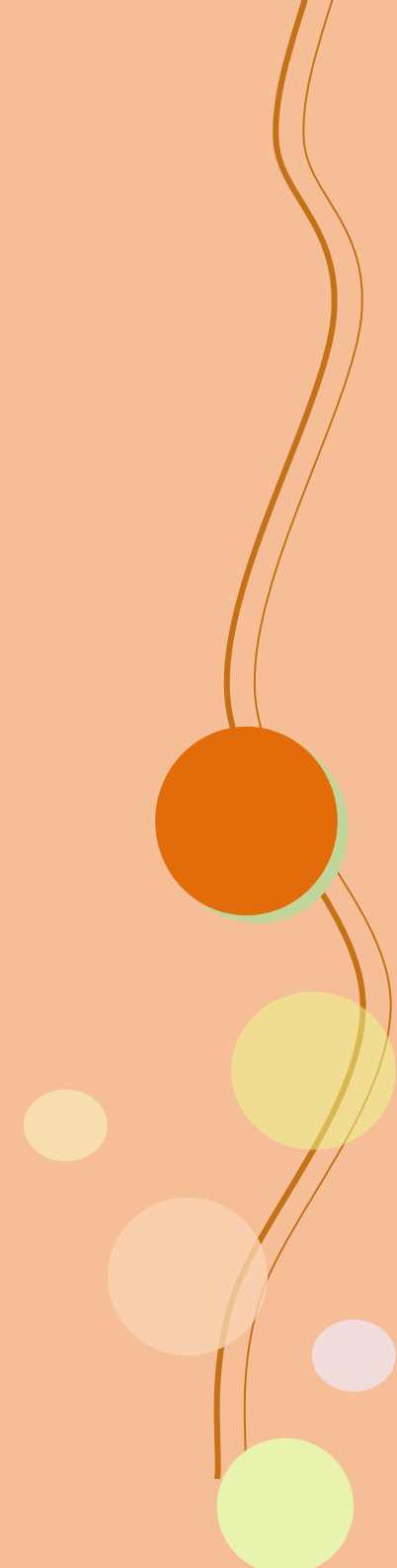




Child and Youth Friendly City Report 2012

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The project team combined landscape architecture, planning and design expertise with academic and research skills. Team members were:

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Executive Summary



The needs and aspirations of children and young people are often overlooked in the planning, design and management of our cities and neighbourhoods. Redland City Council through its community planning and engagement activities has identified broad community support for ensuring this community responds to and supports the aspirations of children and young people. These community ambitions are embedded in the *Redlands 2030 Community Plan* and the *Redlands Social Infrastructure Strategy 2009*.

In late 2009, Council engaged a consultancy team from Griffith University (with Prue Walsh, Play Environment Consulting) to undertake the Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Cities Project to identify how principles, policies and practices of Child Friendly Cities can be applied to Redland City Council. The project was to:

- Investigate principles, policies and practices of child friendly cities relevant to the local context and trends (i.e. geographic, socio-economic, cultural and governance)
- Develop a set of child friendly cities principles for Redland City Council
- Test the draft principles on two planning projects (1. Master planning and design of mixed-use centres and precincts, and 2. Planning and design of urban parkland)
- Draft a report including recommendations for future actions

The project was to have a strong practical focus, built on an understanding of the local government operating context and the need to ensure the results could be easily built into day-to-day practices. The project undertook a range of tasks:

- Review of key literature (International and Australian) on child and youth friendly city policy and practice.
- Development of Redland City Child and Youth Friendly City principles.
- Desktop audit of current and planned child and youth friendly policy and practices at Redland City Council.
- Interviews with key informants within Council.
- Review of results from facilitated arts-based consultations with children where participants were asked to describe and develop designs to enhance key places in Redland City Council.
- Workshops with the project team to develop the Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide.
- Detailed assessment of two local planning and design case studies (a mixed use activity centre and a district park) against draft principles to pilot the effectiveness of the Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide in enhancing child friendly outcomes in contrasting local settings.
- Preparation of a draft Redland City Council Child and Youth Friendly City Policy.



- Development of child and youth friendly indicators to assist Council to monitor the performance of the Redland City Council Child and Youth Friendly City Policy.
- Facilitating an internal Council workshop to present the project findings and recommendations, and seek feedback

All of these activities contributed to the determination to deliver the following key outputs:

- Development of a Corporate Policy *Redland City Council Child and Youth Friendly City Policy* to cover all areas of Council operation;
- The *Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide* applying to public and private development and open space/public space/parks improvement strategies;
- The *Redlands Child and Youth Friendly City Indicators*.

These outputs are all put forward as key steps towards achieving more responsive Council child-friendly plans and strategies.

Although the project has suggested more focussed attention in relation to children and young people, it has deliberately sought to impact **existing** Council practices and policies. This differs with some approaches to

working with local governments on child-friendly cities where the focus on achieving specific accreditation

(through the UN Child- Friendly Cities initiative) requirements has tended to stimulate a range of new activities and under-emphasised the necessity to work with all parts of Council.

Hence, the project's recommendations seek to advance the Redland City Council child and youth friendly city framework. The recommendations are based on a review of principles and good practice identified in the child and youth friendly cities literature, an audit of Council's policies and practices, testing of Redland children's engagement potential and strategic planning for 2 key areas of the City.

The recommendations are that Council:

1. Endorse the Child and Youth Friendly Policy, the child and youth friendly indicators and the Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide;
2. Use the guide to inform the current planning for the Cleveland Centre and other activity centres and all public open space planning and other development;
3. Look to adopt/adapt the policy directions and practice approaches contained in the policy and design guide as part of Council's planned review of the Redlands Planning Scheme as well as future strategic and local planning and design projects; community engagement activities; reviews of relevant Council programs and initiatives;





4. As a priority, develop a city-wide youth strategy to support the delivery of the Redlands Child and Youth Friendly City Policy. This strategy should:

- 4.1 Be a youth-led project where young people are skilled, resourced and supported to lead, develop and action key priorities within the strategy. The strategy should take a strength-based approach and document young people's aspirations as well as needs.
- 4.2 Provide a strong contextual analysis of the emerging trends and issues impacting on young people's health and social well-being
- 4.3 Focus on understanding young people's lived experience of the Redlands, and the barriers and opportunities to their full participation in civic and community life
- 4.4 Focus on understanding the challenges and opportunities for vulnerable and at-risk young people
- 4.5 Develop strong partnerships with local communities, businesses, government and community service providers to deliver innovative, effective and creative programs

5. In the medium-term, develop a city-wide children's strategy for the Redlands. The strategy should:

- 5.1 Establish a vision for a child and family friendly community
- 5.2 Provide a strong contextual analysis of the emerging trends and issues impacting on children's health and social well-being

5.3 Focus on understanding children and families lived experience of the Redlands, and the barriers and opportunities to their full participation in civic and community life

5.4 Focus on understanding the challenges and opportunities for vulnerable and at-risk children and families

5.5 Develop strong partnerships with local communities, businesses, government and community service providers to deliver innovative, effective and creative programs

6. Provide a voice for children and young people through the program of community engagement and monitoring activities currently being developed by Council to report on progress for the *Redlands 2030 Community Plan* and *Redland City Council Corporate Plan*.

7. Use the child and youth friendly city indicators to monitor the performance of the Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy, inform the State of the City reporting framework, and advocate to relevant bodies and government agencies as required to address the vulnerable and at-risk children and young people.

In addition, the project team recommends that Council engage with children and young people to test the contents of both the *Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy* and *Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide*, to ensure they address current and emerging needs and aspirations.



Section 1 Introduction



1.1 Background to the Project

The needs and aspirations of children and young people are often overlooked in the planning, design and management of our cities and neighbourhoods. Redland City Council through its community planning and engagement activities has identified broad community support for ensuring this community responds to and supports the aspirations of children and young people. These community ambitions are embedded in the Redlands 2030 Community Plan and the Redlands Social Infrastructure Strategy 2009.

Internationally, the concept of Child (and Youth) Friendly Cities has been led by the United Nations as a means to improve the lives of children and young people in developed and developing countries. In Australia, a number of local governments have adopted Child Friendly Cities principles to inform the delivery of their services and their engagement with local communities.

Redland City Council identified the potential to integrate Child Friendly City principles into Council's planning and design policies and practices to ensure that the planning and design of the city's built and natural environment better met the aspirations and needs of children and young people. A sense of urgency to advance this work was informed by emerging research which identified a strong link between the quality of a child or young person's local environment and their individual health, social well-being, safety and sense of community connection¹.

In late 2009, Council engaged a consultancy team from Griffith University (with Prue Walsh, Play Environment Consulting) to undertake the Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Cities Project to identify how principles, policies and practices of Child Friendly Cities can be applied to Redland City Council.

The project was to:

- Investigate principles, policies and practices of child friendly cities relevant to the local context and trends (i.e. geographic, socio-economic, cultural and governance)
- Develop a set of child friendly cities principles for Redland City Council
- Test the draft principles on two planning projects (1. Master planning and design of mixed-use centres and precincts, and 2. Planning and design of urban parkland)
- Draft a report including recommendations for future actions

The project was to have a strong practical focus, built on an understanding of the local government operating context and the need to ensure the results could be easily built into day-to-day practices.

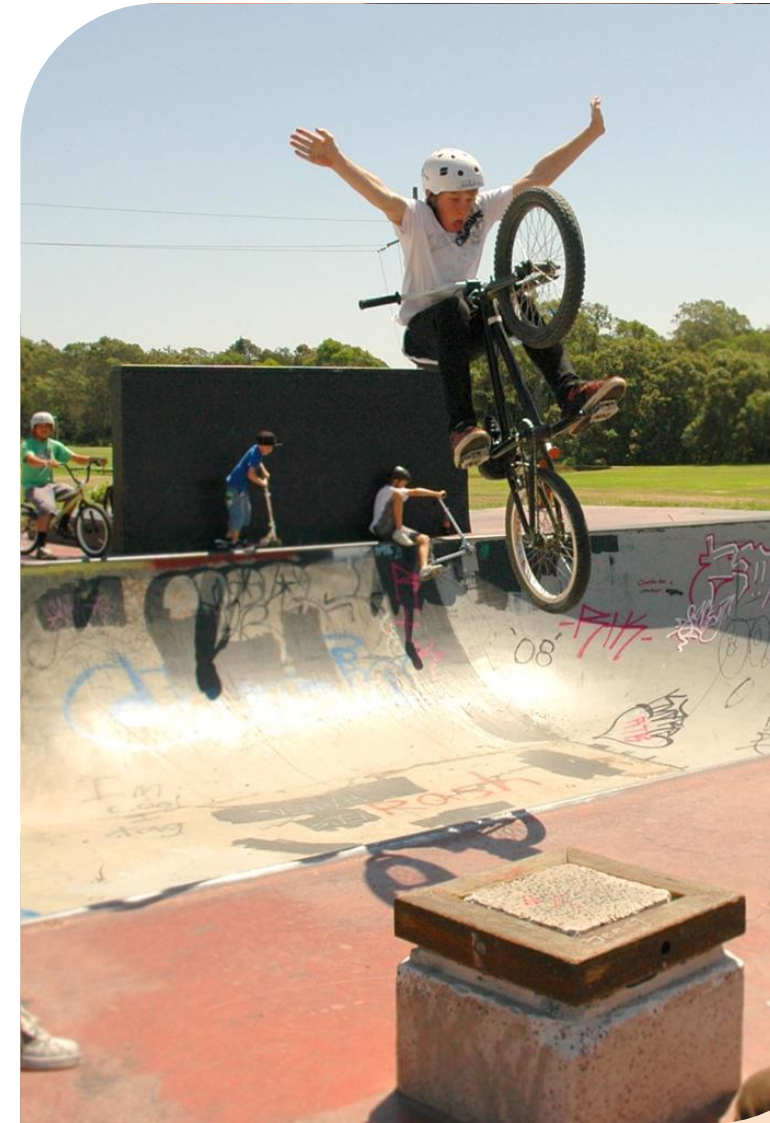
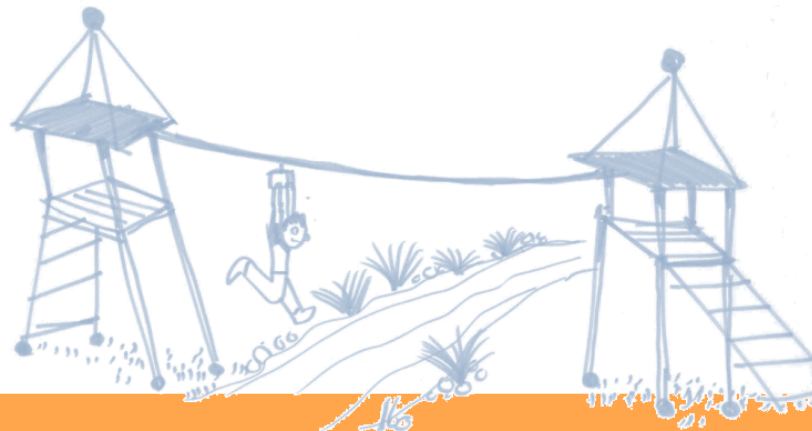
¹ Refer to the report's detailed literature review for a full discussion of this emerging research.



1.2 Method

The Redland City Council Child and Youth Friendly City project included the range of techniques presented below.

- Review of key literature (International and Australian) on child and youth friendly city policy and practice.
- Development of Redland City Child and Youth Friendly City principles.
- Desktop audit of current and planned child and youth friendly policy and practices at Redland City Council.
- Interviews with key informants within Council.
- Review of results from facilitated arts-based consultations with children where participants were asked to describe and develop designs to enhance key places in Redland City Council.
- Workshops with the project team to develop the Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide.
- Detailed assessment of two local planning and design case studies (a mixed use activity centre and a district park) against draft principles to pilot the effectiveness of the Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide in enhancing child friendly outcomes in contrasting local settings.
- Preparation of a draft Redland City Council Child and Youth Friendly City Policy.
- Development of child and youth friendly indicators to assist Council to monitor the performance of the Redland City Council Child and Youth Friendly City Policy.
- Facilitating an internal Council workshop to present the project findings and recommendations, and seek feedback.





1.3 Limitations

The limitations of the project related to the breadth of engagement including:

- No direct consultation with children and young people about the products of this project; and
- Limited consultation across relevant Council program areas and Councillors in the scoping and development of the project products which could in turn limit the extent to which those outcomes may apply.

It is understood that the results of this project will be progressed through Council's decision-making channels in the coming months.

1.4 Definitions – what do we mean by 'children' and 'young people'

For the purposes of this project, the consultant team have adopted the following working definitions:

Children:	0-5 years: babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers (requiring assistance from parents, carers and other family members)
	6-10 years: young children (requiring assistance from parents, carers and other family/community members), primary school
	11-14 years: older children/pre-teen/early teens (limited independence, still requiring assistance), middle and early high school
Young people:	15-17 years: older teens (can move independently within the community), high school/vocational training
Young adults:	18-15 years: young people who may still live at home or live independently, may be in work or in study or unemployed (outside scope of this project)



Section 2
Literature Review



2.1 What is a Child and Youth Friendly City?

The most common question when introducing the topic of 'child-friendly communities' is to ask for such a community to be described.

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)² has defined a child friendly community³ as one that is both:

- i. A community where children are valued, supported, respected, provided for and actively included. It is one where children:
 - o play a part – by being included in decisions, and can express themselves, and receive information
 - o reach their potential – by receiving the education and opportunities so they can fully develop socially, emotionally, culturally, physically and spiritually
 - o live well – by receiving basic needs of food, clothing, shelter and health, and
 - o are free from harm – protected from all forms of abuse and neglect.
- ii. Is based on the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) charter, informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child, which guarantees the right of every young citizen to:
 - o influence decisions about their city

² Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (2006) *What Constitutes Child Friendly Communities and How are they Built?* Evidence into Action Topical Paper – Child Friendly Communities p. 3-4.

³ The term 'child friendly city/community' can be applied to the age co-horts included the definition of children and young people outlined above in section 1.4.

- o express their opinion on the city they want
- o participate in family, community and social life
- o receive basic services such as health care, education and shelter
- o drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation
- o be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse
- o walk safely in the streets on their own
- o meet friends and play
- o have green spaces for plants and animals
- o live in an unpolluted environment
- o participate in cultural and social events, and
- o be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability.

The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) publication *What Constitutes Child Friendly Communities and How are they Built* (2006) developed some tentative indicators for encouraging child-friendliness within communities:

- **Welcome and Connection** - learning how to listen, plan and take action with local children.
- **Value** – recognising that local children and their families are valuable contributors to community life.
- **Safety** – providing safe places to play close to home and connect communities with the care of children.

- **Meaningful Action and Self-Determination** – developing a joint community vision and imagining together what a child friendly community will look like locally.
- **Space** - designing creative spaces for and with children and providing people with a reason to come into those spaces and use them.
- **Learning and Development** – recognising that learning and development happens in everyday places and in many different ways and that it is important to utilise these places, and to document the processes and outcomes for children as they learn and grow in everyday spaces.
- **Support** - establishing practical and friendly pathways for families to get services they need.
- **Time** - taking time and make time when working with children to counter the idea that consultation with children is a one-off event.

Possible indicators for child friendly communities

- ┆ Welcome and connection
- ┆ Value
- ┆ Safety
- ┆ Meaningful action and self-determination
- ┆ Space
- ┆ Learning and development
- ┆ Support
- ┆ Time



2.2 Children & Young People and the Built & Natural Environment

An ever-expanding literature confirms that the characteristics outlined above ought to be the guiding principles for communities wishing to become 'child friendly'. The main drivers of this rapidly growing interest in child-friendly built and natural environment cluster around some fundamental concerns about the increasing challenges confronting contemporary childhood in western societies, especially the incidence of childhood obesity, risk anxiety, security concerns and the associated decrease in children's physical activity – in sum, amounting to genuine fears that we may well be raising the first generation who lives shorter lives than their parents (see *Inset Box, 'Modernity's Paradox'*). More locally, compelling findings about the oversight and ignorance of children's needs highlighted in the 2006 NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Children, Young People and the Built Environment confirms the urgent need to actively involve children and young people in the adaptation and creation of child-friendly built environments. After the Inquiry, the NSW Commission for Children & Young People's continued advocacy and research, culminated in the publication, ***Built for Kids***, a resource designed to help create built environments that meet the needs of children and young people. *Built for Kids* includes a set of child-friendly community indicators to help monitor and improve the built environment for kids, as well as case studies giving real life examples of how kids have contributed to developing their local built environment.

Modernity's Paradox

"Modernity's paradox" is that increasing wealth and opportunity has also resulted in increased social differences and more problems for children and youth, including increases in asthma, obesity, diabetes, child abuse, binge-drinking, drug abuse and mental health problems.

Professor Fiona Stanley
Australian of the Year 2003



Traditionally, community interventions to address perceived problems for children and young people have been targeted through schools, recreational settings, or families and individuals considered most at risk. However, it is only recently that the built environment (including public space) has been recognised as an alternative intervention point for improving health and wellbeing. For children and young people, outdoor environments are not just the typical places to play, but also provide a place to socialise and be part of the broader community, be physically active, explore and be creative, have fun, 'hang out', be in contact with nature, escape from indoors, or just be free from the encumbrances of an increasingly adult world. Outdoor environments are also increasingly important spaces in the face of a diminishing public space and disappearing Australian backyards (Hall 2010).

A noticeable trend in the built environment and young people's health literature is the increasing tendency to be less cautious in attributing correlation, and sometimes causality (Sallis & Glanz 2006). As Davison & Lawson (2006) show, children and adolescents living in communities with parks, playgrounds, trails and

recreation programs tend to be more physically active than those living in neighbourhoods with fewer recreational facilities. For example, a US study (Cohen et al 2006) conducted in 2006 involving 1,556 adolescent girls, found that teenage girls reported 35 additional minutes of physical activity per week for each park located within a half-mile from home. The teenagers also were more active when parks were lighted and had walking paths. In addition, as Scott et al (2007) found, teenagers who live in communities that make school and recreational facilities accessible on weekends may have lower risk for being overweight. Another large US study (Gordon-Larsenet al 2006) with 20,745 adolescents found communities with seven recreational facilities located within a five-mile radius had 32% fewer overweight teenagers than did communities with no facilities.

2.3 Designing Child-Friendly Places & Spaces

The characteristics of the surrounding environment establish strong messages about how to behave and what to perceive (i.e. social norms). Planners and decision-makers play a key role in constructing these messages, and therefore help determine how people view and interact within society. As a result, the living environment and its associated messages can greatly influence the physical, social and mental health of all residents. Since children are just learning about society and the world, their living

Criteria for successful play spaces

- Movement and physical activity
- Five senses
- Social interaction
- Creative opportunities
- Test their limits





environment will profoundly influence almost all aspects of their lives. This puts a great deal of responsibility on the shoulders of planners and urban designers, who need to balance a number of different issues when creating places which meet the needs of children and young people.

All this underscores the growing importance of safe and supportive environments able to nurture children of all ages with opportunities for recreation, learning, social interaction, and cultural expression, thereby promoting the highest quality of life for its young citizens. Building such environments demands embracing child friendly design principles. Some similar design-led community strategies have provided an informative base for creating communities that are child and family friendly. In particular, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)⁴, National Heart Foundation's *Healthy by Design*⁵ and the Planning Institute of Australia's *Healthy Spaces, Healthy Places*⁶ give direction for improving activity and safety in the community through the use of planning and design strategies.

Play England (2008) has outlined in its *Design For Play* resource what they consider makes a successful play space. It includes the following:

- A space that offers movement and physical activity- with space and features that allow a range of energetic and strength building play experiences.

- A space that stimulates the five senses- maybe providing music and sound, and different smells made by plants and leaves
- A space that provides good places for social interactions - allowing children to choose whether and when to play alone or with others, to negotiate, cooperate, complete and resolve conflicts.
- A space that allows children to manipulate natural and fabricated materials, use tools, and have access to bits and pieces of all kinds.
- Spaces that offer children challenge- and activities that test the limits of their capabilities, including rough and tumble, sports and games, and opportunities to climb.

Most importantly, Play England (2008, p.15) states that making a successful place involves adhering to the golden rule:

A successful play space is a place in its own right, specially; designed for its location, in such a way as to provide as much play value as possible.

The *type* of spaces that are available in local communities are also important. Public space, which is different to residential backyards or school playgrounds, is in principle, accessible to everyone, regardless of where someone lives. Research confirms that the interactions that take place in public space provide a rich education for children in terms of the world around them, and the people who live in it. Places where children play are important social places, not just for children and young people, but also for parents, carers and the wider community. Play England (2008, p.8) argues that these

places should be '*where children and young people can enjoy spending time, be physically active, interact with their natural surroundings, experience change and continuity, take risks in an environment where they feel safe and, of course, play- alone or with others- in a wide variety of ways*'.

Gradually, the importance of play is becoming increasingly recognised as an absolutely fundamental element of children's wellbeing. Little & Wyver's (2008) comprehensive paper examines the current status of outdoor play in urbanised, western societies such as Australia and provides a critical analysis of the literature to present an argument for the inclusion of positive risk-taking experiences in children's outdoor play to encourage a fuller play experience.

Planning and design professional bodies and community advocacy organisations are also taking an active interest in promoting approaches which consider the relationship between the build environment and child friendly outcomes.

A selection of approaches are outlined below:

Planning Institute of Australia – National Policy Position on Child Friendly Communities

<http://www.planning.org.au/documents/item/121>

Urban Ecology Australia (a non-profit, community-based organisation, promoting people-and-nature-friendly urban settlements) – Child friendly cities discussion

<http://www.urbanecology.org.au/topics/childfriendlycities.html>

My City Too (a London-based initiative working with young people across the city to inspire them to take an active role in making better places and spaces in London

<http://www.mycitytoo.org.uk/>

4 CPTED <http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/9/E/8/%7B9E810185-7D54-4480-8EEC-D92D84C3FB36%7Dcpted.pdf>

5 National Heart Foundation Healthy by Design http://www.publish.csiro.au/?act=view_file&file_id=NB07030.pdf

6 Planning Institute of Australia (2009), <http://www.planning.org.au/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=668>



2.4 Child-Friendly Cities (CFC)

Creating child-friendly places and spaces won't occur without intervention from policy-makers and the support of political and community leaders. Arguably the most significant driver for such support over the past two decades, certainly at local government level, has been the UNICEF's Child-Friendly Cities (CFC) initiative.

First conceived in response to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, this initiative came at a time when it was being recognised that the situation of urban children around the world was of critical concern and that discussions on sustainable development, the management of human settlements and the rights of children could not be done in isolation. The emerging child-friendly cities philosophy was underpinned by the view that to actively implement at a national and local government level the Convention on the Rights of the Child, communities required a healthy environment, good governance and sustainable development. A companion project sponsored by UNESCO called the *Growing Up in Cities* project (<http://www.unesco.org/most/guic/guicmain.htm>) has also drawn attention to the importance of having children and young people's views directly influence outcomes in local communities. Many European countries are well

known for their Child Friendly Communities, programs and policies. The European Child Friendly Cities Network, which promotes the creation of Child and Youth friendly policies,

Holistic approach child friendly cities

- Rights of the child
- Healthy environments
- Good governance
- Sustainable development

supports child-friendly projects and provides resources and information. In Switzerland, they have put together a certification process to create an incentive for cities to be involved in the Child Friendly Cities movement (Schulze & Moneti, 2007).

The momentum to create Child-friendly Cities (CFC) Initiative Asia-Pacific was initiated from the first national Creating Child-Friendly Cities research conference, hosted by the Urban Research Program, Griffith University in Brisbane, October 2004. One of the key speakers Dr Karen Malone took the lead to establish a regional network and over the next few years the network has been officially established with a particular emphasis on its applicability at a local government level.

A number of enthusiastic local governments have participated in CFC initiatives, particularly in Victoria⁷. To date the expansion of the CFC initiative across Australia has been restricted by:

- lack of resources and funding by the CFC Asia-Pacific to do more ongoing work with local governments, and
- the motivation to gain UNICEF CFC accreditation - has not proven to be a sustainable basis for expanding this work amongst local governments.

However, there is now an emerging CFC local government network in Victoria, including those mentioned above, and another fledgling network in NSW driven by the NSW Commission for Children & Young People's attention to the built environment following the 2006 NSW Inquiry into Children, Young People and the Built Environment. Both networks are seeking to sustain more durable changes across local governments for child-friendly outcomes.

Other local governments throughout Australia are beginning to give more deliberate and concentrated attention to CFC or more commonly, child-friendly communities issues, some triggered by initiatives funded by the Federal Government's initiative Communities for Children (C4C) targeted at improving children and families health and well-being in low socio-economically disadvantaged areas⁸.

Child-Friendly Australia (see <http://www.childfriendly.org.au/>) is another child-friendly place-based initiative. Overseen by the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (NAPCAN), the initiative's 'Play a Part' program has worked to support natural community gatherings - for example schools and early childhood communities, community organisations, sporting groups and clubs, local communities and workplaces - to help identify, explore and map a community's strengths and assets. The 'Play a Part' team then drives the development and implementation of a Child Friendly Action Plan that is unique to the strengths and needs of that community.



⁷ For more detail on projects in Ballarat, Bendigo and the City of Port Phillip, please see the web links on the next page.

⁸ Communities for Children (C4C) projects include Northern Gold Coast and Ipswich-Inala corridors in Queensland.



2.5 Local Government Child- & Youth-Friendly Strategic Planning

Australian local government's play an important role in the provision of facilities, services and programs for families, children and young people. Local governments will commonly produce a youth services plan, and sometimes a child and youth strategy to inform the targeted delivery of their initiatives. Far fewer have explicitly incorporated children and young peoples' issues into their major strategic plans.

Good practice examples of child friendly local government strategic plans and strategies

Port Stephens Community Settlement and Infrastructure Strategy

<http://www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au/planning/1369/59505.html>

Creating a Child Friendly Port Phillip

www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/default/Implementation_Plan.pdf

Wollongong City Council Management Plan, NSW - a local council management plan where children's needs are incorporated as a high priority.

<http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/council/managementplan.asp>

Child Friendly Bendigo

www.childfriendlycity.com.au/

A significant project working closely with local government is underway in Shellharbour, NSW named Child-Friendly by Design (CFbD), see <http://www.healthycitiesill.org.au/CFBD.htm>

In Queensland, interest by local governments in child friendly community approaches appears to be increasing, with the Local Government Association of Queensland regularly being approached for advice on how to advance this issue.

2.6 Emerging Themes, Challenges and Opportunities

Community interest and academic research into the impact of the built and natural environments on childhood continues to escalate, fuelled by reports on the rising rates of obesity and mental health problems in children and young people.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, research and community debate is focusing particularly on the incidence of childhood obesity and the associated decrease in children's physical activity (see Gill (2007) (planning in risk for children's play) and Louv (2008) (nature deficit disorder) for two of the most popular examples of these concerns). Responding to concern about childhood obesity, a growing range of studies has examined the links between children's physical activity patterns and build environment form e.g. Richardson & Prior 2005; Davison & Lawson 2006; Cutumisu & Spence 2008; American Academy of Pediatrics 2009). Other investigations have pointed to an alarming rise in mental health disorders among children in countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia (UNICEF 2007).

While there have been important tributary streams of interest in children in urban scholarship - including, for example, the work of Tranter & Sharpe (2007) on

children's rights, Malone (2007) on residential living and Walsh (2006) on play environments - this renewed focus on children's well-being and the relationship to the built environment is not well served by a developed urban understanding (see Gleeson & Sipe

2006). Most contemporary developed cities are hybridised landscapes containing surviving (frequently gentrified) historical accretions from industrialism, significant suburban swathes bequeathed by 20th century planned growth and new and emergent compact urban forms (including both Brownfield redevelopment and compact suburbia). These contemporary landscapes are also marked by socio-spatial polarisation, revealed in the contrast between localised concentrations of poverty/exclusion and new spaces of affluence and selective inclusion, such as gated communities. Whatever the context, it is also unfortunately true that the vast majority of both the creation and adaptation of built environments occurs with a complete absence of children and young people's voice (Nordstrom 2010).

Talen & Coffindaffer's (1999) important research into children's interaction with the environment and its implication for planning and design practice found that:





- Children experience their environments differently to adults, their experience is high-personal. It is about 'texture and variety', rather than function
- Children prefer places that are diverse and accessible with opportunity for social interaction, as opposed to homogenous and isolated; it is about shared spaces.
- Gender differences are important to consider.
- Level of civic mindedness, not all fun and play.
- Children tend to have socialised, commercialised view of neighbourhood rather than naturalised world.

Further support for working within this mode came from research conducted in Ontario, Canada by Gilbert and O'Brien (2009). Their findings illustrated and supported the call for children and young people to be involved in land use planning for three practical reasons:

- Children and young people experience the problems and issues relating to the built environment and are likely to be able to contribute to solutions.
- As for any other activity, it is a good strategy to question the 'customers' as to how things can be improved.
- Land use and transport provide good issues to introduce young people to the practice of local government and democracy, and thereby harness their passion and get them involved in the planning and decision making process.



Other Canadian contributions have been highlighted by McAllister (2008) who argues that a community's design and land-use decisions have a significant impact on their physical, social and mental health. The four main issues discussed in her paper - safety, greenspace, access and integration— she believes (p.56) "should be at the top of every planner's list in order to create healthy, child friendly cities".

Four issues for planning a child friendly city (McAllister 2008):

- Safety
- Greenspace
- Access
- Integration



She concludes: "The health benefits of a Child Friendly City are numerous. Obvious physical health benefits are

derived from having safe places to play and walkable neighbourhoods. Less obvious health benefits include reduced stress and improved cognitive functioning. Integrating children into society and giving them access to amenities improves social and mental health through empowerment and increasing self-confidence. A safe, green, accessible, inclusive society is the healthiest option for children."

Despite this growing literature relevant to building child-friendly cities and communities there is still relatively little local empirical research that specifically addresses planning implications. Perhaps the most pertinent local research conducted has been that of the Australian Centre for the Governance and Management of UrbanTransport (GAMUT) research (University of Melbourne on CFC including:

From Battery-Reared to Free Range Children: Institutional Barriers and Enablers to Children's Independent Mobility (2007)

This project evaluated various interventions that facilitate children's independent mobility (defined as the freedom of children to move around in public space without an adult accompaniment) within urban environments and identified CFC initiatives as a promising practice undertaken by several local governments in Victoria which had the potential to enable greater children's independent mobility.

Walking the Walk: Can Child Friendly Cities Promote Children's Independent Mobility

This project evaluated how CFC initiatives are influencing local planning policies and practices in Victoria. The research methods comprised a) a literature review on international best practice b) a content analysis of planning and local policy documents of seven local governments and c) interviews with local government planners in all case study sites.

The three main findings of the project were:

- Councils that have committed to child friendly cities are more likely to a) have plans that are more responsive to children's needs b) consult with children c) have addressed children's independent mobility in some way and d) influence the attitudes and skill sets within council.
- Councils that have adopted a child friendly city approach have addressed such issues in their Municipal Early Years Plan, Public Health Plan and Council Plan; however, this has had little impact on the strategic land use planning.
- There is very little knowledge on how to implement/integrate consultations with children into land use planning policies.



2.7 Role of Indicators in Building Child and Youth Friendly Communities

If child friendly communities need to be fundamentally “a practical not theoretical process” as recommended by the United Nations, then there is a need to translate the research literature into practical tools that can be applied within local government and community settings. One way of achieving this clarity is through the use of an indicator framework. Indicator frameworks are increasingly being used by federal, state and local governments and by non-profit organizations as a way of establishing empirically valid assessments or (where appropriate) measures that can be used in a multitude of ways by decision-makers. Specifically these include: developing baseline data around a particular topic; improving decision-making processes and current practices; and enabling changes within communities to be tracked over time (Ben- ariah & Goerge 2006).

In the past indicator frameworks to do with children’s wellbeing have been used mainly at the national and state level. Yet a growing trend in both the international and national literature there has been a growing interest in community level indicators and children’s well-being (e.g. Ben-ariah & Goerge 2006, Brennan-Ramirez et al 2006, Coulton & Korbin 2006). There has also been growing recognition of the need to involve children themselves in community level indicator research and development (Ben-Arieh 2005).

For the purposes of this report and due to the complexity of addressing the physical environment in relation to child friendly communities, an integrated indicator framework is required. Much of the work on children’s indicators that has emerged from within the academic literature,

focus on children’s well-being at the neighbourhood level. However rather than social indicators, they are more commonly identified as integrated indicators located within the broader umbrellas of sustainability, health and quality of life. Within the Australian context, indicators on children’s well-being also conform to the integrated model with a particular focus on health and quality of life.

Attachment 1 to this report offers an integrated indicator framework that seeks to highlight the key themes and issues raised in the literature around child friendly communities and the physical environment.

Key Finding	Redlands Response
To be effective, Child Friendly City initiatives require high level policy and leadership.	Development of a Corporate Policy <i>Redland City Council Child and Youth Friendly City Policy</i> to cover all areas of Council operation
The build environment and natural environments play a central role in shaping the lives of children and young people.	The <i>Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide</i> applies to public and private development and open space/public space/parks improvement strategies.
Engaging children and young people in decisions about the city is challenging, but it is a key component of a child friendly city.	The <i>Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide</i> include a section on engaging children and young people in project planning and implementation.
Safe and supportive environments are important for children of all ages.	The <i>Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide</i> and <i>Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy</i> both strive to acknowledge differing needs and priorities for children and young people from infancy through to adolescence.
Local governments that have committed to child friendly cities/communities are more likely to have plans that are more responsive to children’s needs.	The <i>Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide</i> , <i>Redland City Council Child and Youth Friendly Policy</i> and <i>Child and Youth Friendly City Indicators</i> are all steps towards more responsive Council child-friendly plans and strategies.



2.8 Moving from Research to Practice

The literature review highlights a number of issues for Australian local governments that are relevant to Redland City Council and thereby influence the products of this project, in particular, the Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy and the Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide.

The Table below shows the relationship between the key findings of the literature review and the outcomes of the Redland Child Friendly City project.



Section 3

Why is a Child and Youth
Friendly City Important to
Redland City Council?



3.1 Demography of Children and Young People

Both the *Redlands 2030 Community Plan* and the Council's *Corporate Plan 2010-2015*, promote the Redlands as an inclusive city, where children and young people participate fully in community life.

The population of the Redlands is expected to continue to increase over the next 15 years (OESR 2011). By 2026, the resident population will have a significantly older age profile with 25% over the 65 years. During the same period, the projected population of younger residents (0-24 years of age) will continue to slowly increase, however as a proportion of the total resident population, younger residents will decrease.

Currently, the city's population of children are unevenly distributed across the City and it is expected that, over time, the populations of children will decline in the northern suburbs (Birkdale, Alexandra Hills and Wellington Point) and increase in Redland Bay and Thornlands. This reflects the rapid growth of family homes in those communities since the 1990s. Children and young people are underrepresented on North Stradbroke, Coochiemudlo and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands and this is expected to continue.

Fast Facts – The Future

By 2026, it is expected that 0-14 year olds will be 17% of the Redlands population, while those over 65 years will be 25% of the population.



No matter what the projected distribution or number of children and young people in the future of Redland City, they are central to the vitality of community life and Council is committed to ensuring that this central position is expressed in the planning and design of the City.

3.2 What Young Redland City Residents Say

In 2009, Redland City Council conducted a survey of the city's young people to gain an understanding of their use of public space and feelings of safety in the Redlands. A total of 2,148 young people (mostly between 12-17 years) responded to the survey. The surveys were distributed in eight local secondary schools (four public and four private schools). This section presents the survey results that are relevant to the Redland City Child and Youth Friendly City Project.

Young People & Public Space

While the survey attracted a high response rate, it is important to remember that young people's experience of public space and their communities cannot be generalised. Experiences vary according to:

- gender (young women's needs emerge as requiring significant focus)
- differences in age (younger to older) - as young people gained more independence, were able to travel more freely, participate in night life, and
- level of interaction with police and security.

Overall, those young people who reported a 'positive' experience of public spaces in the Redlands tended to be "younger, female, attend a non-government school, have



not been moved on often, have a sense of comfort from seeing police/security, feel that they have been treated fairly, and consider there are enough youth facilities” (Crane 2010, p.10).

One in four young people reported feeling disliked/negatively stereotyped by the broader community. Those young people who had been ‘moved on’ reported significantly higher levels of feeling unsafe.

Safety

Most of the young people surveyed experience the city and their suburb as generally safe.

Community Attitudes Towards Young People Being in Public Spaces

Young people surveyed in the Redlands reported being clearly impacted by negative stereotypes – young people are either doing or about to do something wrong – and are frustrated by this community perception. “Almost half of all young people consider the broader adult community to have a hostile attitude to them, with this being particularly true for older teenagers and young men.” (Crane 2010, p.7)

Young People and Authorities

Local young people’s view of police and security varied. Most young people indicated that their own feeling of safety would be improved by a moderate frequency in the presence of authorities – where young people feel protected, young women’s concerns were addressed and undertaken in a way which was seen as ‘fair’.

Young People’s View of What is Needed

The survey identified a number of issues that required further investigation. These include:

- Need for more youth facilities in the Redlands, particularly on the Bay Islands. Young women considered this need more highly than young males.
- A broader range of socially oriented activities and activity based options.
- A need for improved lighting, security and police, surveillance cameras.
- Other strategies included having more people and friends around, improved access to safe places and emergency phones, reduced use of drugs and alcohol, improved cleanliness.

These survey results provide an insight into the views of young people and the important differences of view, depending on the life experience, age and circumstance of the young person. The Redland Child and Youth Friendly City project acknowledges these differences and proposes general design principles and strategies that address the differences.



“There is strong evidence to suggest that positive connections between young people and others in communities are key elements in their long term well-being, and key elements in their sense of safety, at both the local and city-wide level.”
(Crane 2010, p.11)

“Young people’s assessment of an area as ‘unsafe’ involved a mix of reputation of a space, their own experience of a space and attributes of a space such as few people, lighting, rubbish. People being under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, and violence were of particular concern...behaviour of other young people can be a source of their lack of safety...”
(Crane 2010, p.7)



3.3 Child Friendly Cities Vacation Care Art Project

The Vacation Care art project was conducted by community artist John Hardcastle over the period 6-8 April, 2010 which children attending Council's vacation care program in the city's north (at Birkdale and Coolwynpin) and the city's south (at Victoria Point). Using photographs of the Weinam Creek and Capalaba Master Plan areas (as per the case studies in next section) to prompt discussion and creative expression, John worked with more than a 100 children aged from 5 through to 12 years, to create their own preferred landscapes for these two areas.

The creative process drew upon the children's own experience of the two case-study areas and their surrounds, with discussion prompted with the following questions:

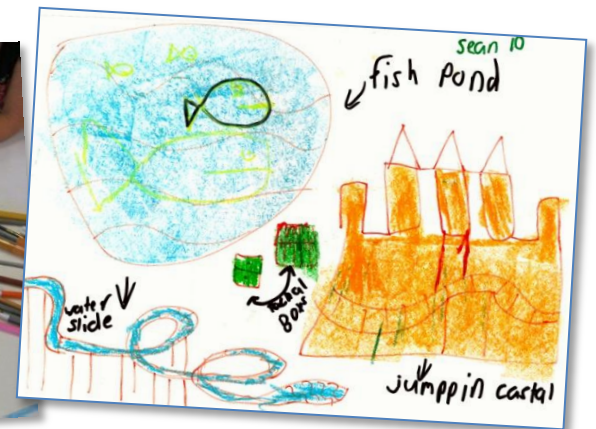
- Do you visit this area?
- What do you use there?

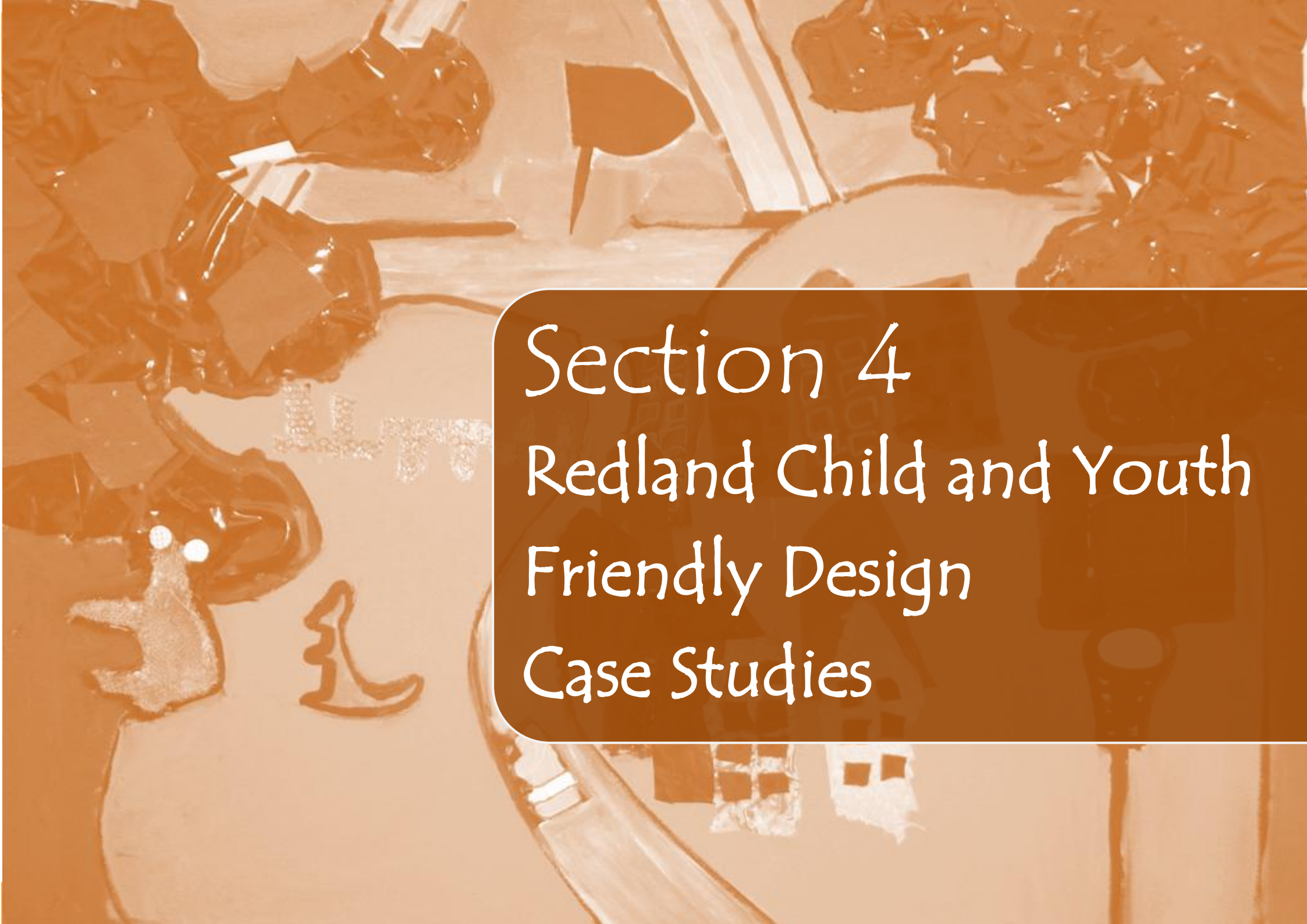
- What is your favourite place there?
- What is good about it?
- Do you think this area is a friendly place?
- Are there places that you don't like to go or your parents don't like you to go?
- Are there any dangerous places in this area?
- How can we make the area safer, friendlier and more fun?
- Can you think of any improvements that could be made in the area or anything new that you would like in the area?

Key themes which emerged from this process include:

- The children and young people generally found the areas friendly.

- The children and young people enjoyed identifying opportunities and generating ideas to make the areas more child friendly.
- Children and young people had different modes of expression (some groups made sculptures and others drawings and written expression of their designs).
- Most of the designs involved physical activity (such as swimming pools, adventure playgrounds, BMX and skate facilities though some young people also wanted quiet places for rest and relaxation).
- Children and young people drew on their experiences of other places and applied them to the local areas (for example, an 'underwater world' was suggested for Capalaba).





Section 4
Redland Child and Youth
Friendly Design
Case Studies



4.1 Understanding the Case Study Communities

The project team interrogated two contrasting case study areas to assess the locations with regard to a draft set of child and youth friendly criteria. The case study areas were:

- Capalaba activity Centre - a mixed use activity centre, located in the established northern part of the city.
- Weinam Creek Wetlands District Park - a significant 60ha natural, open space area located in the city's growth suburb of Redland Bay in a suburban setting (Weinam Creek Wetlands District Park).

Capalaba is an established community with a relatively stable population between the 2001 and 2006 census.

By comparison, Redland Bay is an emerging community that experienced rapid growth from the 1990s (doubling in population from 1991-2001). The area continues to grow with significant increases in the recent inter-census period. The profile is typical of new suburban communities with high percentages of resident children (0-11 years) and low representation of medium and high density housing.

Table 1 shows the key demographic characteristics of each community and Redland City.

The following sections present the case study review and identify considerations for the future for child and youth friendly planning and design in the two locations.

Table 1 Key Characteristics of the Case Study Areas (2006)

Characteristic	Capalaba	Redland Bay	Redland City
Population	16,580 (13% of Redlands residents)	10,709 (8% of Redlands residents)	127,627
% 0-4 year old	6.4%	7.8%	6.2%
% 5-11 year old	10.4%	12.1%	10.2%
% 12-17 year old	9.5%	8.4%	9.5%
% 18-24 year old	10.0%	7.3%	8.8%
% Detached dwellings	78.5%	92.7%	78.8%
Total in Labour Force	68.4%	66.0%	63.9%
% own home	29.9%	28.2%	32.7%
% paying off home	41.8%	41.5%	38.4%
% renting privately	18.8%	23.7%	19.8%

4.2 Assessment Criteria

The case studies were reviewed according to the child and youth friendly principles (criteria) developed by the project team after completion of academic and practice review. The draft criteria are presented below in Table 2.

Table 2 Redland City Council Child and Youth Friendly Principles

- Children and young people influence decisions about their city
- Children and young people feel included and connected to their communities
- Children and young people live well and safe and are protected from abuse, neglect, and violence
- Children and young people live in environments that nurture their health and wellbeing
- Children and young people have local opportunities for learning, play, employment and creative expression
- Children and young people experience activity centres as welcoming safe places
- Children and young people have access to green open space and natural areas for contemplation, exploration and play
- Children and young people have safe circulation paths connecting them to where they want to go



4.3 Child and Youth Friendly Assessments

CASE STUDY 1 Capalaba Activity Centre Master Plan

Background

Council has recently prepared a Master Plan for the Capalaba Activity Centre. The Master Plan envisages an activity centre with:

- a mix of uses (including medium density residential)
- pedestrian spines and a road closure to improve pedestrian safety
- pedestrian connections to surrounding green spaces (Capalaba Regional Park and Coolwypin Creek area)
- redevelopment of Coolwypin Creek to useable public open space for BBG, picnic and nature based experiences
- a new underground bus station
- town centre/plaza on top of the bus station
- new community centre, and
- major off-site car park area for 'park and ride' travel.

This new Master Plan provides an opportunity to consider the adequacy of child and youth friendly planning and design in the Centre's future planning.

The Process

The review of the Capalaba Activity Centre Master Plan included:

- Site visits and documentation of key elements of the Centre (including destinations and gathering places of interest to young people).
- Understanding of the Master Plan intentions for the Centre and the Centre precincts.
- Application of the draft Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide to the Capalaba Activity Centre Master Plan to gather insights into the appropriateness of the draft Guidelines to Activity Centre development.
- Interview with the consultant engaged to consult young users of the centre and inform the development of the Capalaba Youth Space.

Lessons from the Past

Figure 1 presents the results of the analysis of the current limitations of the Capalaba Activity Centre as a child and youth friendly place. The child and youth friendly criteria (Table 2) were applied to the site and the resulting analytical diagram is supported by the observations and assessment that follow.⁹

⁹ The review of the Capalaba Activity Centre was limited to a site analysis of the library civic space, water mall, the connecting open space and Capalaba Central shopping centre forecourt to the bus terminal areas





PRINCIPLE: Children and young people experience activity centres as welcoming safe places

Lack of Variety of Spaces and Seating Areas

- The large civic centre adjacent to the library building provides no comfortable seating. The existing seating within this public open space is two sculptured seats conspicuously located on the lawn with no sun protection or the raised walls under the buildings awning abutting the main pedestrian circulation

Lack of Sun Protection within the Centre and Shady Resting Places

- The current Capalaba centre has little to no sun protection for visitors and the area lacks cool shady environments for users. The gathering areas within the centre rely on retail foyers or the library/bus terminal awning areas to provide all weather protection.

Commodification of Public Spaces

- Through the revitalisation process of the new CBD and adjacent parklands, ensure the existing public spaces are treated in a way to avoid privatisation of the interface with private space

EXISTING CAPALABA ACTIVITY CENTRE LESSONS FROM THE PAST

- Lack of a variety of gathering spaces & seating areas
- Lack of shaded rest points & sun protection within the centre
- No play areas or playful environments to provide attractive spaces for children & their carers to stay longer
- Existing pedestrian circulation is compromised by the water feature and water mall
- The existing ramps do not connect & there is no all weather accessible pathway system through the centre
- Insufficient wayfinding & signage linking library, transit bus centre and major retail node
- No orientation to the CBD context and regional attractions such as the Parklands, Youth Plaza and sporting facilities

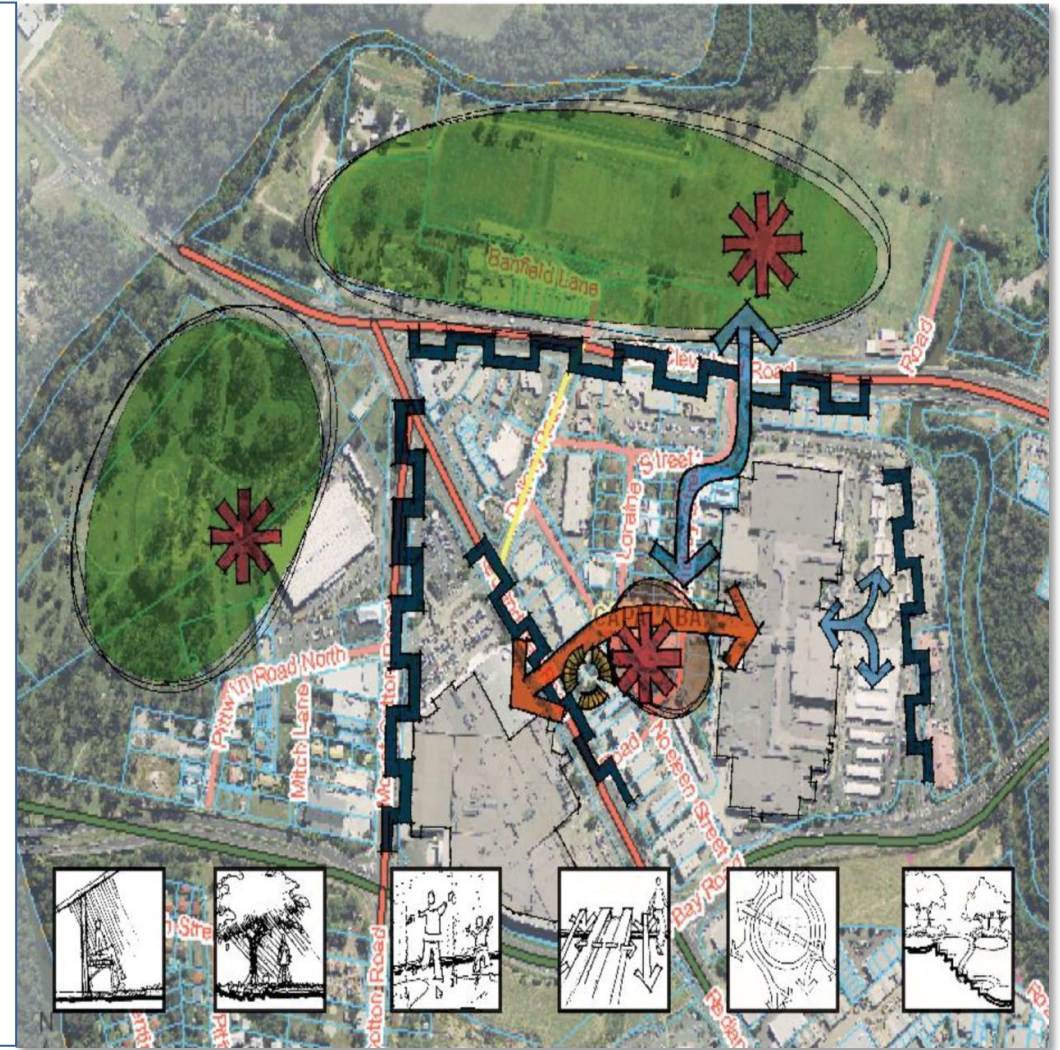


Figure 1 Existing Capalaba Activity Centre - Child and Youth Friendly Analysis



PRINCIPLE: Children and young people have local opportunities for learning, play, employment and creative expression

No Play areas within the Centre

- Currently, the library's open space has some sculpture within the lawn area but no playful elements to engage young children. There is a large open space to the southern side of the library which would accommodate some kick about space but the area has limitation with a loading dock adjacent and building abutting

To support a child and youth friendly centre, the creation of a variety of spaces and seating areas with changes in scale and setting will provide a choice of places for visitors and residents to rest, gather and connect to the centre.

Provide facilities that cater to or are adaptable to all age groups and abilities such as playgrounds and age specific play elements, seating for the elderly as well as equitable accessible pathways.

To support families living in the residential areas of the Centre, the streetscape will need to allow for children who will utilise the open space of the street as their playground.

Visual permeability will be necessary to ensure children's safe journey to and from play nodes and for carers to have the ability to supervise the children from some distance.

Play nodes and equipment designed and catering for specific age groups of children will need to be accommodated Within the intense residential CBD, therefore allowing small scale play areas for toddlers with shade and seating for carers to open spaces for more active older play needs to be considered.

PRINCIPLE: Children and young people feel included and connected to their communities

Contested Spaces

- The hangout or gathering areas for young people correlate to the identified contested spaces. These areas vary from highly visible shopping centre forecourts, sitting at the stairs or along the water feature walls to the more secluded ramps and level walled areas to the northern edge of the main circulation stairways. Disabled users, carers with prams, shoppers and retailers with trolleys activate the ramps but at night this space maybe perceived as unsafe as it lacks lighting and casual surveillance.
- Some of the more visually contested spaces such as the shopping centre foyers are heavily monitored by security officers. This may reduce young people hanging out and limit congestion at the entry but the open spaces further into the CBD and around the bus terminal are not policed and therefore maybe perceived as unsafe at night.
- The practice of young people gathering and socialising has not been designed into the existing landscape. This lack of attention to this legitimate role

of open space to accommodate this group has created contested spaces.

Creating Safe Spaces

- Designing out contested spaces by finding ways to activate public space as well as providing places within the new residential centre for young people to gather and socialise.

PRINCIPLE: Children and young people have safe circulation paths connecting them to where they want to go

Restricted Pedestrian Circulation

- Within the Centre – The existing water feature takes centre position within the centre's paved area with the water mall dissecting the stairs connecting the two main retail centres. Both water elements reduce the connectivity of the existing ramps and stairway, in turn restricting pedestrian circulation.
- Existing pedestrian crossings from the bus terminal and retail centres and connections to the library work well and pedestrians have been well catered for with lighted and zebra crossing. Unfortunately beyond this main thoroughfare pedestrian connections are compromised with limited pathway options, missing pram ramps, and / or no connecting formalised pathways.
- Connecting to the Context – Due to the high volume of cars on Mt Cotton, Old Cleveland Road and Redland Bay Roads pedestrian circulation and safety is compromised. The main two arterial roads of Mt Cotton and Old Cleveland Roads create a formidable



barrier to connecting to the green surrounding parklands only walking distance away.

Insufficient Orientation and Way-finding throughout the Centre

- Within the Centre – when alighting a bus at the Capalaba Terminal, visitors would be challenged to orientate themselves within and through the Capalaba centre and would have limited to no understanding of the service provided within the CBD or the parklands and regional sports, playground and youth plaza beyond.

Considerations for the Future

The review of the Capalaba Activity Centre Master Plan reflected on the content and design elements of the Master Plan and the child and youth friendly city criteria (Table 2). Figure 2 provides an illustration of potential child and youth friendly design enhancements.

The identification of future considerations for the Capalaba Activity Centre is based on a review of the Master Plan proposals for new open space areas along the Coolwynpin Creek, a new Community building and Bus Transit Centre, the connecting open space and two shopping centres as well as the Redland Youth Plaza, Capalaba Regional Park and the forecourt to the bus terminal.

To create a child and youth friendly centre, several important factors need to be considered in the implementation of the Capalaba Activity Centre Master

Plan such as user behaviour, safety and comfort. Strategies are presented in this section to support the detailed design work to be undertaken to implement the Master Plan. The strategies are based on child and youth friendly enhancements. These considerations will determine the success and user satisfaction for children, their carers and young people living and working in or near the Centre as well as children, young people and community members visiting the centre.

PRINCIPLE: Children and young people influence decisions about their city

To address young people’s needs, a participatory design process where children and young people are engaged would ensure the open space design meets the needs of this group of users and residents by creating environments that are more comfortable, responsive and safe.

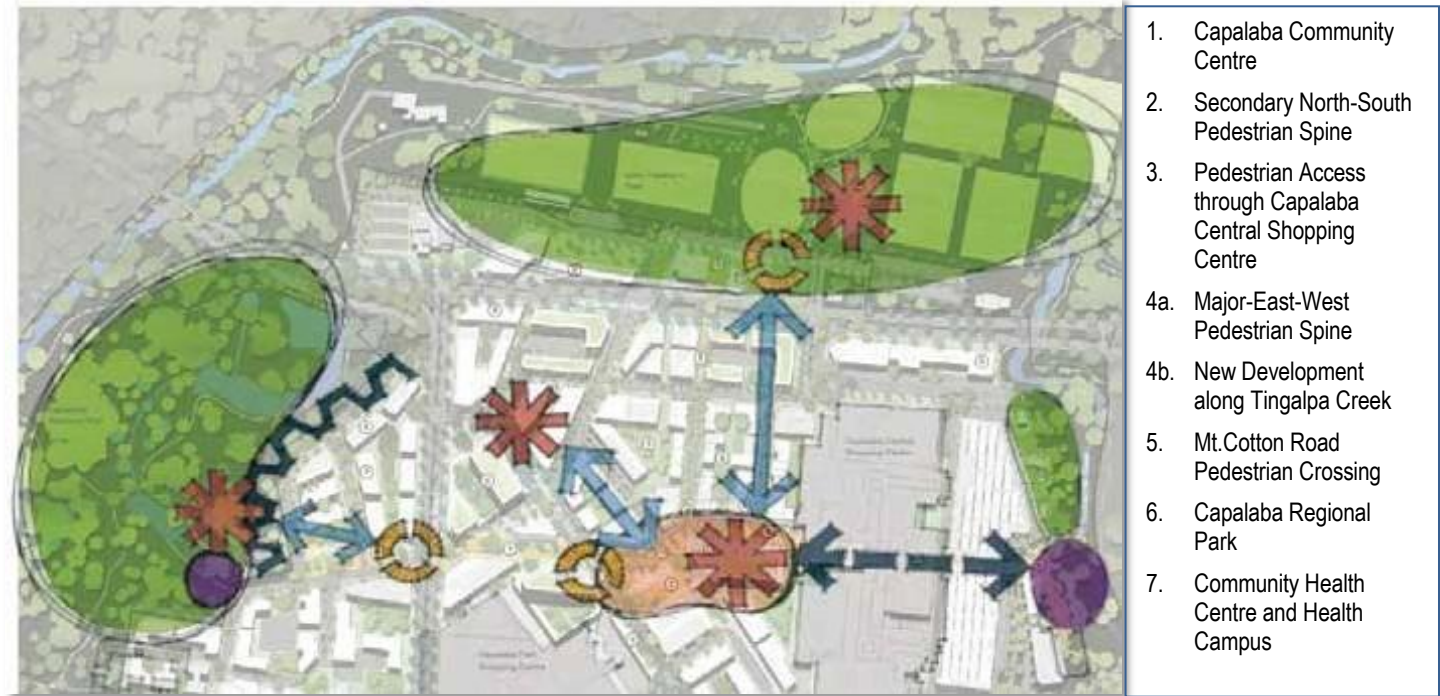


Figure 2 Capalaba Activity Centre - Child and youth friendly city enhancements



Capalaba Activity Centre Child and Youth Friendly Enhancement Strategies

1. A detailed seating plan is required which locates seating, types and styles as well as the setting in which it will be placed. Combinations of structural elements such as planter boxes or shelters will ensure seating with shade.
2. A detailed circulation plan is necessary to better link activities that are of interest to children and young people living in or visiting the centre. This plan should prioritise pedestrian and cycle movement by children and young people, allowing for use of scooters, tricycles, skateboards etc.
3. A play strategy and plan is required to ensure that the Centre provides opportunities for incidental play and play for all ages, abilities and socio-economic groups.
4. Ensure that there is adequate private open space in the medium density residential developments in the activity centre to meet the play needs of resident and visiting children.
5. Creating a safer environment through a detailed lighting and circulation plan is required which ensures an activated centre, good visual permeability and casual surveillance with the design adhering to CPTED principles.
6. Engage children and young people in the detailed design of the public spaces in the activity centre (particularly the town centre/plaza).
7. Review of the housing strategy components of the Master Plan to provide guidance on the appropriate location, mix and design of 'family housing' for owner-occupiers and rental accommodation within the centre.
8. A detailed local social infrastructure strategy should be developed to ensure an integrated and comprehensive approach is taken to the delivery of facilities and services to meet the emerging and future needs of children and young people within the Capalaba catchment. The strategy should identify appropriate models for service delivery as well as prioritised implementation program including partnership arrangements with key government, business and community agencies with local responsibilities.





CASE STUDY 2

Weinam Creek Wetlands District Park

Background

The Weinam Creek Wetlands is a 60 hectare District Park located along a creek corridor and surrounded by a developing suburban area at Redland Bay in the south of the City.

Council is in the first stage of developing a master plan for the Weinam Creek Wetlands District Park and is hoping to incorporate child and youth friendly design elements into the development and implementation of the master plan.

The Process

To identify child and youth friendly design elements (existing and potential) for Weinam Creek District Park, a member of the project team undertook a detailed technical review including:

- Visiting the park and documenting play spaces, equipment, natural features, constraints and enablers for child and youth friendly design.
- Reflecting on the park's relationship and connectivity to surrounding residential areas, roads and access ways for children, young people and families.
- Reviewing the literature on nature deficit disorder and the role of nature based play in childhood development.

- Applying the Draft Redland City Child and Youth Friendly by Design Guide (developed as part of this project and trialled in the 2 case study settings).
- Developing recommendations for child and youth friendly enhancements (presented as guidance to the master planning process and specific precinct improvements).

A full report of the technical review of the Weinam Creek Wetlands District Park is available as a technical report on the Redland City Council website.

Lessons from the Past

The Weinam Creek Wetlands District Park is a wedge of Council land in the south of the City. Photo 1 is an example of the environmental qualities of Weinam Creek.

The area is surrounded by new residential sub-divisions, though connections from the residential areas to the Park are generally not resolved.



Considerations for the Future

The review of the Weinam Creek District Park reflected on the context and potential design elements of the Park and surrounding areas. The child and youth friendly city criteria (Table 2) were applied to the site and the resultant analysis and recommendations are presented in detail in a technical report Weinam Creek, Redland Bay Site Visit Report. This report is available on Council’s website. In summary, the enhancements to Weinam Creek relate to:

PRINCIPLE: Children and young people feel included and connected to their communities

- Improve connectivity from residence to the Weinam Creek Wetlands District.
- Nature based play both within the park and extending to surrounding suburbs through streetscape elements.

PRINCIPLE: Children and young people have safe circulation paths connecting them to where they want to go

- Improved interface and connections between the surrounding streets and park.
- Permeable fencing to encourage casual surveillance.

PRINCIPLE: Children and young people have local opportunities for learning, play, employment and creative expression

- Incidental play opportunities.
- The role and use of fixed play equipment.

PRINCIPLE: Children and young people have access to green space, and natural areas for contemplation, exploration and play

- The conservation role of the park.
- Play and live in a conservation area.
- Encouraging young people to be custodians for conservation (Responding to ‘nature deficit disorder’ research).
- Honouring the history and regional position of the park:
 - Farmland/community garden
 - Regeneration
 - Connections to the bay

Weinam Creek Wetlands Child and Youth Friendly Enhancement Strategies

The Weinam Creek Wetlands District Park Child and Youth Friendly Assessment recommends design

enhancements for the many sections of the Weinam Creek District Park.

This section of the report presents the key recommendations for enhancements to the District Park.

1. Defining the community expectations needs to be more thoroughly explored, and the data analysed carefully so that expectations can be matched more closely with the potential of the multiple playground areas of the District Par. It is recommended that the additional consultation is sought from:
 - Local community representatives to establish their site-specific neighbourhood relevant community needs
 - Community groups servicing or representing children’s needs within the community who are also potential users of the space (e.g. play group, family day care, kindergartens, schools, vacation care programs, groups representing children with disabilities), and
 - Community interest groups – parties with specific interests within the community on both a local and often a wider level (eg. Environmentalists, specialists in plants, history of the area).

This will ensure that priority is given to children’s responses, but that a balance is achieved between their individual needs and the other groups.

2. Play and play settings need to be an integral part of the planning of the Weinam Creek Wetland precinct. Within this, two aspects need to be stressed:



- Play must be seen in context of the wider community—not as children separated from the community—but through provision of facilities which will support family, close one-to-one interaction between adult and children, and a multi-level of recreational use.
 - creative development through open-ended play features (ie. non-prescriptive)
 - (eg. proprioceptive skills: eye/ hand control, balance, perception of space, spinning)

- The play needs to support more than busy physical play. This means a variety of play components which will foster:
 - social development by sharing through play, take turns, collaborate and consider others
 - emotional development through the capacity to accept challenges, achieve successes and a sense of self-worth, and willingness to keep on trying
 - cognitive development through the provision of play facilities which challenge thinking and involve problem-solving, and where children can explore, find out and test/try different activities and ideas
 - physical development through the provision of play facilities which will extend all areas of a child's physical development; not only the gross motor skills (eg. running, walking, leaping, jumping, crawling) but also those which allow for fine motor skills and mastering of their overall body coordination

- 3. To ensure that play perspective is embedded in the planning process, a multi-disciplinary planning team with play/child development representation is essential. Master planning of the playspaces is critical.
- 4. Ad hoc development of facilities should not occur, and perceptions of play in the context of the whole park should be seen to allow children to have a greater diversity of play experiences which will assist in the development of a wider range of skills.
- 5. Play must prioritise the inclusion of facilities that have a high play value measured by the capacity of the items to sustain children's interests for long periods, even over several years. A few items that provide this are: natural settings, sandpits, mounds and cubby spaces. Non-prescriptive play components are essential.
 - High play value facilities will include:
 - Invitational space that by its very setting ignites children's wishes to undertake play activities within the park to a level that they will wish to explore, test out/try new ideas and to come to terms of a deeper understanding of the world in which they live



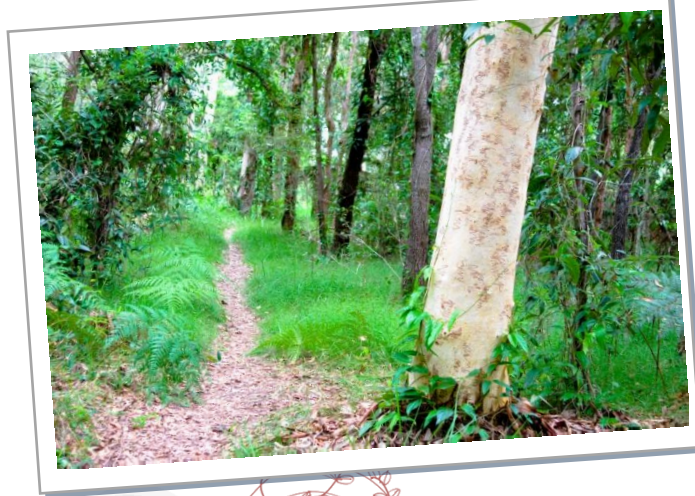
to a dimension that covers all areas of development. To achieve this natural characteristics of Weinam Creek Wetlands need to be retained and extended with greater emphasis on play.

- Adaptability of settings through the use of materials that children can shape, mould and use to fit in with their play schemes (eg. sand, water, dirt, leaves) or facilities which suggest multiple and varied uses (eg. a low deck which can be a stage, a cubby, a boat within the child's imagination, an area to jump on and off). This will exclude closed items—those items which only have one set usage; once children have mastered the use of these items, their interest wanes (eg. many fixed climbing structures, tick-tack-toe).
- Items that provide challenge and allow children to use the item to their current level of achievement, but offer a further dimension and depth of play when children are actively seeking the challenge of new experiences. In part this is provided by the use of flexible/ adaptable items. In other dimensions, it allows children to explore greater areas and spaces than that designated as a play area. It will provide them with spaces that can be shared with older children with higher competency skills for them to observe, follow and learn from. Mostly it is the provision of unexpected layering of potential experiences within a given area; for example:

- the changing patterns of plants or lights at different times of the day and in different seasons
- the hidden dimensions of nooks and crannies developed through vegetation with a capacity to ride their bike further afield on varied forms of tracks and pathways, and
- boulders that children can leap on and climb over.
- Age /skill variation—the facilities in the park must first and foremost be sufficiently open-ended to accommodate a wide diversity of interest and skill levels whether dictated by child development, their moods at a particular time, and their temperaments during individual days/times. Emphasis needs to be given to providing facilities which are less challenging in some areas but more suited to the early explorations of the park by toddlers and early childhood years, whilst at the same time allowing for older children to share and collaborate with them.
- Disabilities— play provision coupled with the use of the whole park must take into account children with disabilities. The range of disabilities means that careful design is needed to ensure benefits for these uses, while not disadvantaging others.

6. Integrated settings – final design of the Weinam Creek Wetlands and park usage should emphasise





an integrated natural setting with play facilities within it – rather than a fixed equipment dominated structure. To achieve this, consideration needs to be given to subtle inclusions such as:

- large boulders carefully spaced for children to climb and step along
 - treed embankments with a slippery slide down through it
 - inclusion of large trees with low, spreading branches for children to climb, and
 - meandering pathways that open up the park but take the children through varied forms of park surfaces, levels of enclosure and changing plant life—remembering that richness of experiences (not tidy perfection) is the aim; this means that areas need to be left messy with leaves, twigs, seed pods for children to explore, or to shape into different forms or use to create hidey spaces to get away, tracks for their toy cars, the final outcome must be a one of a symbiosis with the natural environment being a dominate factor.
7. Spatial variation – a notable attribute of Weinam Creek Wetlands playgrounds are the variations in spatial provision which suggest different form of play, for example:
- open spaces for ball games and running
 - nooks and crannies to share with friends
 - hidey spaces under big trees
 - free flowing garden beds in which to duck and hide, and
 - copses of long, spindly trees to create a maze-like area.
8. The diversity of play materials needs to ensure that no or limited repetition of play structures occurs within a given park. For example, in the event of swings being provided, there should be one for older children and one for younger children to meet their current developmental needs.
9. Linkage and flow—strategic placement of compatible play activities adjoining one another is critical to support a natural progression and flow of space. For example a sandpit should not be sited in isolation, but would be far more enriching if there was a low play deck on its edge, or a large shady tree with a paved area adjoining it, or a little gazebo which presents as a cubby house and suggests imaginary play. Alternatively, it can encourage greater participation in busy physical play through inclusion for instance of a mound with a flying fox leading onto a low play deck which links to an obstacle course, or a shallow watercourse to be enjoyed during the summer months that trickles and flows through and leads to a splash pool within the playspace.
10. Play components which will feed into safety with challenge ('safe risk') are:





- Minimising the potential for vertical falls; for instance, providing more slopes and embankments with varied access points.
- Provision of open running space.
- Shade provision provided by trees.
- Simple structures that suggest a wider range of potential play options, and suggest children's usage (as distinct from dictate it). For example, a low simple deck often offers more varied usage than a climbing structure. It is a place to jump from, have a concert, meet friends, pretend your on a boat, and by its very form will suggest a much wider age/skill usage.
- Provision of facilities that offer challenge but at a lower level; for instance, low-level obstacle courses, net enclosed tunnels, side-stepping ropes strategically placed will provide alternative access to different parts of the settings and will be far more heavily utilised.

11. Access must be considered as part of play usage. This is critical when meeting the needs of middle and later childhood where children are actively seeking independence. To achieve this, the following must be considered:

- A pathway system that extends the entire length of Weinam Creek (from the harbour to the far end).

- Possible inclusion of a more direct bicycle path access.
- Easy access through tunnels, bridges or other ways over the roads so that independent access is assured.
- Linkages of this access path system to all different features of the park.
- Acceptance that the pathway system can and will be used not only by bicycles but skateboards, T-bars, roller-blades etc.
- The surfaces of these pathways should give an indication of the potential usage of the area: for example:
 - challenging surfaces in open spaces so that children have to build up speed to go over humps
 - low speed bumps in some areas to slow down momentum where a conflict of use may occur, and
 - semi enclosed spaces with vegetation and textured surfaces on the base where slower use is desirable and less intrusive to adjoining houses.
- provision of further sub-divisions ensuring that easier, independent child access can be achieved to public parkland area— particularly in areas of high density living.





4.4 Child and Youth Friendly Design for Activity Centres and Parks

The following table presents a selective summary of the child and youth friendly assessments of the Capalaba Activity Centre and the Weinam Creek District Park.

Table 3 Summary of Child and Youth Friendly Assessment of the Case Study Areas



Characteristic	Capalaba Activity Centre	Weinam Creek Wetlands District Park
Children and young people influence decisions about their city	Vacation Care art project. Engaged in Youth Plaza and Youth Space planning and design. 2 of 160 Capalaba Centre master Plan vision survey respondents were 15-18 years	Engaged in Redlands 2030 Speakout and vacation Care art project (Northern Section of park only)
Feel included and connected	Redevelopment of public space, indirect access to youth plaza, youth space not included in Master Plan. Contested public space 'move on' experience by young people	Unresolved access to park from neighbouring areas
Circulation paths where they want to go		Paths within park could be widened for a range of non-motorised options
Local learning, play and employment	Limited opportunities for incidental play	Unresolved access to park from neighbouring areas Play elements could be enhanced
Access to green open space and natural areas	Access to open space at periphery is not safe Limited green space and natural areas within centre	Unresolved access to park from neighbouring areas Within park, improve access to, interface with water





Section 5
Redland Child and Youth
Friendly Design Guide



The *Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide* is presented as a separate document. The Guide is informed by the review of literature and good practice and reflections on the Redland City case studies review.

The Guide demonstrates the range of planning, design and consultation elements appropriate to Child and Youth Friendly Design.





Section 6

Key Findings and Recommendations



The key findings of this project ranged across the various tasks undertaken as part of the project.

The literature review identified several key findings, namely that:

- To be effective, Child Friendly City initiatives require high level policy and leadership.
- The built environment and natural environments play a central role in shaping the lives of children and young people.
- Engaging children and young people in decisions about the city is challenging, but it is a key component of a child friendly city.
- Safe and supportive environments are important for children of all ages.
- Local governments that have committed to child friendly cities/communities are more likely to have plans that are more responsive to children's needs.

The audit of current and planned child and youth friendly policy and practices at Redland City Council, interviews with key Council informants, the review of designs to enhance key places in the Redlands, including those generated by children in facilitated art workshops, detailed assessment of two Redland City case studies (Capalaba's mixed use activity centre and Weinam Creek, a district park) and finally an internal feedback workshop with Council staff all contributed to the determination to deliver the following key outputs:

- Development of a Corporate Policy ***Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy*** to cover all areas of Council operation.
- The ***Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide*** applying to public and private development and open space/public space/parks improvement strategies.
- The ***Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Indicators***.

These outputs are all put forward as key steps towards achieving more responsive Council child-friendly plans and strategies.

Although the project has suggested more focussed attention in relation to children and young people, it has deliberately sought to impact existing Council practices and policies. This differs with some approaches to working with local governments on child-friendly cities where the focus on achieving specific accreditation (through the UN Child-Friendly Cities initiative) requirements has tended to stimulate a range of new activities and under-emphasised the necessity to work with all parts of Council.

Hence, the project's recommendations seek to advance the Redland City Council Child and Youth Friendly City framework. They are based on a review of principles and good practice identified in the child and youth friendly cities literature, an audit of Council's policies and practices, testing of Redland children's engagement potential and strategic planning for two key areas of the City.

The recommendations are that Council:

1. Endorse the Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy, the Child and Youth Friendly Indicators and the Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide;
2. Use the guide to inform the current planning for the Cleveland Centre and other activity centres and all public open space planning and other development;
3. Look to adopt/adapt the policy directions and practice approaches contained in the policy and design guide as part of Council's planned review of the Redlands Planning Scheme as well as future strategic and local planning and design projects; community engagement activities; reviews of relevant Council programs and initiatives;
4. As a priority, develop a city-wide youth strategy to support the delivery of the Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy. This strategy should:
 - 4.1 Be a youth-led project where young people are skilled, resourced and supported to lead, develop and action key priorities within the strategy. The strategy should take a strength-based approach and document young people's aspirations as well as needs.
 - 4.2 Provide a strong contextual analysis of the emerging trends and issues impacting on young people's health and social well-being.



- 4.3 Focus on understanding young people's lived experience of the Redlands, and the barriers and opportunities to their full participation in civic and community life
- 4.4 Focus on understanding the challenges and opportunities for vulnerable and at-risk young people
- 4.5 Develop strong partnerships with local communities, businesses, government and community service providers to deliver innovative, effective and creative programs
- 5. In the medium-term, develop a city-wide children's strategy for the Redlands. The strategy should:
 - 5.1 Establish a vision for a child and family friendly community
 - 5.2 Provide a strong contextual analysis of the emerging trends and issues impacting on children's health and social well-being
 - 5.3 Focus on understanding children and families lived experience of the Redlands, and the barriers and opportunities to their full participation in civic and community life

- 5.4 Focus on understanding the challenges and opportunities for vulnerable and at-risk children and families
- 5.5 Develop strong partnerships with local communities, businesses, government and community service providers to deliver innovative, effective and creative programs
- 6. Provide a voice for children and young people through the program of community engagement and monitoring activities currently being developed by Council to report on progress for the Redlands 2030 Community Plan and Redland City Council Corporate Plan.
- 7. Use the child and youth friendly city indicators to monitor the performance of the Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy, inform the State of the City reporting framework, and advocate to relevant bodies and government agencies as required to address the vulnerable and at-risk children and young people.

In addition, the project team recommends that Council engage with children and young people to test the contents of both the *Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy* and *Redlands Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide*, to ensure they address current and emerging needs and aspirations.





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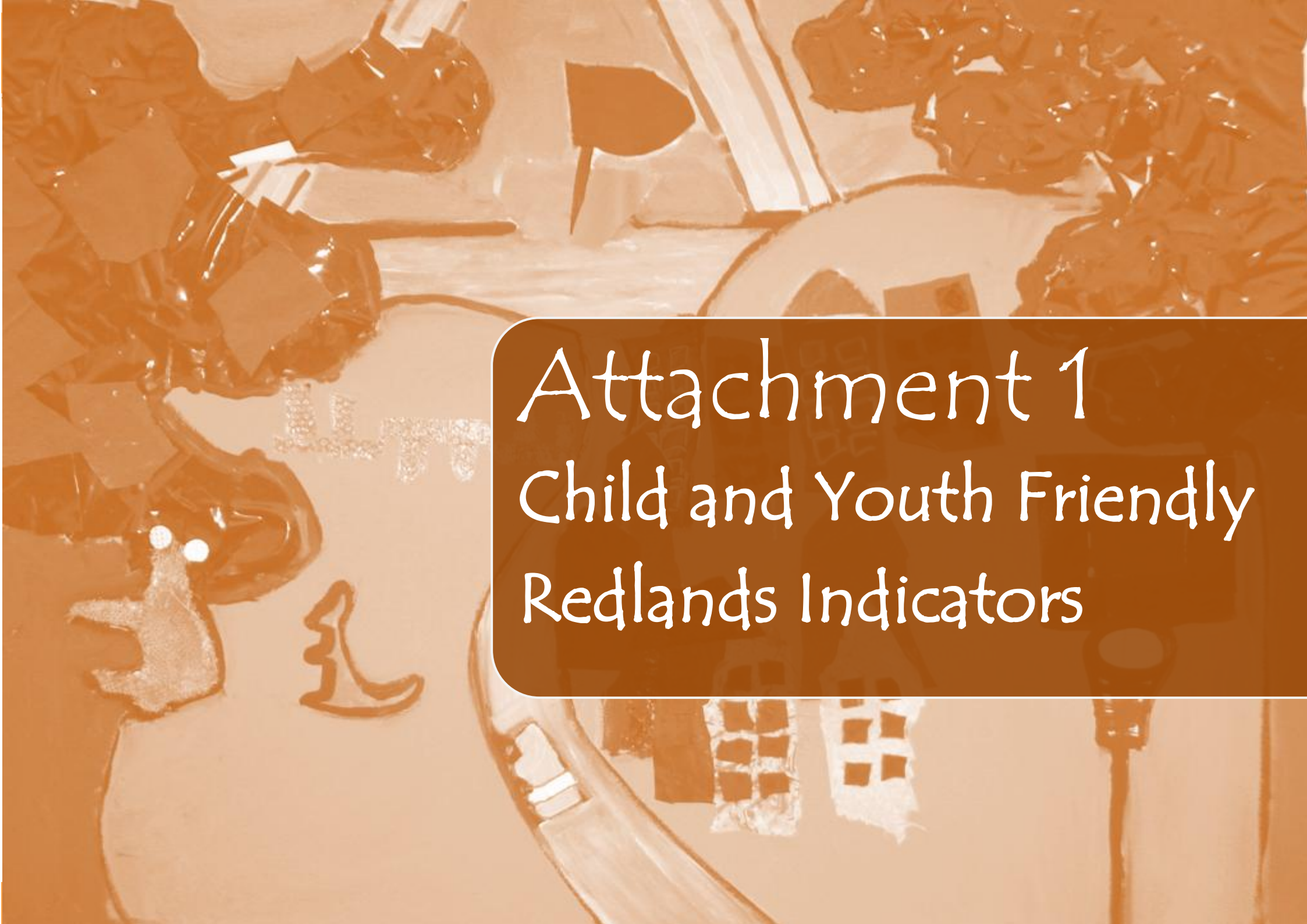
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Attachment 1
Child and Youth Friendly
Redlands Indicators



Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Indicators

Purpose of the indicators: To support the delivery of Council's Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy (POL-3113), guide and report on the performance of Council's policies, programs and practices to ensure they are child and youth friendly

Policy Theme	Current Indicators (RCC Performance Management Framework)	New Indicators	Measurement
1. Child and Youth Friendly Redlands - Council is committed to a city where:			
1.1 Children and young people are valued, supported, respected, provided for and feel included and connected to their communities. Children and young people are able to live well, feel safe and are protected from abuse, neglect and violence	Child care options	Redland SAAP services for children and youth (youth emergency and crisis accommodation, women and children emergency and crisis and family emergency and crisis accommodation)	SAAP data
		NAPLAN results for lower, medium and higher socio-economic Redlands schools	Myschool web site (monitor achievements and gains across similar Redlands schools)
		Children's risk factors for early development - Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) ¹	Track Redlands performance on the AEDI and identify locations in Redlands where children don't reach National averages
		Children at risk of poor health, social and education outcomes (risk indicator) – no/% of children in unemployed households	ABS data at city-wide and local area
		Participation in organised sport and recreation (no/% of children and young people in organised sport)	Establish baseline through Sport Redlands project
		Community health - % immunisation levels (reported to Queensland Health)	Regular reporting through funding agreement
		Choice of accessible, high quality and affordable child care options for families (long day care, family day care, school age care and vacation care)	LGQA/RCC Community Satisfaction Survey (bi-annual) DOC/FACSIA data

¹ Possible Community Indicators Queensland Measure



Policy Theme	Current Indicators (RCC Performance Management Framework)	New Indicators	Measurement
1.2 Children and young people will be supported to develop skills to become active citizens, and be effective in influencing decisions about their City.		No of RCC-led and supported community engagement activities with children and young people's voice considered	RCC Community Engagement Tracker
		Young people involved in decision-making	RCC Young Citizens Program reporting
1.3 Children and young people are recognised as the future stewards of the environment, and have the opportunity to interact with the natural environment to nurture their health and well being, and connection to nature		Children and young people's involvement in community engagement programs (%/no of people and %/no events)	RCC Environmental Education program reporting
1.4 Children and young people's creative and entrepreneurial abilities are supported by access to a choice of opportunities for learning, play, employment and creative expression		Level of youth unemployment and underemployment (trend over time)	Quarterly data sets (by city and SLAs)
		Monitor young people's successful transition to higher education, employment and training (%/no and school- type and location)	DEEDI Myschool website School annual reports
		Number/%/ \$ value of RCC grants that have a child or youth focus	Review of annual grants program
1.5 Through inclusive planning and design, children and young people are able to live in quality urban, rural and island communities, where public spaces are safe, fun and welcoming and circulation paths connect children and young people to a choice of education, transport options, open spaces and activity centres.		Number/% of young who report poor feelings of safety in the city	RCC Public Space Survey (bi-Annual)
		Number/% of young people who report poor community attitude to young people in public spaces	RCC Public Space Survey (bi-Annual)
		Reference to child and youth friendly policy and issues in key Council reports, strategies and plans	Annual review of documents



Policy Theme	Current Indicators (RCC Performance Management Framework)	New Indicators	Measurement
2. Sustainable, effective, clever and caring organization, Redland City Council is committed to:			
2.1 Ensuring an organisational culture which is open to ideas and contributions from children and young people in accordance with the aspirations of the Redlands 2030 Community Plan, and the objectives of the Corporate Plan		Choice of child and youth-led and focussed activities and programs across Redlands	Annual Community Development Team reporting (quarterly/annual review)
2.2 Identifying and nurturing community and organizational champions and breakthrough projects which demonstrate child and youth friendly principles, operations and design		Adoption of Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Design Guide	Audit of report and project briefs Consideration in Redlands Planning Scheme Review
2.3 Proactively working to support the city's development as a great place for children to grow-up, where young people develop a strong local identity, are connected to their local communities and make a positive contribution to community life.		Adoption of Child and Youth Friendly Redland Indicator Set LGAQ/RCC Community Satisfaction Survey: - satisfaction with children and youth services	Regular reporting through PMF Continued through bi-annual survey and benchmarked against Queensland LGAs
3. Indicators for scoping and research purposes			
3.1 Health and well-being of children and young people		Community Indicators Queensland (when established)	Publicly available
3.2 Children and young people are valued, supported, respected and provided for.		No of youth support services easily accessible to Redlands children and youth by public transport Child and Youth Mental and Sexual Health Services in Redlands No of Council child and youth facilities in the Redlands by local areas No of Council leases for children and youth oriented organisations (Girl Guides, Scouts, others)	Disparate data sets Council data (facilities and leases)



Policy Theme	Current Indicators (RCC Performance Management Framework)	New Indicators	Measurement
<p>3.3 Children and young people feel included and connected to their communities.</p>	<p>How the community feels about its capacity to have a say on decisions affecting Redlands</p> <p>Increase the percentage of people who feel they have the opportunity to access high quality clear information</p> <p>Number of Council and community partnership initiatives</p> <p>Broadband access</p> <p>Online engagement</p>	<p>Parent toilets in Council facilities</p> <p>Council sponsorships, grants and project funds for children and young people</p> <p>Council expenditure on repairs due to vandalism at Council child and youth facilities</p> <p>Public and private play spaces in activity centres</p> <p>Participation of children and young people in age appropriate organisations and clubs (guides, scouts etc)</p> <p>Availability of bike racks at Redlands activity centres</p>	<p>Youth survey</p> <p>Council proportional investment in children and youth events, programs and projects</p> <p>Engagement Tracker</p> <p>Expenditure on graffiti removal</p> <p>Expenditure on repairs due to vandalism at child and youth facilities</p> <p>Publicly available information</p> <p>Disparate data sets</p>
<p>3.4 Children and young people are able to live well.</p>	<p>Physical Activity</p> <p>Youth Participation</p> <p>Australian Early Childhood Development Index (AECDI)</p> <p>Social Inequality</p> <p>Domestic Violence</p> <p>Community Health Indicators</p>	<p>% Redlands Families in rental accommodation</p> <p>% Redlands Families with dependent children living in poverty</p> <p>% Redlands children of pensioners and beneficiaries as % of all children 0-15 years</p>	<p>Some publicly available information (Census and Qhealth)</p> <p>AECDI data-</p> <p>Disparate data sets</p>
<p>3.5 Children and young people feel safe</p>	<p>Community feeling on safety and crime</p>	<p>No of sporting organisations for children and young people in Redlands</p> <p>Availability of affordable, accessible child immunization services</p>	<p>Youth Survey</p> <p>Crime Statistics</p>



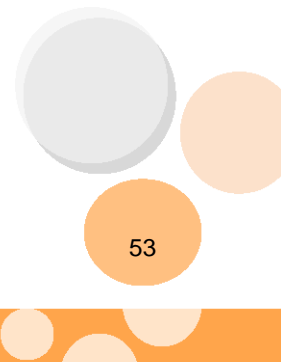
Policy Theme	Current Indicators (RCC Performance Management Framework)	New Indicators	Measurement
3.6 Children and young people are protected from abuse, neglect and violence		Recorded incidence of family violence	Magistrates Court data QHealth Dept of Child Safety
3.7 Children and young people will be supported to develop skills to become active citizens.	Youth leadership	Child protection notifications Child and youth mortality in Redlands No of children in care in Redlands as % of all Redlands children Rate of child and youth fostering in the Redlands	Council data Child Safety Magistrates Court
3.8 Children and young people will be effective in influencing decisions about their City.	Overall number of engagements Increase the percentage of people who feel they have the opportunity to have a say about important issues	Rate of participation of Redlands youth in Y Talk Rate of participation of Redlands youth in Youth Forum Availability of youth leadership opportunities in Redlands	Youth Survey Review specific cases (engagement and outcome)
3.9 Children and young people are recognized as the future stewards of the environment.		Participation of children and young people in local environmental initiatives (community based re-vegetation programs, Clean Up Australia Days, nature based walking, bird watching and other defined activity groups)	Council data Disparate data sets
3.10 Children and young people have the opportunity to interact with the natural environment to nurture their health and wellbeing and connection to nature.		Total area of land in Redlands in nature conservation tenure or conservation agreements (nature refuge, others) that is publicly accessible No of Indigiscapes children and youth programs Percentage of Redlands natural areas accessible to residents (from home) by walking (800m), cycling and public transport	Council data



Policy Theme	Current Indicators (RCC Performance Management Framework)	New Indicators	Measurement
<p>3.11 Children and young people's creative and entrepreneurial abilities are supported by access to a choice of opportunities for learning, play, employment and creative expression.</p>	<p>TAFE courses</p> <p>University work placements</p> <p>Griffith University remote service delivery study</p> <p>School population</p> <p>School attainment</p> <p>International students</p> <p>Youth unemployment</p> <p>School retention rates</p>	<p>% 15-19 year old residents engaged in education, training or employment</p> <p>% 19 year olds who have completed year 12</p> <p>Young, employed Redlands resident who are employed in Redlands</p> <p>Redlands School enrolments (State and private schools)</p> <p>Availability of youth employment in Redlands (report on employment sectors and casual employment opportunities, apprenticeships etc)</p> <p>Availability of post-school options for young people with disabilities (in the Redlands)</p> <p>The range of public play places (nature based play, playgrounds) in the Redlands</p> <p>Play places and facilities for young people with disabilities in the Redlands</p> <p>Youth oriented retailing in the Redlands</p> <p>Opportunities for child and youth participation in the Redlands in affordable visual arts, creative writing and dance activities</p>	<p>Rates of Fully engaged, Partly and Disengaged school leavers (Census data)</p> <p>Employment and industry data (Census data)</p> <p>No of Redlands retail outlets with majority youth oriented products (gaming, skating, surf outlets)</p> <p>Publicly available information</p> <p>Disparate data sets</p>



Policy Theme	Current Indicators (RCC Performance Management Framework)	New Indicators	Measurement
<p>3.12 Through inclusive planning and design, children and young people are able to live in quality urban, rural and island communities where public spaces are safe, fun and welcoming and</p> <p>Circulation paths connect children and young people to a choice of education, transport options, open spaces and activity centres.</p>	<p>Shared planning/partnership with Quandamooka</p> <p>Total area of open space in the city per head of population</p> <p>Infrastructure for walking and cycling</p> <p>Total length of walking and cycling paths in Redlands</p> <p>No of community education activities on green living</p> <p>Availability of public transport</p> <p>Usage of public transport</p> <p>Quality of Life Data for Island communities (<i>wellbeing indicators for children and young Island residents</i>)</p>	<p>Affordability of public transport for children and young people</p> <p>Availability of affordable transport to defined activity centres</p>	<p>Relative costs of public transport in Redlands (distance by cost for child and youth concessions)</p> <p>Availability of PT travel concessions for children and young people (trains, buses, ferries)</p> <p>No of private security officers in activity centres</p>
<p>3.13 Ensuring an organizational culture which is open to ideas and contributions from children and young people.</p>	<p>Overall number of engagements</p>	<p>Council use of social media</p>	<p>Range of social media deployed by Council to support engagement activities</p>





Policy Theme	Current Indicators (RCC Performance Management Framework)	New Indicators	Measurement
<p>3.14 Identifying and nurturing community and organizational champions and breakthrough projects which demonstrate child and youth friendly principles, operations and design.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Child and Youth Friendly Design Guidelines</p>	<p>Council staff participation in Child and Youth Friendly Design Guide training</p> <p>No of Council, State and private projects in the Redlands that demonstrate child and youth friendly operations and design</p>	<p>Council data</p>
<p>3.15 Proactively working to support the city's development as a great place for children to grow-up, where young people develop a strong local identity are connected to their local communities and make a positive contribution to community life.</p>	<p>Visitors to RPAC and libraries</p>	<p>Children and young people as percentage of Council library members</p> <p>Children and youth programs offered by Leisure and Recreation and Community development</p> <p>Council Library programs for children and youth</p> <p>Council Gallery programs for children and youth</p> <p>RPAC programs and productions for children and young people</p>	<p>Council data</p>



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Version number	Date	Key Changes
3	30 August 2011	Minor administrative changes ie the change from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New paragraph for <i>Redland City Council is Committed to</i>: on page 2 and; Numbering 1, 2, 3 for the sentences directly after this paragraph

Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Policy

Head of Power

This policy supports:

1. *Redlands 2030 Community Plan's* Strong and Connected Communities Outcome: Goal 5 where the Redlands is recognised as a great place to grow-up. Providing accessible and affordable community facilities, services, programs, activities and events, designed by, with and for children and young people. The plan encourages children and young people to feel included, display their cultures and interact in a safe environment.
2. *Redland City Council Corporate Plan 2010-2015 Strategy 7.5* which seeks to achieve strong and connected communities by increasing children and young people's active participation in community life and supporting their social, cultural and physical development.
3. *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031*, particularly Desired Regional Outcome 6 Strong Communities which promotes the development of cohesive, inclusive and healthy communities have a strong sense of identity and place, and access to a full range of services and facilities that meet diverse community needs.
4. *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* including that governments have the responsibility to take all available measures to make sure children's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled, and that views, well-being and aspirations of children and young people are considered in decision-making. These rights are supported by the policies and practices contained in the *UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Framework for Action*.

Policy Objective

This policy will guide continuous improvement in the development and delivery of Council's policies, programs and practices to ensure they are child and youth friendly.

Policy Statement

Child and Youth Friendly Redlands

Redland City Council is committed to a city where:

1. Children and young people are valued, supported, respected, provided for and feel included and connected to their communities. Children and young people are able to live well, feel safe and are protected from abuse, neglect and violence.

Department: Governance
 Group: Community Futures
 Approved: Administrative changes approved by Mayor & CEO
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2. Children and young people will be supported to develop skills to become active citizens, and be effective in influencing decisions about their City.
3. Children and young people are recognised as the future stewards of the environment, and have the opportunity to interact with the natural environment to nurture their health and well being, and connection to nature.
4. Children and young people's creative and entrepreneurial abilities are supported by access to a choice of opportunities for learning, play, employment and creative expression
5. Through inclusive planning and design, children and young people are able to live in quality urban, rural and island communities, where public spaces are safe, fun and welcoming and circulation paths connect children and young people to a choice of education, transport options, open spaces and activity centres.

Sustainable, effective, clever and caring organisation

Redland City Council is committed to:

1. Ensuring an organisational culture which is open to ideas and contributions from children and young people in accordance with the aspirations of the Redlands 2030 Community Plan, and the objectives of the Corporate Plan.
2. Identifying and nurturing community and organisational champions and breakthrough projects which demonstrate child and youth friendly principles, operations and design.
3. Proactively working to support the city's development as a great place for children to grow-up, where young people develop a strong local identity, are connected to their local communities and make a positive contribution to community life.

Measuring progress

The Policy is supported by a set of Redlands Child and Youth Friendly City indicators. These indicators will assist in the monitoring of the policy's performance and will be integrated with Council's accepted measurement programs.

Related documents:

Strong Communities Policy – POL 3087
 Redlands Youth Forum Policy – POL 3021
 Community Safety Policy – POL 3034
 Community Engagement Policy – POL 3053

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Redland
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