

## Darebin Early Years Framework Draft Project Brief



# Development of Darebin Early Years Framework

## 1. Project Description

Council's Early Years and Children's Services Branch will develop an Early Years Framework. Darebin's Early Years and Children's Services will also be reviewed. This strategy will identify Council's principle-based role in relation to early years programs in Darebin and will assess and plan for future early years needs in relation to infrastructure, services and programs. The Darebin Early Years Framework will consist of 3 components:

- Darebin's Early Years Statement of Commitment and Role
- Darebin Early Years and Children's Services Infrastructure Plan
- Darebin Early Years and Children's Services Program Plan (MEYP)

This framework will be developed concurrent to existing service delivery and developments. For instance although the framework is in the formative stages, significant work is underway to review the Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List program.

Darebin has an extensive Council commitment to early years and children's services. Darebin's Early Years and Children's Services Branch is committed to providing and supporting quality service delivery to our local community so that all children and their families will have the opportunity to optimise their health, development and well being. We strive for best practice in the delivery of our services assisting external child and family organisations to work collaboratively in the support of equitable, inclusive and respectful service provision to achieve positive health, development and well being outcomes for children and their families<sup>1</sup>.

Council delivers a broad range of early years and children's services, including:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ▪ Maternal and Child Health Program     | ▪ Breastfeeding Support Service             |
| ▪ Enhanced Maternal & Child Health      | ▪ Inclusion Support for Children's Services |
| ▪ Early Childhood Resource & Liaison    | ▪ Supported Playgroups                      |
| ▪ Playgroup Liaison and Resource        | ▪ Darebin Best Start                        |
| ▪ Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List | ▪ Childcare Centralised Waiting List        |
| ▪ Toy Library                           | ▪ Parent Voice Newsletter                   |
| ▪ Darebin Pramwalkers                   | ▪ Baby Capsule Hire Scheme                  |
| ▪ Immunisation                          | ▪ Family Day Care                           |
| ▪ Primary School Holiday Program        | ▪ Parent Groups Program                     |

Darebin is fortunate to have many dedicated and highly skilled early years and children's services staff. The total number of staff is currently 61 (EFT 39.9).

<sup>1</sup> Council Business Plan 2009-2010 – Early Years and Children's Services Branch Statement of Purpose

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Council owns and maintains many children's services buildings from which both community-managed and Council services are delivered. Council owned buildings include long day care (7 buildings), occasional care (4 buildings), kindergarten (12 buildings), toy library (3 buildings) and Maternal and Child Health Services (10 buildings)<sup>2</sup>.

### 2. Council Commitment and Strategy

Council expressed its promise to our community in the Council Plan 2009-2013 highlighting a commitment to "... strive in all that we do to achieve fairness ...". The Plan continues to provide greater direction to undertake planning that requires careful consideration of the challenges faced by Darebin's most disadvantaged. The commitment is that we consider the social impacts of all its decisions, and to use the delivery of programs and services to address the potential imbalance between members of our community.

The Goal of Community Wellbeing identifies Council commitment 'to develop a strong physical, social and economic environment that supports and enhances the health and wellbeing of Darebin residents. We will strive for a just and inclusive community that feels connected, understood and valued'. Strategies that guide our work toward this goal include:

- We will continue to provide a broad range of high quality community services, including universal services and specific services targeted to those most in need.
- We will strengthen our knowledge and understanding of the community we serve and work together to identify and respond to wellbeing needs.
- We will work with the community to identify their health, wellbeing and safety needs and develop and implement a coordinated response.
- We will research and better understand all the different dimensions of disadvantage in our community, and work to remove or minimise the barriers to community participation and access.
- We will ensure all parts of the municipality are connected to the wider Darebin community and structure our services to address issues of locational disadvantage and inequality.
- We will 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.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Note that multiple services are delivered from some buildings.

<sup>3</sup> City of Darebin Council Plan 2009-2013

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### 3. Policy Context

#### The National Quality Framework for Early Education and Care

December 2007, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to a partnership between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to pursue substantial reform in the areas of education, skills and early childhood development, to deliver significant improvements in human capital outcomes for all Australians. This discussion paper provides the basis for the initial round of consultations on the development of a new national quality framework for early childhood education and care to progress these reforms.

[http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/OfficeOfEarlyChildhood/agenda/Documents/EAP\\_report.pdf](http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/OfficeOfEarlyChildhood/agenda/Documents/EAP_report.pdf)

#### Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development: One Year On

In response to the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) national agenda, the Victorian Government formulated the *Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development*; a comprehensive five year plan that brings together the new vision and mission, along with challenging goals and priority areas that deliver on these reforms. The vision presented is to ensure *every young Victorian thrives, learns and grows to enjoy a productive, rewarding and fulfilling life, while contributing to their local and global communities.*

The *Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development: One Year On* report highlights the achievements made in the first year of Blueprint implementation and describes the actions that the Government commits to in 2010.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/directions/blueprint2008/default.htm>

### 4. Project Management and Governance

The project will be managed by a Project Management Group involving:

- Cheryl Hermence, Manager Early Years and Children's Services
- Sharyn Scott, Early Years and Education Planner
- John Smith, Manager Social Inclusion and Diversity
- Dean Griggs, Manager Family, Youth & Community Support
- Anita Craven, Manager Asset Strategy

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A Darebin Early Years Reference Group will be established to support the development of the Early Years Plan. The role of the Early Years Reference Group is:

1. to provide advice and inform processes during the development stage of the Darebin Early Years Framework
2. to ensure alignment with relevant Council policy including: the Darebin Social Inclusion Agenda; Diversity Policy; Human Rights Check List and the Darebin *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009- 2013*
3. to advise Council on the delivery of actions that arise from the framework.

The reference group will inform Council planning, policy and decision making. The Early Years Framework and services are the responsibility of the Manager of Early Years and Children's Services. Recommendations for Council decision will be presented by the Manager of Early Years and Children's Services and the Director of Communities and Culture Department. The reference group has no formal Council delegated authority.

### **5. Project Aims and Objectives**

#### **Project Aims:**

1. To identify Council's principle-based role in relation to Early Years programs in Darebin and plan for future early years needs in relation to infrastructure, services and programs.
2. To develop an Early Years Framework that is informed, understood and has broad agreement by working in collaboration with our partners and Council.

The Darebin Early Years Framework will consist of 3 components:

- Darebin's Early Years Statement of Commitment and Role
- Darebin Early Years and Children's Services Infrastructure Plan
- Darebin Early Years and Children's Services Program Plan

### **3. Project Evaluation**

The Darebin Early Years Reference Group will develop indicators for success for the development of the Darebin Early Years Framework and will review the work against such indicators on completion of the project.

### **4. Knowledge Management**

Objective Folder: Early Years and Education Framework fA224668

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5. Key Project Components

Darebin Early Years Framework

Darebin’s Early Years Statement of Commitment and Role	
<p><b>Introduction to Darebin Early Years Framework.</b> Describe model and 3 framework components (Role, Infrastructure Plan, Service Plan)</p> <p><b>The Changing Early Years Policy Context</b> Paper outlining Federal, State and local policy changes. Links to other plans.</p> <p><b>Darebin’s Children and Families</b> Analysis of data, populations, projections, demographics, early learning outcomes, health and wellbeing indicators shown by geographical areas in Darebin.</p> <p><b>Darebin Early Years Service Mapping</b> Summary of services (Early Learning and Care, Health Development, Specialist).</p> <p><b>The Role of Darebin Council in Early Years</b> Paper that explores recent changes, expectations of local government, benchmarking with like Councils and proposes focus for Darebin.</p> <p><b>Darebin’s Early Years Principles and Commitments</b> Principles and commitments that guide our early years programs.</p> <p><b>Engaging our Community</b> Darebin Early Years Community Engagement and Communications Plan</p>	
Early Years Infrastructure Plan	Early Years Program Plan
<p><b>Neighbourhood Infrastructure Planning at Darebin</b> MSS/ Darebin Infrastructure Planning Neighbourhood planning approaches to ensure services are relevant to local communities and are accessibly located.</p> <p><b>Early Years Infrastructure Resources and Capital Funding Opportunities</b> Council’s Capital Works Processes External capital funding opportunities</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Early Years Infrastructure Plans</b> Profile of neighbourhood (map, demographics, Early Years Services, other Early Years Services children in neighbourhood access, current and projected demands) Infrastructure Analysis (Council/external)</p> <p><b>Early Years Infrastructure Development Priorities</b> Criteria for the prioritisation of capital expenditure. Application and listing for next 3,6,9 years. Listing will be reviewed annually within Council’s capital works planning processes.</p>	<p><b>Darebin Early Years Program Planning</b> Services in Darebin. Universal Darebin services as well as locally specific neighbourhood service mix – ensuring our early years services meet local needs</p> <p><b>Early Years Program Resources and Funding Opportunities</b> Council’s Early Years and Children’s Services Branch Budget and Council’s budget processes. Identify external funding opportunities.</p> <p><b>Darebin Early Years Program Plan</b> Early Years and Children’s Services – existing programs and new initiatives</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Early Years Program Plan</b> Profile of neighbourhood (map, demographics, Early Years Services, other Early Years Services children in neighbourhood access, current and projected demands) Neighbourhood Early Years Services – existing programs and new initiatives Darebin Early Years Service Reviews</p>