

My aim for this project was to design a childcare facility that is most convenient for parents, allowing parents who work from home in particular, to have an affordable space where they can work on-site with their children whilst they are in childcare. Due to the recent impacts of COVID-19, 67% of Australia's population are now sometimes or always working from home. This is a dramatic increase from only 8 percent of people pre-COVID. When surveyed 84.6% agreed that they struggled to work from home whilst taking care of their child as they believe kids need extra attention. One respondent said that it's "Extremely hard when they're not at school to work around children. Both work and kids need my attention". When asked what they didn't like about full-time childcare 75% of parents responded that it was too expensive, 62.5% said it was the waiting lists/availability of childcare and 50% said it was the distance. Full time childcare also requires parents to pay for a full day of childcare no matter how long they stay in the preschool, costing around \$130-170 per day. Because of this, I designed a childcare facility that solves these issues whilst providing the optimum conditions for both the childcare and work facilities. The space included large openings, windows and doorways with a colour palette filled with vibrant but natural colours and natural wooden finishes. This aided in "bringing the outdoors indoors" as one survey respondent recommended, making the space feel open and natural.

When creating this design I first started out by drawing a series of concept sketches in pencil. These ideas were then refined and floor plans were drawn up on Procreate before they were then taken into vectorworks to be turned into CAD drawings. These drawings then had all the necessary elevations, lighting, scaling and other details added in allowing for them to be rendered with Final Quality Renderworks. These final renders of the design were then taken into Procreate in order to add in the final touches, adding finishes, vibrance and shadows into the images.

With this facility parents who work from home don't have to pay for a full day of childcare. Just for a few hours during the busy parts of their day, making the design more cost-effective for the target market. The design also includes a space for parents to work on-site, allowing parents to establish better connections with their children. Letting them interact with their kids during a work day more than they would by paying for full-time childcare separate from their work. Also giving parents greater privacy and separation from their kids when working whilst still having visibility of their children. The balcony on the first floor looking down into the childcare area as well as the glass wall in the work area makes this possible. The parent area also includes private rooms for Zoom calls and meetings, giving parents the quiet and concentration needed to work which leads to greater levels of productivity and efficiency.

By providing a work area for parents who work from home it supports the greater push for people to work from home since the pandemic. Demonstrating that work away from the office can be a better alternative and a more efficient and convenient way to get work done. Allowing more women to enter the workforce by giving them a childcare solution and a place to work which helps to break down the barriers that stop women from having equal opportunities. This encourages more stay-at-home mums to work which will have a positive impact on the economy and help to reduce the worker shortage being seen in Australia. Also reducing expenses for businesses by decreasing the amount of office space needed when parents aren't working onsite.