

DETAILED ACTION PLAN

# Child-Friendly City Action Plan

February 2020



# 7

## destinations



### Safe & Strong

A proud inclusive community that unites, celebrates and cares

Safe & Strong documents are guided by the Social Inclusion Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as being a child friendly City, children's services, community safety and crime prevention, inclusiveness, community services, universal access, reconciliation, ageing, community harmony and youth.



### Clean & Green

A clean and sustainable city with healthy waterways and natural areas

Clean & Green documents are guided by the Environmental Sustainability Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as managing our catchments and waterways, natural resources, hazards and risks, emergency management, biodiversity and corporate sustainability.



### Prosperous & Innovative

A smart and evolving city with exciting opportunities for investment and creativity

Prosperous & Innovative documents are guided by the Prosperity and Innovation Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as revitalising our centres, employment, investment, being SMART and creative, and providing opportunities for cultural and economic growth.



### Moving & Integrated

An accessible city with great local destinations and many options to get there

Moving & Integrated documents are guided by the Transport Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as accessibility, pedestrian and cycling networks, pedestrian and road safety, transport hubs, and asset management.



### Healthy & Active

A motivated city that nurtures healthy minds and bodies

Healthy & Active documents are guided by the Health and Recreation Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as lifelong learning, active and healthy lifestyles, and providing quality sport and recreation infrastructure.



### Liveable & Distinctive

A well designed, attractive city which preserves the identity and character of local villages

Liveable & Distinctive documents are guided by the Liveable City Lead Strategy. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as preserving the character and personality of centres, heritage, affordable housing, and well managed development.



### Leading & Engaged

A well- governed city with brave and future focused leaders who listen

Leading & Engaged documents are guided by Council's Lead Resourcing Strategies. Supporting Plans, Action Plans and Policies cover such themes as open government, managing assets, improving services, long term funding, operational excellence, monitoring performance, being a good employer, civic leadership, and engaging, educating and communicating with our community.

# Strategic Planning Framework Summary

The Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) maps out the role of all current and future Council strategies and plans that work to deliver the vision for the City. The framework works from the highest level of strategic direction in the Community Strategic Plan through to more detailed plans that will eventually drive works projects and programs on the ground. The framework is comprised of the following levels:

The **COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP)** is our highest level plan and translates the community's desired outcomes for the city into key destinations. The CSP includes community suggested actions which can be tested in the development of all other plans.

1

**LEAD STRATEGIES** are Council's response to the CSP and provide high level strategic direction on key challenges facing the City. They are informed by a sound evidence base that considers key trends and an understanding of the implications of key issues and opportunities on the City.

2

**SUPPORTING PLANS** break down broad theme areas discussed in LEAD STRATEGIES into smaller themes providing high level actions. SUPPORTING PLANS identify broad works projects and programs required to deliver on these actions. Supporting plans include indicative costing and resourcing requirements and delivery timeframes.

3

**DETAILED ACTION PLANS** take actions from SUPPORTING PLANS and identify specific works projects and programs required to deliver on these actions. Supporting plans include detailed costing and resourcing requirements and delivery timeframes.

4

**GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND CODES** provide detailed information, rules for activities or guidance for specific works on Council or other lands.

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# Acknowledgement

City of Canterbury Bankstown acknowledges the traditional country of the Daruk (Darag, Dharug, Daruk, Dharuk) and the Eora People.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land.

We acknowledge they are of continuing importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living today.

# 01

## Executive Summary

The City of Canterbury Bankstown has developed the *Child-Friendly City Action Plan* to guide Council's journey towards becoming a child-friendly City. The Child-Friendly City Initiative (CFCI) is a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) global initiative to create places in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children, are an integral part of public policies, programs and decisions.

Council has engaged with children and young people, their parents and service providers to identify the needs and concerns of children and young people across the City. The full details of the community engagement process, the methodology undertaken by Council and key findings are outlined in the Child-Friendly CBCity Report 2019.

Canterbury-Bankstown is a City of strong, resilient children and young people, who are motivated to see change happen in their community and be a part of that change. Our children and young people have demonstrated they are passionate about a wide range of social issues, which adults may be surprised to learn are akin to the key issues they might identify, including pollution and global warming; homelessness; financial and physical accessibility; inclusivity and discrimination; leadership and volunteering; road safety; demonstrating pride in culture and community; preparedness for the future; mental health; bullying; and domestic and family violence and child protection.

Children and young people have offered Council valuable insights and solutions when raising these issues. Despite this, the most consistent message was that children and young people often feel their opinions are not heard or taken seriously by adults. If given the opportunity, children and young people could add significant value to planning and decision-making. They are not to be underestimated.

As well as recognising the capabilities of children and young people, Council also has a responsibility to ensure they receive the support they need to develop to their maximum potential, within a healthy, safe, respectful and engaging environment.

### **We want Canterbury-Bankstown to be a child-friendly City.**

The Child-Friendly City Action Plan provides recommendations in six categories of well-being, identified by UNICEF Australia, that will support better outcomes for children and young people in every community:

- Health;
- Safety;
- Education;
- Play and Leisure;
- Participation; and
- Belonging.

This Strategy is dedicated to the children and young people of Canterbury Bankstown - our resources, our investments, our future and our present.



# 02 Introduction

## 2.1 Overview

The CFCI is a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) global initiative, which encourages local governments around the world to assess how well children's rights are upheld in their cities, according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC). The UN CRC applies to all children and young people up to 17-years-old.

We want Canterbury-Bankstown to be a child-friendly City. The four core principles of the convention are:

- non-discrimination;
- devotion to the best interests of the child;
- the right to life, survival and development; and
- respect for the views of the child.

The responsibility of driving this process and ensuring children's rights are realised lies with government. It is important for local government to take ownership of promoting and upholding children's rights, as they know and understand their communities better than other levels of government. Local government delivers economic, environmental and social outcomes across a range of areas, which all affect community cohesion and well-being.

This initiative calls for cooperation across our City, to make it a better place for children. All levels of government, local community organisations and businesses, that have contact with children, as well as families and of course children and young people, have important roles to play in this process.

**Our vision is to be a child-friendly City; in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programs and decisions.**

Children and young people are defined differently, according to specific pieces of legislation. The UN CRC does not distinguish between children and young people, and relates to all those under the age of 18.

While our research was conducted with a range of children and young people aged under 18, for the purposes of the *Child-Friendly City Action Plan*, Council has defined children as those aged up to 12 years. This range relates to the programs provided by Council's Children's Services Team. Council operates a Youth Services Team which provide programs and activities for young people aged between 12-24 years. Separate research has been conducted for the development of Council's *Youth Action Plan*. Council acknowledges the overlap between target groups and the need for both these areas of Council to work together.



## 2.2 Community profile

Canterbury-Bankstown was proclaimed a city on 12 May 2016. With 361,551 residents (ABS ERP 2016), it is the largest council by population, in NSW. Located just nine kilometres southwest of the Sydney CBD, Canterbury-Bankstown's 41 suburbs cover more than 110 square kilometres and form a highly urbanised metropolitan environment. With the population expected to increase to around 500,000 by 2036, the City of Canterbury Bankstown is likely to remain one of the largest council areas in Australia.

Canterbury-Bankstown is an extraordinarily diverse community. Culturally, it is home to people who have identified as being from more than 120 different cultural backgrounds. Environmentally, there are large expanses of native bushland and extensive access to foreshores, on both the Georges and Cooks Rivers. There are quality arts and sporting facilities, strategic employment and education centres, major state and regional roads, three rail lines, and one of the leading general aviation airports in NSW.

Children and young people, those aged up to 17, make up almost a quarter of our population, at 24.2 per cent.

### Canterbury-Bankstown Population by Service Age Groups

Age group	# in CB 2016	% of age group in CB population 2016	% of age group in Greater Sydney population 2016	% of age group in NSW population 2016	% of age group in Australian population 2016
0-4	24,976	7.2%	6.4%	6.2%	6.3%
5-11	33,298	9.6%	8.8%	8.8%	8.9%
12-17	25,698	7.4%	6.9%	7.1%	7.1%
0-17	83,972	24.2%	22.1%	22.1%	22.3%



### 2.3 UNICEF priority groups

The Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA Index), a measure of social disadvantage in Australia, places Canterbury-Bankstown in the top five areas of social disadvantage in Sydney. Some groups of children and young people have greater challenges to overcome. UNICEF Australia has identified several priority groups of children and young people who are often not consulted or heard. We have made it our priority to be as inclusive as possible to all of the following groups:

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) children** - the ATSI community in Canterbury-Bankstown has 2,548 residents. Roughly one in three are under 15 years;
- **Children seeking asylum or with refugee status** - in 2017, Canterbury-Bankstown had the second-highest number of asylum seekers who had arrived by boat in NSW - 1,459.

As of 2018, the suburb with the highest number of people on bridging visas, who have come seeking asylum in NSW, is Lakemba. Overall though, there is a lack of data available around the overall number of refugees and asylum seekers locally;

- **Children with a disability** - around seven per cent of Australia's children and youth (0-14 years) have a disability, with more than half having profound or severe core activity limitations. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1,970 children and young people (0-19 years) in Canterbury-Bankstown need assistance, due to a severe or profound disability;

- **Children who are or have been in out-of-home-care** - in NSW in 2017, there were 17,879 children living in out-of-home care due to risk of significant harm (no local figures available);
- **Children who are or have experienced homelessness** - in the 2016 Census, 2,582 people in Canterbury-Bankstown reported being homeless (figures not available for children and young people). Nationally, most of the homeless youth, aged 12-18, were living in severely crowded dwellings (61 per cent), or in supported accommodation for the homeless (26 per cent);
- **Children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds** - with more than 120 different cultures making up our community, Canterbury-Bankstown is extremely diverse. Almost half of the population - 44 per cent - is made up of people who were born overseas, with 60.1 per cent speaking a language other than English at home;
- **Children living in poverty** - according to the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index, Canterbury-Bankstown is in the lowest 17th percentile of relative socio-economic disadvantage in Australia.
- **Children living in single-headed households** - living in a single-headed household can present a range of complexities, including family dynamics and financial stresses. Seven percent of the total numbers of households with children in Canterbury-Bankstown are single-headed households, with children under 15. Almost a quarter - 24.8 per cent - of the total number of households with children in Canterbury-Bankstown, including those with children over 18, are single-headed households;
- **LGBTIQA+ children and young people** - large number of LGBTIQA+ people will also hide their sexuality or gender identity, and this is most likely to happen with young people; and
- **Children who have contact with child protection and juvenile justice systems** - according to Family and Community Services (FACS), in 2016-17 there was 4,337 Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) reports received in Canterbury-Bankstown.

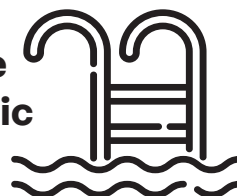
## 2.4 Our City

Councils in NSW promote, provide and plan for the needs of children and young people, through both direct services and infrastructure, as well as creating an enabling environment through policy and planning.

**282**  
playgrounds



**5** Leisure  
and Aquatic  
Centres



**588**  
parks



More than  
**15,000**  
Learn to Swim enrolments  
in 2018-2019

**7** Council-operated  
Child Education  
and Care Facilities



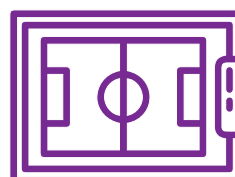
**9** Library  
and Knowledge  
Centres

**75**

sporting complexes



**1** Council-operated  
Youth Centre



**122**  
sporting  
fields





Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute  
This certificate is presented to  
**Zainab Al-Jamal**  
For outstanding achievement in Science at Malek Fahd Islamic School  
recognised by the Victor Chang School Science Awards 2018  
Professor Robert M Graham  
Associate Professor of Cardiology  
Executive Director

Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute  
This certificate is presented to  
**Eliane Chidiac**  
For outstanding achievement in Science at St Charles's College Panchboul  
recognised by the Victor Chang School Science Awards 2018  
Professor Robert M Graham  
Associate Professor of Cardiology  
Executive Director

Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute  
This certificate is presented to  
**Andrea Ung**  
For outstanding achievement in Science at Berrig Girls High School  
recognised by the Victor Chang School Science Awards 2018  
Professor Robert M Graham  
Associate Professor of Cardiology  
Executive Director

# 03 The planning context

## 3.1 Global context

From 2013-15, UNICEF Australia partnered with the South Australian Government Department of Education and Child Development to develop a Child Friendly Cities model that would be relevant to the Australian context. This model was informed by the practice and priorities of local government and community partners, and identifies six community focus areas for children and young people:

- Active participation;
- Safety;
- Health;
- Education;
- Belonging; and
- Play and leisure.

## 3.2 State planning context

### The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People

In 2016, the NSW Government launched the first-ever legislated whole-of-government Strategic Plan for Children and Young People. The Plan's goal is for children and young people in NSW to be safe, connected, respected, healthy and well, with opportunities to thrive and have their voice heard in their communities.

A significant proportion of the NSW Government's investment, legislative activity and service provision, is intended to support and enhance the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people. These include schools, technical and further education, family and community services, juvenile justice, and maternal, child and youth health services.

Children and young people are also heavy users of public transport and public facilities, and benefit disproportionately from healthy, connected, safe and accessible-built and social environments.

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2016-2019, is based on the guiding principles of innovation, localisation, collaboration, prevention, transitions and addressing disadvantage. The six key themes of the Plan are:

- Safe;
- Connect;
- Respect;
- Opportunity;
- Well-being; and
- Voice.

## 3.3 Local planning context

Creating a Child Friendly City involves a wide range of stakeholders including children and families, community organisations and services, education and care providers, schools and all levels of government. While the main responsibility for funding child and family services rests with State and Federal Government, Council has a number of potential roles and responsibilities.



#### **Council as a 'Custodian'**



Act as a guardian for the shared aspirations for Canterbury-Bankstown's future, and a shared vision, which will guide our journey towards being a sustainable city. Council's role as custodian includes caring for the City's people and places, both now and in the future.

#### **Council as an 'Educator'**



Educate the community and other stakeholders, specifically around the long-term sustainability of the City. A broad range of opportunities exist for Council to articulate its vision and gain support for its initiatives.

#### **Council as a 'Facilitator'**



Assist interaction amongst stakeholders, and forms strategic alliances aimed at promoting sustainability initiatives, focusing on element, including social, economic, environmental, cultural and governance outcomes.

#### **Council as an 'Advocate'**



Seek to improve services, facilities and opportunities for the City and its community, by lobbying agencies and the State and Federal Governments. In discussions with these parties, there are opportunities to build on Canterbury-Bankstown's strengths and promote regional interests.

#### **Council as a 'Regulator'**



Statutory responsibility to implement legislative provision, such as waste management, sustainable development controls and environmental management, energy and water reduction measures, and other State Government requirements, aimed at achieving the long-term health of the environment and well-being of the community. Council also acts as the delegate regulator on behalf of other levels of government on some issues, such as food safety inspections.

#### **Council as a 'Leader'**



Act as a role model for others, through its own actions, strategic organisational responses and way of doing things. In dialogue with the community and other stakeholders, Council can display leadership and work towards becoming a benchmark council, whilst developing an outstanding city.

#### **Council as a 'Service Provider'**



Strong commitment to delivering the services needed by the community, and ensuring both City and Council resources are responsibly managed. Council's role as service provider aims to assist in building the long-term health, well-being and prosperity of the City. Council must monitor the changing needs of the community and revise its service levels, provision and advocacy, to ensure its resources are effectively distributed.



Within Council's Strategic Planning Framework, there are a number of existing strategies and action plans which support the needs and priorities of children and young people.

The **Youth Action Plan** is a resource that guides Council in its work with young people, the community, youth services and key stakeholders. It builds on existing initiatives and identifies opportunities to work collaboratively across Council. The *Youth Action Plan* also draws on the *Child-Friendly Cities Framework* and works in conjunction with the *Child-Friendly City Action Plan*, while also acknowledging that children (aged under 12) and young people (12 - 24 years) have different interests, priorities and needs.

The **Road Safety Action Plan** provides Council with a safe system approach to improving road safety across the City, and acts as a guide to implementing new programs that incorporate education, enforcement and/or engineering solutions.

Council's **Leisure and Aquatic Strategic Plan** provides evidence based guidance on the planning, renewal and management of leisure and aquatic facilities and services. It recognises the need to cater for Canterbury-Bankstown's diverse community and growing population, from infants to seniors.

The **Playground and Play Spaces Strategic Plan** guides the future provision, development and management of playgrounds and play spaces over the next 10 years. The vision is to achieve an equitable spread of quality, diverse and accessible play experiences that are fun and close to home, and cater for different age groups and levels of ability.



The **Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan** sets out priority areas and strategies to be used for crime prevention across the City. The Plan incorporates two objectives - crime prevention and community safety.

Crime prevention refers to the strategies and initiatives that are implemented by individuals, communities and all levels of government, that target environmental and social factors known to increase the risk of crime, disorder and victimisation.

Community safety is often defined as the freedom from crime and violence, as well as freedom from the fear of crime and violence. Community safety can be seen as a subset of broader 'health and well-being' issues, that are integral to a liveable community.

Council's **Community Engagement Policy and Framework** has been designed to guide a consistent, best-practice approach to engagement across the City. Council wants to guide and direct planning for the future of the City, so it is an active, productive, liveable, sustainable and resilient place. The engagement framework ensures we engage with a representative cross-section of the community, to understand a broad range of views on an issue, and this will include children and young people.

The **Economic Development Strategic Plan** provides a framework to develop strategies that promote our regional strengths; creates opportunities with a strong commercial focus; and dedicates Council to preserving the diverse employment landscape and the jobs it provides. The Strategy will increase employment, education and training

opportunities for residents, to deliver an ambitious economy filled with opportunity for children and young people.

Council's **Cultural Strategic Plan, Creative City**, highlights Canterbury-Bankstown's unique identity and supports creative practices as a way of cultivating distinctive places. It promotes artistic and cultural opportunities, for both professional practitioners, and the general public. It will also help to shape city connections, by encouraging urban design, public art and festivals.

Council's **Connective City 2036**, is our vision for Canterbury-Bankstown that guides growth and balances what makes a city complete, as we welcome an additional 135,000 residents and 155,000 workers by 2036. It aims to integrate a variety of transport modes with different land uses so that more people can connect to more places within the City and beyond. It will help to improve the City's ecological and river systems and create quality places for healthy living and ecological integrity.

Of particular importance to children and families, the directions and actions of the plan will deliver places of quality design in public and private areas that will create sustainable, liveable, healthy and attractive places. This will be underpinned by design that is place-based, collaborative, multidisciplinary and integrated.







# 04 Strategy Framework

## 4.1 How will the Plan work?

The *Child-Friendly City Action Plan* will support the identified priorities listed below, which will inform our key focus areas for service development, provision and improvement. Each priority includes a number of objectives, which are in turn broken down into actions for Council, community organisations and other key stakeholders. For each action, the following has been identified:

- Delivery responsibility indicating the lead team/ department which has the primary role for each action. However, most actions will require the involvement of a range of people, Council teams and external partner organisations; and
- Timeframe indicating the priority of actions within each objective. They are categorised as ongoing, short term (up to 2 years) and medium term (2-4 years).

### Health

- Maternal and infant health
- Environmental health
- Mental health
- Physical health
- General health

### Participation

- Access and physical barriers
- Listening to children and young people
- Leadership for children and young people

### Belonging

- Perceptions
- Community
- Inclusivity

### Play and Leisure

- Access and variety
- Libraries and art
- Outreach and youth centres
- Playgroups

### Safety

- Child protection
- Actual and perceived safety in community
- Bullying and safety in schools
- Road safety

### Education

- Access
- Rights
- Participation
- School infrastructure
- School discipline

# 05 Directions

## 5.1 Health

Children and young people think health is:

### Support networks

Taking medicine if you need it

### Building resilience

Spirituality

Healthy environment

Healthy food

### Keeping active

Having a home

Playing

### Safe spaces

Motivation

Brushing your teeth

Water

Milk

### Doctors

Shade

### Self esteem

Education

Dentists

### Good mental space

## Key finding

Children and young people reported they felt they and their peers were generally healthy, while there could be improvements in several areas. Food insecurity and access to good nutrition, opportunities for physical activity, sexual health, immunisation, obesity and oral health were all raised as issues impacting physical health.

Well-being is a much broader concept than mere physical health. It refers to how people feel about their lives in general, quality of life, both physical and mental health, and having the optimum conditions to allow us to thrive.

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People acknowledges that “well-being is underpinned by access to essential services, including high quality health care, clean environments, food and water, and safe and secure housing”. Children and young people across the City raised air, land and water pollution, passive smoking, lack of green space within the built environment, the cleanliness of public toilets, and access to health care and information, as issues impacting their well-being. There were also concerns from parents and service providers about access to disability services, early intervention services, and maternal and infant health information, particularly for young parents.

Mental health was identified as a particular concern. Children reported across several focus groups that they felt adults in their lives sometimes lacked an understanding of the importance of mental health. A number of UNICEF priority groups are also recognised as being at greater risk of poor mental health outcomes, including ATSI young people, people with disability, those that identify as LGBTIQ+, children from CALD backgrounds, and refugee and asylum seeker children.



Focus	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Maternal and Infant Health	Provide access to maternal and infant health information and resources at Early Education and Care Centres and community facilities such as libraries.	Children's Services	Short
	Identify opportunities for delivery of new services and programs to support young parents.	Community and Cultural Services	Medium
Mental Health	Advocate for counsellor and psychologist positions in local schools through the Supported Students Successful Students Initiative.	Community and Cultural Services	Medium
	Advocate for an increased number of local mental health supports for children and young people.	Community and Cultural Services	Medium
	Promote online resources for children and young people and facilitate access to mental health awareness programs.	Children's Services, Youth Services	Short
	Develop and distribute a resource which promotes existing local mental health services.	Community and Cultural Services	Medium
Environmental Health	Develop a Catchment and Waterways Plan, a Biodiversity Plan and an Environment Strategy to protect, preserve and promote a sustainable future for our children and young people.	City Plan	Short
Physical Health	Provide affordable health and fitness programs for children and young people.	Customer Experience and Recreation, Community and Cultural Services	Ongoing
	Support the delivery of NSW Healthy Children Initiative's such as Live Life Well @ School, Crunch and Sip, Munch and Move and Go4Fun in Council facilities and across the LGA.	Children's Services, Customer Experience and Recreation	Short
General Health	Provide services and programs that educate children, young people and their families on issues such as alcohol and drug use, healthy eating and food security, improved health literacy among CALD communities, sexual health education and accessing disability services.	Children's Services, Community and Cultural Services	Ongoing
Homelessness	Advocate for youth homelessness initiatives and services to be delivered locally, including increased funding for youth crisis services.	Community and Cultural Services	Medium

**“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”**

**– World Health Organisation**

## 5.2 Safety

Children and young people think safety is:

No abuse

**Friends**

Have a home

**Teachers**

**Parents**

Not harming others

Feeling in control

**Having a plan**

Police

Ambulance

Following rules

Thinking twice

**Protection**

Seat belts

Fire trucks

**Trusted adults**

Fences

Supervision

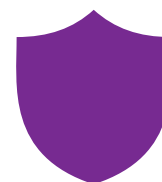
Respecting boundaries

Helmets

## Key finding

Children and young people reported generally feeling safe, and identified the places and circumstances in which they felt safe. However, a significant number of them identified issues that need to be addressed, to improve their sense of safety. These include bullying, safety in schools, cyber safety, domestic and family violence, neighbourhood and road safety, and perceptions of crime and risk, as issues in the City.

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People states “the sense of security that comes from having a safe community, a safe home and safe relationships is an important first and basic step, to enable children and young people to develop to their potential”. Children and young people should be able to feel safe in all spaces – in their home, at school, at work, out and about, and in their community. Consultation conducted for the NSW Plan identified areas that children and young people felt could be targeted to improve their overall sense of safety, including bullying both in and outside school, safety on public transport, domestic and family violence, crime, and drug and alcohol use.



Focus	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Child Protection	Display organisational leadership to the community through the process of becoming a Child Safe organisation.	Children's Services	Short
	Encourage and support local services to adopt child safe organisation principles.	Children's Services	Short
	Provide access to information about child protection and support services in education and care centres, youth centres and community facilities such as libraries.	Children's Services, Community and Cultural Services	Short
Actual and perceived safety in our community	Enhance and promote the positive image of the City to the community, celebrating our diversity and showcasing the achievements of our children and young people.	Communications	Ongoing
	Undertake community development and capacity building activities which address community safety.	Community and Cultural Services	Ongoing
Bullying and safety in schools	Advocate for programs targeting bullying to be funded in the local area and an improved state wide response to bullying issues.	Youth Services	Short
	Facilitate and promote safe use of technology for young people and parents, in partnership with local schools, child and family, and youth services.	Children's Services, Community and Cultural Services	Short
	Continue to support the Stories of Strength project locally to highlight diversity and unity.	Community and Cultural Services, Community and Cultural Services	Ongoing
Road safety	Conduct road safety campaigns around all local schools, distributing information in key community languages and the provision of appropriate signage.	Roads Infrastructure	Ongoing
	Provide an occupant restraint fitting service to encourage correct usage of child restraints particularly amongst CALD communities.	Roads Infrastructure	Ongoing
	Take a proactive approach to parking enforcement and road safety around schools through compliance and education.	Regulatory Compliance, Roads Infrastructure	Ongoing
	Undertake assessments and implement requests for traffic calming devices to improve pedestrian access to local schools in accordance with Council's and associated Australian Standards, relevant guidelines and requirements.	Roads Infrastructure	Ongoing
Domestic violence	Facilitate and promote the provision of respectful relationships programs targeting domestic and family violence.	Community and Cultural Services	Short
	Support and develop local services through the Domestic Violence Liaison Committee to build sector capacity.	Community and Cultural Services	Ongoing

### 5.3 Education

Children and young people think education is:

Reading

Encouragement

Friends

Motivating

Sport

Games

Culture

No judgment

Supportive teachers

Interesting

A safe place

Creative

Languages

Art

Listening

Music

Working together

Sharing opinions

Patience

### Key finding

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People acknowledges “children’s learning and development experiences in their early years, help them develop the critical social, emotional, thinking and communication skills they need, to give them a great start in life and school”.

Children and youth in Canterbury-Bankstown discussed the importance of their education, and wanting to make the most of the opportunities they were afforded. Most children and young people reported they like their school. Most also reported they have at least one supportive teacher they can go to for help and they feel well supported by at least some of their peers. Bullying and safety at schools, funding and financial accessibility, perceptions of teachers, school discipline, how mental health is addressed in schools, school facilities, school leadership and civic participation, were all raised as issues in the City.

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.**

**– Nelson Mandela**





Focus	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Access	Increase number of children accessing quality early childhood education through the promotion of local services and centres.	Children's Services	Ongoing
	Review the "Free Childcare for Asylum Seekers program" and investigate long term feasibility	Children's Services	Short
Support	Support and facilitate the education of local child and family services through the Child and Family Network on navigating the NDIS and access to early intervention services for children with a disability.	Children's Services, Community and Cultural Services	Ongoing
	Ensure all Council centres meet the goals of the National Partnership Agreements on universal access to early childhood education. Encourage all other local centres to meet the goals as well.	Children's Services	Short
	Deliver Transition to School Statements for all children utilising Council centres.	Children's Services	Ongoing
School Infrastructure	Advocate for improved provision of infrastructure in local schools.	Community and Cultural Services	Short
	Explore opportunities for joint use facilities with local schools to facilitate improved access to quality assets and infrastructure.	City Plan	Medium
School Discipline	Advocate with the NSW Department of Education for a review of discipline measures in schools to reduce detention and suspension.	Community and Cultural Services	Short
Employment	Create and continue to provide work experience, training and employment opportunities for young people at Council.	Human Resources	Ongoing
	Provide quarterly "Life after School 101" program to assist in transition to employment.	Community and Cultural Services	Medium
General	Provide programs and events to facilitate connections between local schools and child and family service providers.	Children's Services, Community and Cultural Services	Short
	Provide support and training to build capacity in the local education and care sector.	Children's Services	Ongoing

## 5.4 Participation

Children and young people think participation is:

Being part of the community

Volunteering

**Respect**

Being valued

**Support**

Helping others

Access

**Being heard**

**Take us seriously**

Decision making

**Knowing our rights**

### Key finding

Children and young people have a genuine desire to participate in decision-making processes, and have a valuable contribution to make in the development of policies, programs and services that impact their lives. Children across Canterbury-Bankstown consistently discussed wanting more opportunities to have their say and contribute to their community. Unfortunately, most children and young people did not feel listened to or taken seriously by adults, and had little knowledge of their rights.

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People also identifies the need for children and young people to be heard, to give them a voice, and to ensure all levels of government find ways to enable children and young people to participate. Programs designed for children and young people are much more likely to succeed if they have been involved in the planning, development and delivery of them. The NSW plan also identifies respect as a priority outcome for children and young people, demonstrated by supporting and valuing their strengths, diversity and potential.



Focus	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Education	Provide a “Civics Education” program to local schools to educate children and young people on Government process and opportunities for participation	City Prosperity and Engagement	Ongoing
	Educate all children and young people about their rights through the provision of information and programs at education and care centres, youth centres and community facilities such as libraries.	Children’s Services, Community and Cultural Services	Short
Leadership	Convene a round table with young people and local voluntary organisations to identify barriers to volunteering and develop ways to make participation more accessible.	Community and Cultural Services	Medium
	Ensure children are consulted on significant Council projects in line with the Community Engagement Framework.	City Prosperity and Engagement	Ongoing
	Investigate methods to engage more effectively with children and young people in the participatory and iterative co-design of new public places and facilities.	City Design, City Prosperity and Engagement	Medium
Participation	Review the Terms of Reference of the Child and Family Reference Group to include child or youth representation.	Children’s Services, Governance	Medium
	Explore opportunities to expand Council participation in the Community minded kids program.	Children’s Services, Community and Cultural Services	Short
General	Utilise and promote the “Our Local” website to inform children and young people about local opportunities.	Children’s Services, Community and Cultural Services	Ongoing

## 5.5 Play and leisure

Children and young people think play and leisure is:

Riding bikes

Gardening

**Pools**

Running

**Libraries**

Music

Skating

**Sport**

**Parks**

Youth centres

Reading

Nature

**Time with friends**

Gaming

Toys

History

**Art**

River

### Key finding

Children and young people generally had positive responses about their opportunities to engage in play and leisure activities. They recognised the importance of green space and had suggestions for improvements at parks, such as more bubblers, improving access to public toilets and planting more trees for sun shelter. Playgrounds and parks were identified as their favourite place to play, but they also identified a range of Council facilities, such as pools, libraries, drop-in centres and playgroups, that provided opportunities for play and recreation.



Focus	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Culture	Explore opportunities to deliver additional Children's programs with the Library system.	Community and Cultural Services	Short
	Explore opportunities for Council to become a Creative Kids and Active Kids provider	Community and Cultural Services, Aquatics	Short
Outreach	Investigate opportunities to extend drop-in hours and days for outreach services at Council facilities.	Community and Cultural Services Children's Services	Short
	Provide more programs for children aged 7-11, who are too young for youth centres and too old for early childhood groups.	Children's Services	Short
Playgroups	Support the development and provision of playgroups locally, including mobile and supported playgroups.	Children's Services	Short
Programs	Implement the Canterbury-Bankstown Events program to provide activities and events for children, young people and their families.	City Prosperity and Engagement	Ongoing
	Undertake creative programs, including public art, creative interpretation and cultural development to promote greater appreciation of bushland corridors and to inspire and educate communities about environmental sustainability.	Community and Cultural Services	Ongoing
	Support the delivery of accessible and affordable sport and recreation programs for young people, through Club Grants and Community Grants and Event Sponsorship Program.	Community and Cultural Services	Ongoing
	Provide affordable sports and recreation programs that encourage participation and healthy lifestyles.	Customer Experience and Recreation, Youth Services, Aquatics	Ongoing
	Delivery of "child-friendly" swim school program by ensuring every instructor has; an approved Working with Children check, specific and detailed training on working with infants, Austswim Qualifications, and an understanding of risk assessments.	Aquatics	Ongoing
	Leisure and Aquatics strategic plan and initiatives will include facilities that are designed to meet the needs of a child safe organisation and child friendly city.	Aquatics	Medium
	Partner with Royal Life Saving Australia to deliver the Keep Watch @ Public Pools program.	Aquatics	Ongoing
Infrastructure	Implement recommendations of the Playgrounds and Play Spaces Strategic plan, including the provision of seven new destination playgrounds.	Parks, City Design	Medium
	Implement recommendations of the Leisure and Aquatics Strategic Plan, including the provision of splash pads and play spaces with water elements.	Aquatics, City Design	Medium
	Develop a Community Facilities Strategy to ensure Council facilities and infrastructure meets the needs of our growing population, including consideration of opening hours to improve access and use.	City Plan	Short

## 5.6 Belonging

Children and young people think belonging is:

No bullying

**No discrimination**

Coming together

**Respect**

**Inclusion**

Support

No racism

Community

**Acceptance**

Friends

Pride

Family

### Key finding

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People recognises that a sense of belonging and connectedness to others is critical to the well-being of children and young people. Consultation conducted for the NSW plan identified the importance of feeling connected to adults as well as peers. It states “through forming positive relationships with each other and with adults, children and young people gain access to valuable networks that build resilience and provide access to information and opportunities. Connections with others also help build cohesive communities, and foster an understanding and appreciation for nature, diversity, culture and heritage”.

Locally, children and young people in Canterbury- Bankstown had a lot of insight into what creates belonging and discord. Overall, they felt positively about the Council area, but did identify a range of ways to improve social cohesion. They said feeling disrespected or disregarded, generational gaps and social cohesion, were issues. Local research also identified that particular groups, such as LBQTIA+ and young people with disability, were also more susceptible to social isolation.



Focus	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
Perceptions	Enhance and promote the positive image of the City to the community, celebrating our diversity and showcasing the achievements of our children and young people.	Communications	Ongoing
	Expand the annual Youth awards program to provide opportunities for children to be recognised.	Community and Cultural Services, Children's Services	Short
Community	Develop a City Activation Strategy to bring people together in public space and improve social cohesion.	City Prosperity and Engagement	Short
Inclusivity	Partner with local organisations to develop a variety of creative and social programs that enable culturally diverse young people to share their stories, celebrate their culture and contribute to the richness of the Canterbury Bankstown community.	Children's Services, Community and Cultural Services	Medium
Capacity building	Build capacity within the child and family services sector to deliver programs through facilitation training, grant application training and workshops.	Children's Services, Community and Cultural Services	Ongoing

# 06 Achieving the Strategy

The *Child-Friendly City Action Plan* aligns with Council's *Community Strategic Plan* and vision to be a City that is thriving, dynamic and real; safe and strong; clean and green; prosperous and innovative; moving and integrated; healthy and active; liveable and distinctive; and leading and engaged. Becoming a child-friendly city will be an ongoing process. The *Child-Friendly CBCity Report* and the resulting *Child-Friendly City Action Plan* represents Council's first step in the process for becoming a child-friendly city.





The *Child-Friendly City Action Plan* recognises that all levels of government, community organisations, NGOs, and community members, need to work together to support outcomes for children. The *Child-Friendly City Action Plan* presents an opportunity to build on existing partnership arrangements, and increase dialogue and focus on innovative and collaborative solutions.

In supporting a child friendly city, one of the key opportunities for Council is improving the way it works internally, to integrate responses across the range of functions it delivers, including social planning; community development and urban renewal; mobility and access; traffic management; open space and recreation planning; environmental planning; land use; public health; and the provision of services, including child education and care, libraries, recreation, and cultural development and events.

Council's Child and Family Reference Group's role is to support, advocate, educate and facilitate communication and implementation of the action plan within the community. It makes recommendations to Council, through the Advisory Committees, in relation to the current status of families and children's overall well-being; encompassing health, safety, learning and development, leisure and participation.

**It takes a whole village to raise a child.**







**WHERE  
INTERESTING  
HAPPENS**