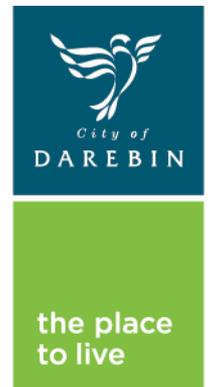


# Darebin Child Friendly City Framework

Adopted by Darebin City Council on 4 July 2016.



## ***Darebin: a 'Child Friendly City'***

Darebin City Council embraces its ability to impact the lives of children in our community and works to continue to ensure children's rights are upheld with civic pride. Darebin fosters community recognition of children and young people as equal citizens with rights, voice and a valuable contribution.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) defines a Child Friendly City as the embodiment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the local level, where children's rights are reflected in policies, laws, programs and budgets across the municipality.

Being a Child Friendly City is a whole of Council responsibility. Darebin City Council's Vision is: *Darebin, the Place to Live*. Our Mission is: *Working with our diverse community to build a sustainable and liveable city*. A sustainable and liveable city is very much one in which the rights of children are fulfilled.

## ***Achievements and Opportunities***

Darebin has strong foundation of work across all Council Departments that fulfil children's rights, including:

### **Social Life and Celebrations**

- Children and young people have the opportunity to participate in social life through Sporting Clubs, Arts Programs, Youth Music Programs and, local, neighbourhood events.
- Ongoing Arts programming for families that will be expanded across school holidays in the arts centres across the City of Darebin.
- Children and young people have opportunities to participate in cultural and social events including The Darebin Community Kite Festival, Music Feast, Museum of Me, Children's Day, Life Long Learning for Wellbeing, Carols in All Nations Park.
- Council works to protect children and young people from violence and abuse by being a family support service provider.

## **Influence Decisions**

- Young citizens express opinions and influence decisions about Darebin through programs such as the Youth Summit.
- Children and young people are consulted when strategies, council plans are developed or reviewed.

## **Health and Well Being**

- Council's 2015-2017 Health and Wellbeing Plan recognises early childhood as a key social determinant for health and wellbeing.
- Children and young people have access to a range of Community Services which support their health, and education.
- Parks, Playgrounds and green spaces are provided to be actively utilised for citizens of all abilities and all ages to promote health and wellbeing.
- Leisure services promote the benefits of playing sport and belonging to sporting clubs.
- Walking and cycle paths are built to encourage children and young people to be active and safe in our streets. Streets and paths are designed, built and maintained, so children and young people can, and want to travel by active transport, with greater opportunity for children's independent mobility.
- Children and young people can live and play in a safe, respectful community free from violence and discrimination.
- The Darebin Education Enquiry supports the equitable access to quality and diverse education across our community.
- Arts and Culture's program of events provides opportunities which enhance wellbeing.

## **Sustainable Environment**

- Relevant City of Darebin units to work together to improve access to local waterways and provide educational opportunities to make children more aware of water pollution and the local natural environment.
- Walking paths are built encouraging children to walk in unpolluted environments.
- City services work to provide access to drinking taps and access to appropriately located public toilets.
- Active participation and ongoing education about sustainability is promoted through the work and involvement in the Community Gardens.
- Principle Pedestrian Network and Walking Strategy.

## **Civic Pride**

- Opportunities are provided for children and young people to gain knowledge regarding government roles and responsibilities (program delivered through Communications Department).
- Council supports and advocates for young people to have a greater voice and advocate with strength through avenues such as, the Youth Summit and Darebin Youth Issues Advisory Committee.
- The City of Darebin has an active engagement strategy with local schools to provide opportunities that foster civic pride.
- Ongoing work with schools to provide a program in the Darebin Parklands so that students can take part in the Spiritual Healing Trail to reconnect with the land.

## **Technology**

- The City of Darebin provides free Wi-Fi to the public.
- Darebin Libraries provide up to date technology that children and young people can utilise and digital collections that respond to their reading, information and learning and entertainment needs.
- The appropriate use of ICT and social media is utilised to inform young people of Council business.

## ***Commitment for the future***

1. Endorse the Child Friendly Cities Charter.
2. Promote Darebin as a Child Friendly City and raise awareness both within council and in the community, particularly to business and community organisations which provide services to children and young people.
3. Lead respectful community engagement with children and young people and ensure children and young people have freedom to express themselves.
4. Acknowledge that children and young people are individual and their needs will vary depending on the cultural context.
5. Promote and uphold the City of Darebin as a Child Safe Organisation.
6. Utilise the Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool checklist to ensure diverse needs of children are recognised (EIPAT tool currently being updated).
7. Support and/or develop programs that support inclusion and wellbeing for LBTQI children and young people.
8. Continue to recognise early childhood as a key social determinant for lifelong health and wellbeing.

9. Continue to support the creation of a safe, respectful community for children, free from violence and discrimination.
10. Continue to advance Darebin Council's commitment to prevent family violence.
11. Advocate for child friendly infrastructure and open space, and ensure children's needs are incorporated and addressed through all stages from proposal, design to implementation.
12. Advocate for communal spaces to be inclusive, safe, engaging and child friendly.
13. Utilise the Transport Strategy to advocate on behalf of community through the safe travel strategy and safe crossings.
14. Provide access to safe spaces in school holidays through Arts Program, Youth and Library to ensure support for children and youth in the absence of school routines.
15. Ensure and assist existing youth, music, libraries and arts programs expand to cater for children with additional needs and disabilities.
16. Advocate for increased opportunities for physical activity for young female participants and the promotion of active lifestyles for all.
17. Advocate for children with additional needs/ disabilities and provide assistance as their families navigate the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
18. Utilise the Early Years Infrastructure plan to ensure adequate and appropriate planning is undertaken so that there is provision of early years spaces for children in City of Darebin. Quality and breadth of early childhood experience
19. Provide community education opportunities for residents to have an increased understanding and awareness of Child Friendly Cities, with a view to influencing behaviour in a positive way.
20. Ensure there is access to cultural activities for children and young people in Darebin to support their wellbeing.
21. Continue to provide access to literacy and lifelong learning opportunities from birth.
22. Provide opportunities for all family groups with children and young people, (including carers and grandparents) to access free, accessible and appropriate play/leisure experiences in the community.

**Review Date: At the start of the next Council term.**