

PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to provide a local system of strategic direction and good governance to the planning of our city as a 'child and family friendly city' that will provide positive outcomes for our children and city's future. This leadership is committed to fulfilling children's rights and acknowledges the approach identified by the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child¹.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all areas of council decision making frameworks and will guide services, projects, policy and planning to address issues of education, health and well being for children in Wodonga.

DEFINITIONS

Child Friendly City Policy refers to children aged from birth to eight years.

POLICY

Wodonga Council acknowledges the crucial importance of the early years in providing the foundations for positive outcomes in life. Council will work in partnership with families, the service sector and wider community to support the development of Wodonga's children into happy, healthy and resilient young people. Children within the city will be seen as having equal rights as adults and this aim reflects the community's vision that all children will have the opportunity to optimise their health, development and wellbeing.

Wodonga Council will work to develop, design and foster a community where:

- Children have good access to basic services;
- Policies, resource allocation and governance is considered in the best interests of children;
- There is the provision and development of safe environments and conditions that nurture the development of children;
- Council strives to create a sustainable future – equitable social and economic conditions and protection from the effects of environmental hazards;

¹ Convention on the Rights of the Child - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights 1989

- Children participate in family, cultural, community and social life;
- Children have the right to participate in decision making that affects their lives;
- Special attention is be given to vulnerable children;
- Policy and governance is non-discriminatory (gender, religion, ethnicity, economic and social); and
- Families are recognised and supported for their important role of parenting.

Wodonga Council will provide leadership through:

- Building the capacity of the community to advocate for children;
- Undertaking service activities based on state and commonwealth policy direction and incorporating current research findings;
- Seeking additional funding opportunities to enhance services and participate in research;
- Lobbying at all levels of government to influence policy, funding and environments that improve planning and services for children and their families;
- The dissemination of information that supports the community to advance the health and well being of children; and
- Taking a lead role in the promotion and support of health and well being initiatives.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

RELATED POLICIES

Nil

RELATED LEGISLATION

Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 was ratified by the Australian government in December 1990. This means that Australia has a duty to ensure that all children in Australia enjoy the rights set out in the treaty.

REFERENCES

Nil

REVIEW

Council may review this policy at any time but unless otherwise requested at least every four years from date of adoption. Minor amendments to the policy may be authorised by the CEO at any time where such changes do not alter the substance of the policy eg: typographical errors, a change to the name of a related policy, or a change to the name of legislation.

Title:	Child Friendly City Policy
Reference No:	00315
Business Unit:	Recreation & Early Years - Early Years
Category:	Policy
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Approved By:	Council at its meeting of May 14, 2012
Next Review:	May 14, 2016