

Ohaeawai Community Education Trust Extended Plan for Proposed Lease Area over Okaihau Recreation Reserve - 18 February 2022

Our original plan was to open an Early Childhood Education and Care Centre but also to provide Education and wellbeing for people of all ages in the wider community. Now more than ever before people need to feel like they belong, can contribute, and have a voice to be heard. This was an integral part of our original plan.

Indeed, it has been a long journey to date. Had things gone to the original plan we would have expected to have completed the renovations and to have opened for business by January 2022. However, looking at the current situation the MOE have announced major changes for new ECE licensees, more ECE Centres have been forced to close their doors now, than previous years. The mandate has affected the industry, with many staff qualified and unqualified deciding to leave. (This has added to the already shortage of teachers, being unable to appoint good teachers has a serious effect on the tamariki, kaiako and whanau, and it is detrimental to the funding. Info attached).

We have overcome many challenges along the way! With such things as ECE doing equal work with equal qualifications getting ridiculously low wages in comparison to the kindergarten teachers who get paid much better. ECE centres receive much less funding to what the kindergarten sector receives.

Today it was on the news again stating that ECE centres throughout New Zealand are hard hit by COVID-19 and have been unable to operate due to teacher shortages.

Emailed by Liz Owen 18-02-2022

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