

*Draft*

# Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Community Engagement Plan

**Focus of engagement:**

Engagement Aims:	As adapted from the Council Plan 2009-2013, the aims are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• involve the community in our decision making, through consultation, public participation, community engagement and representation.</li><li>• strengthen our knowledge and understanding of the community we serve and work together to identify and respond to early years needs.</li><li>• work with the community to identify early years needs and develop and implement a co-ordinated response.</li><li>• build on our close partnerships with community organisations, community agencies, other levels of government and the private sector to improve outcomes for Darebin's children</li><li>• place particular emphasis on Darebin's diversity, including Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, our culturally and linguistically diverse residents, and our residents with a disability.</li></ul>
What is being asked of stakeholders?	We will consult with families and kindergarten stakeholders on the proposed model for Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List
Scope of engagement as it relates to what decisions will be made:	Council will engage with families and community organisations regarding the Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Review and collate views to contribute to Council decision making regarding the proposed administration model and how the scheme is administered.
Stakeholder identification:	Target groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• families will be encouraged to consider and make comment on the proposed model via MCH, playgroups, internet, Media advertisements, childcare and existing kindergarten families, Neighbourhood Houses</li><li>• Families from diverse backgrounds will be consulted via supported playgroups of VICSEG, NMIT and Spectrum and agency staff</li><li>• Vulnerable families will be consulted through family support agencies including members of ChildFIRST, Best Start and Neighbourhood Renewal Working Group</li><li>• Services and community committees of management from Darebin kindergartens will be consulted</li><li>• Indigenous agencies and families will be consulted through Best Start Indigenous Reference Group</li></ul>

<p>Measures to ensure inclusiveness and accessibility:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All published information will comply with Council’s communication policies</li> <li>• Targeted use of translations and interpreters</li> <li>• Consideration of accessibility of settings for consultation (non threatening, culturally sensitive)</li> <li>• Collaborative efforts with those who have established connections with community groups</li> </ul>
<p>Information to be presented:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Review Consultation Model Discussion paper with request for feedback about equitable inclusion for all children in waitlist service and criteria for placement of children at Kindergartens.</li> </ul>
<p>Responsiveness and feedback:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families will be provided with a summary of engagement activities, collective views that contribute to Council decision making and information about the Council endorsed Centralised Waiting List Model through the media, Council publications, Maternal and Child Health centres, playgroups, internet, Neighbourhood Houses.</li> <li>• Services and community committees of management will be mailed a summary of engagement activities, collective views that contribute to Council decision making and information about the Council endorsed Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Model</li> </ul>

## Proposed Engagement Activities:

Proposed engagement activities include:

Activity	Stakeholders Involved
<p><b>1. Mail out of Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Review Discussion paper and feedback form</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families registered with Council's Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List</li> <li>Families listed on the Maternal and Child Health Centre database with children aged 1 to 3 years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Information provision through the Media</b></p> <p>Establishment of Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Review Website – information about review and Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Review Discussion paper and feedback form.</p> <p>Leader newspaper/ Council publications - invitation to view discussion paper and provide feedback.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darebin community</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Structured discussions focusing on Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Review Consultation Model Discussion paper.</b></p> <p>An alternative option to provide written feedback about the paper will also be provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindergarten committees of management and staff</li> <li>Family Support Services/Agencies (including ChildFIRST and Best Start)</li> <li>Supported playgroups of VICSEG, NMIT and Spectrum and staff of agencies</li> <li>Community based kindergarten service employees</li> <li>Indigenous agencies and families through Best Start Indigenous Reference Group</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Written invitation to provide feedback about Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Review Discussion paper</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victorian Government</li> </ul>

These engagement activities will be completed during April and May 2010.