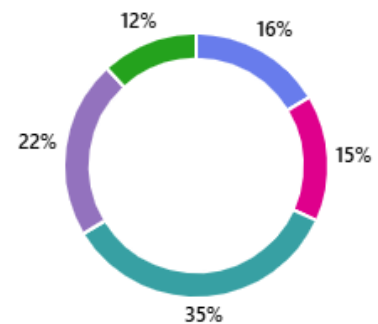
Under 18	0
18-24	6
25-34	39
35-44	31
45-54	12
55-64	18
Over 65	3
Rather not say	1



Question 7

7. How many children do you have?

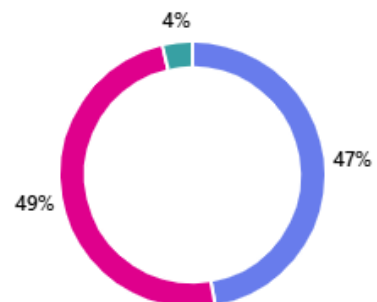
No children	18
One	17
Two	38
Three	24
Four children or more	13



Question 8

8. If you have children, how many of your children are under the age of 5 years?

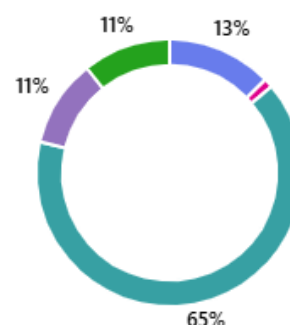
One	26
Two	27
Three	2
More than 3	0



Question 9

9. When would you be most likely to use the new Smithton CFLC?

● I wouldn't visit the CFLC	12
● Before 9am	1
● Between 9am and midday	61
● Between midday and 3pm	10
● After 3pm	10



Question 10

10. The preferred site for the new CFLC is 33A King Street Smithton. This site has been selected due to its suitable size, central location in the Smithton township for families in the Circular Head region, and proximity to other community services and facilities. Please provide any feedback you may have on this site below.

Responses

Site would be perfect but will need parking space

My primary concern is that the CFLC is not attached to a school. My concern is around how the CFLC will work in genuine partnership with families to support children's learning, wellbeing, and transitions, particularly without the natural connection and continuity that a school setting can provide. - What strategies will be used to engage families who make already feel disconnected from education or community services? - How will the CFLC actively build strong, trusting relationships with families if it's not linked to a school community? - How will alignment be ensured between CFLC programs and school expectations, curriculum and wellbeing approaches? - Will families with multiple children attending school find it harder to engage with an offsite CFLC? - How will the CFLC build a strong sense of belonging without being embedded in a school community?

I think this site would be fantastic and as mentioned central location which I believe is key to the success of the CFLC.

King Street is quite far away for families residing in Smithton who would most need to access the CFLC. King Street is slightly up hill and is not within walking distance for all the families that live near Smithton Primary School that would most benefit from accessing the CFLC.

Brilliant location, plenty of parking behind in the over flow car park. Previously, I personally worked at this building to run a playgroup and it was ideal.

I think this is a very poor decision. The families most in need of this service will not access this part of town, it will marginalise at-risk community members (so even those who can find a way to access it will not do so), there is no parking, it is not close to schools and the

Responses

people most in need will continue to be at risk. I firmly believe the CFLC success (or lack thereof) is dependent on the right location, and this is the wrong choice. The building will be a white elephant used by extremely few community members, and very few, if any, of those community members will be those who need it most. The community members consulted in regard to the King Street site are from one very small sample of our community and they are not the people who need a CFLC most. The local council, who were spoken to in much more detail than school, have never spoken to any of the local schools, so the little bit of insight they've provided is based on purely personal thinking - not evidence-informed in any way. The consultation with school has been minimal, and biased, with many (almost all) of the local schools omitted from consultation altogether. For an education facility that should serve an entire community, there are many voices being left unheard with this decision and not only is that disappointing, it has huge potential to ruin a great opportunity for our children and families. The CFLC should be located close to local schools - in my opinion attached to Smithton Primary School, between the Smithton Primary School and Circular Head Christian School sites. It is central to the town, central to all school communities (physically and in regard to service providers) can provide better parking, better traffic flow and most importantly is accessible to the people in our community who need it most.

Sounds like a good option. Central, good parking.

Central and plenty of parking

Wonderful location

I think this site would be perfect for families to access it.

In my opinion this is a perfect site. It is a well-located, central site close to shops and services, and offers a neutral, accessible space for the community.

This location will not serve the at-risk community who need family and parenting support. It is too far from most families and up hill, with no parking. Bad idea. Should be near local schools and the community who need access to the support it could provide.

Should be based at Smithton Primary School as that is closer to the families that would really benefit from it.

Site location sounds great.

I understand that the King Street site may need to be purchased, while Smithton High School already has suitable land available on its southside campus. If this is correct, it raises a serious question about why a town-centre location is being prioritised at all. Building on existing school land would avoid the additional cost of land acquisition and make far more sense financially. Beyond cost, the King Street site presents significant

Responses

practical concerns. It sits on a busy corner in the heart of the town centre, where traffic congestion is already an issue. Introducing a major new facility would inevitably worsen traffic flow, create safety risks, and place pressure on already-limited parking. Parents, staff, students, and visitors would all be competing for space in an area not designed to accommodate this level of demand. In contrast, the Southside campus offers space, flexibility, and safer access, with far fewer impacts on town traffic and local businesses. From both a financial and planning perspective, locating the building on existing school land appears to be the more sensible, cost-effective, and community-friendly option.

Who was consulted on this? Because it certainly wasn't families, or the staff in education space. The families this centre is supposedly DESIGNED for won't have access, so what's the point. As a community member I could not be more disappointed

Perfect site location, being central in town is critical for me as I travel in and need to attend to other jobs in the town centre. Also, can access health appointments in the same trip.

Perfect site. Great central location.

While the proposed location has its advantages, I believe a more effective placement for the Child and Family Learning Centre would be within a school setting. Previously being part of an early years intervention environment, I have consistently found that engagement with families is stronger when services are based on site at a school. This setting naturally supports relationship-building, making it easier for families to connect early and feel comfortable within the school community. It also helps create smoother transitions for children as they move into formal schooling, as familiarity with the environment is already established. Locating the CFLC outside of a school may lead to reduced family engagement and create additional barriers for building those early connections. It may also make transitions into school more challenging for both children and families.

I think that is a good option, but also West Esplanade if the upgrades to the park go ahead

I don't think King Street is a good location for the CFLC for a number of reasons. I think having it located closer to Smithton Primary School would be better as it is more accessible for families especially those with transport issues. Parents walking with prams and small children would struggle up the hill in King Street. I think the Wynyard CFLC is perfectly located to Table Cape Primary School and more families access this centre especially after dropping off their older children to the school.

Visibility seems like the only challenge with this location. And the perception of too busy. Put a carpark at the front and redeveloped the carpark at the make. Make it super tidy, nice lines with large signage. It says there is heaps of space, easy access and here I am.

Living at [REDACTED] we are keen to learn where the access to the new CFLC building will be from. We are absolutely supportive of a CFLC in Smithton but do have some questions and concerns regarding access to the new CFLC. Currently our [REDACTED]

Responses

[REDACTED]. This has frequently posed issues for us with vehicles parking either [REDACTED]

██████████ The volume of users will be far greater with a CFLC. I'm hoping the entrance might be from the Smith Street side? Are you able to clarify please. That seems logical in terms of parking availability.

i would have preferred the site to be at Smithton Primary for ease of access while dropping of my other children to school. This would also help with transitioning younger children to primary school. Once the new health hub is established i envisage this area will become quite busy which is also ideal if attending the CFLC for confidential purposes or for children that don't like busy environments.

The site has limitations for families that do not have transport, the only service available is a taxi service which only runs on random days and is not always accessible. It makes more sense for the new CFLC to be near a school and to encourage familiarity with school process and routines and getting them ready for enrolment in later year. Limited parking area in proposed area. The proposed area is not street facing.

It seems like a good position. I have not been inside.

A great site location!

I do not agree with the proposed location at 33A King Street, Smithton. In my view, a CFLC should be co-located with a school or within very close proximity to one. This supports early engagement with children and families, helps build strong transitions into education, and allows for more meaningful collaboration between early learning and school settings. The primary purpose of a CFLC should not be based on being centrally located within a township. Instead, the focus should be on creating strong educational pathways and opportunities for early intervention by integrating services where children are already learning and developing. While proximity to other community services has value, I believe the long-term benefits of aligning the CFLC with a school environment outweigh the advantages of a central standalone location.

I do not support the proposed site at 33A King Street, Smithton. A CFLC should be positioned alongside a school to maximise its impact, not separated from it. Locating the centre within a school environment allows children to become familiar with the setting early, supports smoother transitions into formal schooling, and encourages stronger connections between educators, families, and support services. Focusing on a central township location misses the core purpose of a CFLC. Accessibility is important, but the priority should be early engagement, integration with education, and creating a cohesive support network around children from the outset. While being near other services may be convenient, it does not replace the value of embedding the CFLC within a school community where children and families are already connected

Responses

I am not in favour of the proposed location at 33A King Street, Smithton. From my perspective, a CFLC is most effective when it is embedded within a school setting. This creates natural opportunities for children and families to engage with education from the earliest years and helps build familiarity, confidence, and continuity as children transition into primary school. Positioning the centre based on centrality within the township does not reflect the core intent of a CFLC. Its purpose should be centred on early intervention, connection to education, and strengthening developmental outcomes, rather than convenience of location alone. While access to nearby services is beneficial, it should not outweigh the importance of integrating the CFLC into an existing school community, where long-term educational and social benefits for children can be better supported.

Will be a great spot and plenty of parking around the area. The building itself is quite small though

For some families, the lack of private and public transport options in Smithton can be restrictive. From years living in the area, I have noted that while many families tend to walk and use prams to get as far as Woolworths, I wonder will they travel the extra distance to King Street (especially given the incline). I think it will be important to provide transport to and from the centre and to consider other ways that families from surrounding regional areas might access the service.

NA

The proposed location dramatically reduces the impact the long awaited CFLC can have on the families that actually require the intervention. CFLCs are meant to assist in the education pathway for our children, independent of what school they may attend when they get to school age. Proximity to schools strengthens early engagement, improves attendance and allows for collaborative support between educators, health professionals and families. Locating the CFLC in the CBD is a definite barrier for some of our families, public transport in Smithton does not exist and entering the CBD environment is confronting. The proposed location of the CFLC in the CBD risks long term harm to those families that need it the most and then puts added pressure back onto the schools in the area and does nothing to close the gap in learning, wellbeing and engagement.

I am not familiar with the site

The CFLA would be better suited at the site of Smithton Primary School to ensure efficient flow on support for families going from CFLC into primary school. Smithton Primary School is the school that captures that most vulnerable families and students in the township. On site relations would better improve retainment of family involvement in the early years.

I like this site and think it is definitely more suitable than using a school. My main concern would be about vehicle access and wonder if a new street or redesign of existing streets can be considered. It can be difficult for larger vehicles (family vans, 4WDs etc, school buses) to turn into the laneway off Smith Street to access the parking area if there are

Responses

vehicles exiting at the same time, and the King Street entrance would need some attention too. It would also be nice to have some undercover parking and covered walkways from the carpark to the building so parents and children can get inside safely and (mostly) dry - this would be good regardless of the chosen site.

I think this is a great location for the CFLC due to the central location in town as this would be easily accessible for most people and within walking distance for those living in town (reducing transport barriers). Close proximity to other community services and facilities is also a bonus. However, having the CFLC located close to a primary school may be more beneficial to establish a stronger connection between the centre and schools, as with this proposed location the CFLC would be quite isolated from schools in the Circular Head region. The main purpose of CFLCs is for early intervention and early learning, with the aim of setting children and families up for a successful transition to primary school.

I believe this or the former RSL site would be great options

Not the best location, why was this site preferred over the co-location with the primary school? Lacks parking and access roads and parking surfaces not suited to the increased traffic. Who pays for those works?

I believe this will be a suitable site

Good central location for the community

Would be more beneficial for the site to be the current school, due to the demographic and transport needs of these families, they do not visit King Street and the concerns around increased traffic on the small lane behind the Main Street.

NA

I would prefer to not have a CLFC as it is a more than a triple up of services in the Circular Head area. How many times has this happen in our area and now we need what has been taken away.

Perfect spot

An easily accessible central location

A location central to the community or a short distance is a good option. Parking spaces, safe access and fencing for little people would be my main concern being so close to the town centre.

Responses

Love the site

I think it is a good site to put it

This would be a great site. Entry and exit via King Street can be tight. Also caravan parking long bays may need to be moved

Accessible to me.

It's a good location

This seems like a great spot near to a 'green space' ... however I hope it's not too far for families with limited or no transport to utilise the centre.

Perfect site

A fantastic central location that still provides security and privacy for clients

Yes, it is a good idea.

Great site

Why is it not built at Smithton Primary School so it can be accessed by our families that need it the most in that area?

Perfect

I think that location suits parents' needs well.

NA

Perfect place

Good location, carpark doesn't offer great access and condition. Building needs to be bigger.

This site is not the best option. It will impact on long vehicle parking in the business district and is largely invisible to people new to the district. Smithton Primary School is the best option to allow liaising between public school staff and CFLC staff. It is also in close

Responses

proximity to the Christian School, for similar reasons. The next best option would be to utilise the Council owned land adjacent to the police station and including the former child health building and plant nursery. This puts it in close proximity to Woolworths and IGA for families who do not have easily accessible transport and obtain lifts from friends or use taxis. It would also allow for easy liaising between the centre and other service providers for this age group in the district, such as Ochre Health, CHAC, Rural Health and Smithton Library.

Locating a child learning centre within the grounds of the primary school is not simply a matter of convenience; it is a decision that directly affects children's emotional wellbeing, educational continuity, inclusion, accessibility, and long-term developmental outcomes. Establishing the centre away from the school environment introduces unnecessary barriers and disruptions that disproportionately affect vulnerable children and families, particularly those experiencing disability, disadvantage, or financial hardship. A school-based learning centre provides stability, familiarity, and continuity for children during some of the most formative years of their development. Young children thrive in environments that are predictable and secure. Transitioning between multiple locations during the school day can create confusion, anxiety, and emotional dysregulation, especially for children who rely heavily on routine and environmental consistency. When the learning centre is physically integrated within the primary school grounds, children are able to remain within one familiar environment, reducing stress and supporting smoother daily transitions. This continuity is especially important during early childhood, when emotional regulation and adjustment skills are still developing. The proposed off-site location raises significant concerns regarding the impact on children with neurodivergent disabilities and additional learning needs. Many neurodivergent children, including those with autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, sensory processing challenges, anxiety disorders, or developmental delays, experience heightened distress when faced with abrupt environmental changes, unfamiliar routines, excessive sensory stimulation, or inconsistent transitions. Requiring these children to move between separate locations may lead to sensory overload, increased anxiety, behavioural dysregulation, emotional withdrawal, and reduced capacity to engage in learning. A school-based centre allows these children to access education in a familiar and structured setting where routines can remain consistent and support systems are already established. Furthermore, inclusive education principles strongly support the co-location of learning services within mainstream school environments. Housing the learning centre on school grounds promotes inclusion, peer connection, social integration, and a sense of belonging. Children can participate more naturally in school activities, develop friendships with peers, and become familiar with the school community before entering later year levels. This continuity supports confidence and school readiness while reducing feelings of separation or exclusion. An off-site centre risks creating a divide between children attending the learning centre and those already integrated into the school environment, potentially contributing to isolation and difficulties with later transition into mainstream classes. The proposed external location also creates substantial practical and financial burdens for families. Many parents and caregivers already face significant pressures balancing employment, childcare, financial obligations, and transportation needs.

Responses

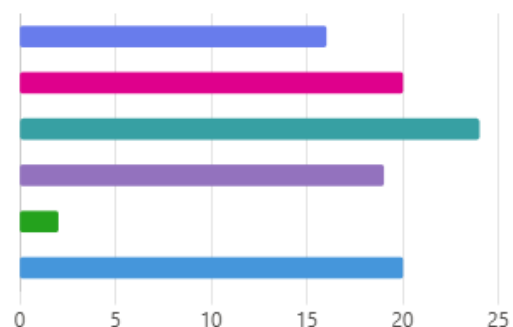
Families without reliable private transport may struggle to access a separate site consistently, particularly in areas with limited public transport infrastructure. Parents who are financially disadvantaged may incur additional fuel costs, transport fares, time away from work, or childcare complications associated with travelling between different locations. These burdens disproportionately affect low-income households and single-parent families, increasing inequity in access to educational services. Importantly, the accessibility issue extends beyond transport alone. I cannot fit any more within this field

While 33A King Street may be the most suitable site, it is difficult to provide fully informed feedback without the opportunity to comment on alternative locations. The use of “preferred site” suggests the decision may already be largely determined, which limits the sense of genuine consultation. Although described as central, the site is somewhat removed from key community hubs such as the supermarket, library, and sporting facilities. Clarification on how ‘centrality’ has been assessed for families across the broader Circular Head region would be helpful. Further transparency is also needed regarding: Consultation with nearby residents and businesses and potential impacts: * Traffic, access, and parking considerations * Whether the site can meet current and future demand * The impact on Anzac Park * The future of services currently operating on the site I do support the decision not to co-locate the CFLC with Smithton Primary School. A school-based location may create a perception that the service primarily serves Smithton families, potentially discouraging access from outlying communities. It may also present practical and psychological barriers for some families. An independent site is more likely to feel neutral, inclusive, and accessible. It is also important to consider unintended, longer-term impacts. Early engagement with a CFLC can influence later school enrolment decisions, potentially leading some families to enrol outside their local area. Maintaining a clearly community-wide, non-school-based identity will better support equitable access for all families.

Question 11

11. What might stop you/your family from using the new Smithton CFLC? You may choose MORE than one option.

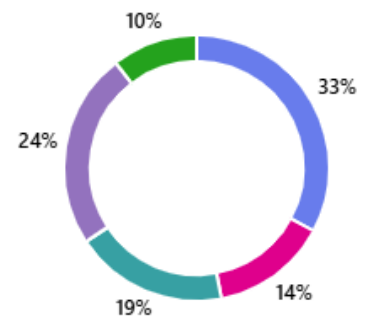
● Transport	16
● Too busy	20
● Hours of operation	24
● Location	19
● Disability	2
● Other	20



Question 12

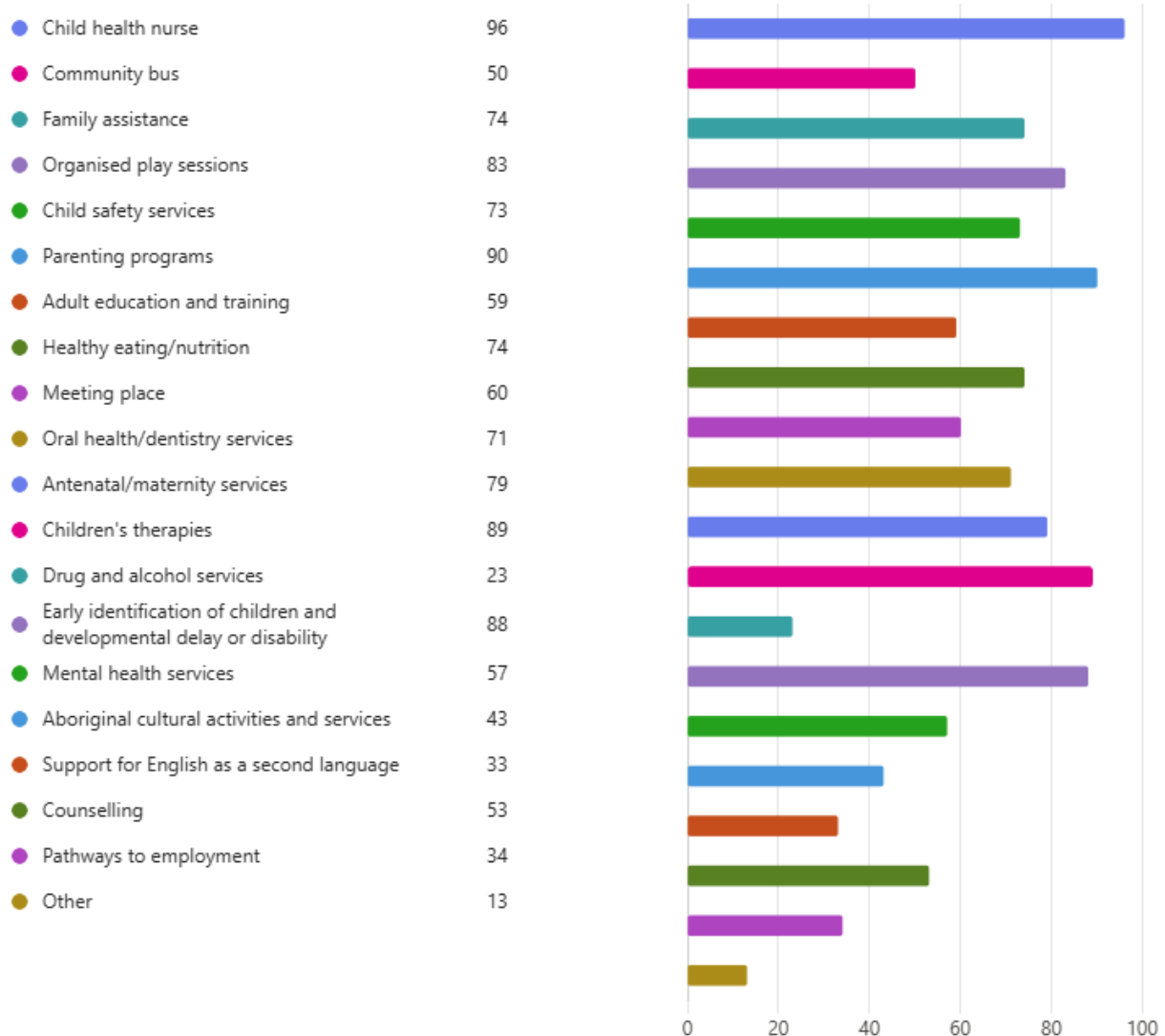
12. Would you utilise childcare services at the new Smithton CFLC? You may choose MORE than one option.

● No - I do not require childcare services	44
● No - I already access childcare services elsewhere	19
● Yes - childminding (short term/adjunct care)	25
● Yes - occasional care (irregular/infrequent long day care)	32
● Yes - long day care (regular/weekly)	14



Question 13

13. What types of ongoing services would you like to see available at the new Smithton CFLC? You may choose MORE than one option.



*Other

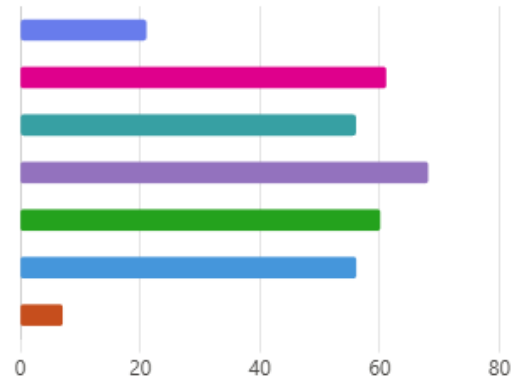
- Ability to complete education for young mothers
- All of the above
- Drop in play
- Domestic violence assistance
- Outreach for all of the above
- Children's hearing assessments
- OT
- 'Speechy'
- See below
- All these services are offered elsewhere (maybe the government needs to fund these adequately)
- All of the above sound great
- I would imagine that CHAC would continue to provide the community with local Aboriginal cultural activities and services Is that correct?
- Doctor surgery

- See question 14.

Question 15

15. What types of occasional/special services would you like to see at the new Smithton CFLC? You may choose MORE than one option.

Computer training	21
Cooking lessons	61
Health and fitness activities	56
Dad's activities	68
Weekend activities	60
Grandparent/carer support	56
Other	7



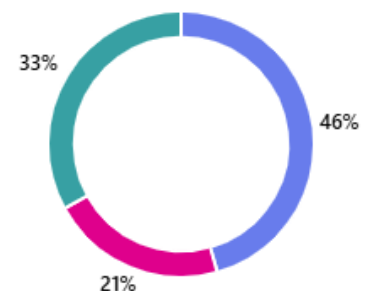
*Other

- It would be great to have space for adjunct care whilst adult learning activities take place :)
- The centre at Acton in Burnie has a well-balanced approach. You have the benefit of not being the first. Use proven strategies.
- Weekend access to developmental screenings and other crucial support. Full time working parents can struggle to access these services, and this reduces access to effective early intervention
- Stress management- effective communication
- Occupational therapists etc and support services to how to get to the appropriate help. Many new parents don't know where to start
- Pram group walking, grandparents' day
- Again, careful consideration needs to be given to the impact on services already in existence - like health and fitness and weekend activities.

Question 17

17. Would you be interested in participating in the Local Enabling Group for the new Smithton CFLC?

Yes	47
No	22
Maybe, please tell me more about it	34



Question 18

Do you have any other ideas or feedback about the new Smithton CFLC?

Responses

It needs to be a warm, confidential, open, and welcoming space for all community members some of our members don't use some services due lack of confidentiality and location

No, I am just happy to hear that we are finally getting this service.

Please listen to the voices of ALL community members.

Young (teen) mothers' groups with support rather than judgement

Most families with younger children who would benefit most are those that live near Smithton Primary School. Being the largest primary school in Circular Head the flow on effect between the school and the centre would be of great benefit with DECYP specialists being able to utilise the centre during school hours, social Worker, Psychologist etc. Smithton Primary School would be in a primary position to all families in Circular Head, it is not just about families within the town boundary. Those that attend Launching into Learning (LIL) at the school would also be able to utilise the centre same day as attending LIL sessions if they need to.

Think the site needs to be reconsidered.

An indoor playground area would be excellent. Not just tables, chairs and play kitchens but somewhere to expel energy. A playground to run and play inside. We have so many wet and windy days and nowhere to use big energy. Having been to both the Burnie and Wynyard ones, I thought Wynyard's inside area is better due to the slide etc. inside.

I would not be interested in consulting because it feels like the only opinions being listened to are those of Council.

Vital opportunity to bring services together in a family-friendly, inclusive space that is easily accessible to all. That's why many of us strongly believe the location must be in or very close to the town centre. Families, especially mothers and caregivers, often struggle to participate in community life due to the challenge of managing young children in public settings without safe, dedicated spaces. A rest stop for travelling into town from our farm for play, toileting, snacks, learnings.

The form has not let me choose the options. However, does let me write in. As a teacher I truly do believe placing the CFLC within a school will maximises family engagement and ensures smoother, more successful transitions into formal education.

It's important to have a well-defined goal that is fixed for the first 12 months. A roadmap. It prevents comprised outcomes. "We're doing this now in this timeframe". Don't change it.

Before semi-retiring in 2024, my role for [REDACTED] was as a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in my network. My region extended from

Responses

██████████ to all Circular Head government schools as well as the West Coast and King Island. I supported the ██████████ CFLC leaders over a period of 6 years and worked closely with the initial leader of the ██████████ CFLC in planning, construction and commencement phases of the service. My role also involved presenting professional learning and support at statewide level for all CFLC leaders in Tasmania. Previous to that role I was Principal of 2 sites over a period of 6 years - the ██████████ for 3 years where I worked closely with the ██████████ in a co-located environment, and thereafter, ██████████. I currently work 2 days a week at ██████████ in a role focused on building staff capacity, supporting new and beginning teachers across Circular Head. I have extensive experience with CFLC operations, management and service delivery and would be interested in coming aboard the LEG if there is opportunity.

The lack of consultation with the local community about the preferred location has been lacking - where do the community actually want the facility to be? These decisions shouldn't be made by people who are not from the local area.

I think the big thing we need is an indoor area/covered outdoor area to bring our young children especially when the weather is bad.

I think all the ideas I have ticked above are all great and much needed services within the Smithton area.

The location needs to be reviewed with the insight of the local community and families involved. This decision should not be based off people who do not have children and will not access this support.

Why wasn't consultation of the site and services provided given earlier. Community voice is extremely important. Being in the main CBD is not a good location.

We have previously used the St Helens CFLC and absolutely love what they do there. Particularly, all the programs for parents, antenatal and child health services, the organised play by age groups and being very inclusive of dads having informal dads' days.

Further consultation is required with all the schools in Circular Head, it may be named up as the Smithton CFLC, but it will be for all Circular Head children and families. Re-look at the proposed site for the benefit of our most at risk families.

I am the ██████████ for the area that covers Smithton for ██████████ service, I would love to be part of LEG.

A cafe or self-service coffee machine would be great - to save having to make multiple stops/trips particularly during winter / wet months.

Indoor playground.

Although I ticked "no" to childcare- I know from both a family and work perspective that access to childcare is a barrier to education and employment. If this can be provided that

Responses

would be beneficial to the individuals, families and community. Adjunct care is essential to allow parents to fully participate in service provider information sessions/ workshops.

I am so excited for the families of Smithton and surrounding area to have such a fantastic place to play, connect and learn. I have spent time in West Coast, Wynyard and Burnie's facilities and have seen firsthand how much families can benefit from a safe space to gather.

Please consider drop-in services like speech therapists, physios, OT, lactation consultants, sleep consultants. Maybe even legal services? Relationships Australia?

I'd love to know what sort of positions might be available in the future. I'd be interested in being part of a fresh new space and community-based project.

I hope to see community services already involved with children and families within our community being able to collaborate with the CFLC and continue to provide wrap around support.

Big open space natural playground.

From my experience working in many of the CFLCs around the state as a child health nurse I think there is a need to maintain privacy for the families whilst they access other services like drug and alcohol, antenatal, mental health and financial assistance. So perhaps some of these services are left where they currently are. Transport is always a big issue to specialist appointments and services and the availability of a centre car and a great community support officer who can drive the family is a real need. Design-wise, a large sunny space, undercover sheltered area for the 6 months it rains. Consult rooms: private entrance and exits. It's not always good news and a choice of a discreet exit preferred rather than exiting back into main CFLC. Also, new parents don't want to bring their newborn in through a bunch of toddlers. Child health nurse rooms: to be large enough for families (4 people and a pram), include a play area and small table to keep other kids occupied whilst assessing new babe. Quiet enough to attend hearing test. Needs a wall long enough for weighing, measuring equipment, wider than normal 600 mm and a sink Kitchen; Queenstown works well. Open but can reduce access. Can do cooking demonstrations to audience. Could go on, but won't Cheers [REDACTED]

I have quite a lot to be honest but as stated above, these fields will not hold all the content I wish to provide.

It will be important to clearly position the CFLC as a welcoming, neutral, community-wide service for all families across Circular Head, not just Smithton. Strong outreach approaches will be essential to support access for families in more remote communities. Flexible operating hours, a balance of drop-in and structured programs, and well-designed, informal, family-friendly spaces will enhance accessibility and engagement. Ongoing, open, and transparent consultation with all stakeholders throughout planning and early operation will help ensure the centre genuinely reflects community need. Finally, clear

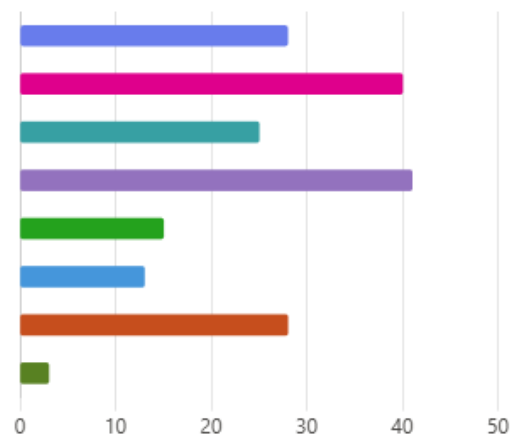
Responses

communication about available services, how they complement existing providers, and how families can access them will be critical in building trust and encouraging sustained engagement.

Question 19

19. How did you hear about the Get Involved campaign for the new Smithton CFLC? You may choose MORE than one option.

Direct mail (post)	28
Social media	40
School channels	25
Word of mouth	41
Local or state government	15
Email	13
Approached by a CFLC representative	28
Other	3



*Other

- The BEST child and family worker ever
- Through the CFLC network
- A member of the Circular head Community.

Question 20

20. Would you like to receive more information about the new Smithton CFLC as the project progresses?

Yes	92
No	18

