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Redland City Council wins prestigious national planning award for creating a child-friendly city

Redland City Council has been acclaimed by the Planning Institute of Australia for its ground-breaking planning tools, developed to create a child and youth friendly city.

The “Best Planning Ideas” category was awarded to the Redland City Council planning team, along with its project partners, Griffith University, Laurel Johnson, and Play Environment Consulting.

The judges commented that they saw the project as a valuable case study for other city planners to consider.

The project was recognised as ground-breaking because of the unique way the tools were developed and the integration of the tools into the practical, day-to-day workings across all of Council, rather than simply creating new youth service areas.

In developing the Child and Youth Friendly City policies, guidelines and success-measurement tools for Council, the project team consulted with - and were inspired by - young people’s ideas and enthusiasm.

Special techniques were used to genuinely understand the children’s point of view, such as using art to visualise and effectively communicate their vision for their community. The team also literally walked down Redlands streets with a child to better understand how children see, and are affected by, the environment around them.

There were many factors which motivated the team’s development of a child and youth friendly city planning policy, however, one of the key factors is the increasing challenge of modern-day childhood in western societies.

The incidence of childhood obesity, risk anxiety, security concerns and the associated decrease in children’s physical activity is being seen as a risk to the well-being of our children.

These planning tools are designed to help reverse these impacts and to respect the needs and the voice of young people in our community.