
APPENDIX A

Submissions received by 8th February 2012 relating to the *Use of Community Facilities Policy Draft Document*

Submitted by Darebin Women's Advisory Committee, addressing the policy wording that ensures community facilities do not promote the sexual objectification of children. The relevant aspects of this submission were incorporated in the Draft Document:

- Clarify age of child
- When does it go back to Council – clarify process and timeframes
- Age appropriateness - how will this be done/monitored – by whose standards
- Arbitration – where can this be referred if there are questions
- Needs enough time to ensure it is well developed.
- Questions of cultural appropriateness – reference in the terms to ensure support for diversity and participation – how does this balance out against these diversity policies.
- Age appropriateness – include 'jewellery'
- Include a higher order statement about Council position within Venue Hire Policy
- How is it going to be monitored, who makes a decision, needs clear guidelines
- Needs an advisory group to flush out all the issues
- Age appropriateness – take out hair and make-up as part of costume – often is stage make up and not for sexualisation
- Risk of damage if closures that may work against the participation
- There is quite a lot of research in this area
- Ensure that this policy pertains to all policy areas.

Submitted by individual:

- In 4. Policy Objectives, "is available to all individual and group hirers" exposes you to accusations of bias or exclusivity if you knock back:
 - * beauty pageants (aged based, ethnically based)
 - * political organisations with members committed to violent expression;
 - * religious groups with missionary objectives.

I would not like council to not be able to exclude these groups.

- Re beauty pageants: I feel that beauty pageants per se deny participants a full exploration of their capabilities because the benchmarks are based on what pleases men and what appeases their misogyny. I would not like council to support this sort of activity. Also ethnically-based pageants trouble me too. If you let one group use a culturally exclusive argument as an excuse to look at women, you open yourself up to accusations of bias if one 'culturally' based group feels another is getting special treatment, if you have a political reason for refusing. I suppose this is just a risk that most councils have to take.
- 5.4.1 Participation by children U18: good, clear, firm in tone.

Paragraph 1: does "any aspect of their physical appearance" cover beauty competitions based on race or ethnicity to the exclusion of others? Or does it need to be further enunciated?

Submitted by member of Darebin Arts Forum:

- Will there be a more user-friendly version in plain English made available, to support this document? Not many people can interpret such a Policy document.
- Seems unfair that Council can retain the right to cancel a booking for a Council Function. Understandable if it's for Emergency Response or for a snap Election, but it seems a "bit rich" that Council could override a legitimate booking for a Function.
- Where would a clause about warning public about theatrical use of smoke / gunshot / strobe lights go? Is it in the Venue Hire agreement?
- There is a link to more information about APRA, but lots of short-term events need help accessing affordable Public Liability. Is there a link to some other resources the public could use when trying to find PLI?

Submitted by individual:

- Contributor submitted a video clip posted at www.youtube.com; however the video is no longer available because the YouTube account associated with this video has been terminated.