Kingston Family and Children’s Strategy 2013–17
(Incorporating the Municipal Early Years Plan)
A plan for Kingston families with children aged from birth to 12 years of age
What is the Family and Children’s Strategy?

Local government has a key role to play in local area family and children’s service planning. Kingston City Council has played an active role in the planning, development, and implementation of two previous Municipal Early Years Plans, 2005-2008 and 2009-2012. The Family & Children’s Strategy forms part of a number of Council strategies that support healthier, safer and more active lifestyles for children and families.

The Strategy is designed to provide the strategic direction for the development and co-ordination of services, programs and other activities that impact on the development of all children aged 0–12 years who live in the City of Kingston. The Strategy will assist Council and community service organisations make decisions about the allocation of resources to meet the needs of children and families who live in the municipality.
What is the vision and objective for the Family and Children’s Strategy?

The vision the Kingston City Council has for families and children in the City of Kingston is that;

• Children have the best possible start in life;

• Children’s rights and views are reflected in policies, laws, programs and resource allocation;

• Strong partnerships create an environment that will maximise the development of children and their families; and

• The City of Kingston is developed in a manner that takes account of the needs and aspirations of children and their families.

This vision will be achieved through actions that relate to the following objectives:

• Work in partnership with the community to enhance the wellbeing of children aged 0-12 years and their families through improved information provision and active participation;

• Create natural and urban environments that enhance the City of Kingston as a child and family friendly city; and

• Promote access to inclusive family and children’s services and facilities that meet the current and future demand.
How was the Family and Children’s Strategy developed?

The Family and Children’s Strategy was developed by:

- Reviewing international research;
- Reviewing international, Federal and State policies;
- Reviewing health and social data;
- Developing the Family and Children’s Partnership to guide the development of the Strategy;
- Extensive community consultation; and
- Reviewing a range of Council strategic plans.

Diagram 1 - Council’s Planning Framework
Community consultation

During the development of the Strategy, Council consulted with:

- Families with children aged from birth up to twelve years of age;
- Service providers; and
- The Family and Children’s Services Partnership (including parents, service providers and children).

What did the consultation tell Council?

The main issues raised in the consultation includes:

- The high demand for services that don’t match service capacity, resulting in waiting lists;
- Access to affordable services;
- The need for families to have more information about the types of services available to them;
- The lack of services for children aged six-twelve years; and
- The condition of many of the family and children’s services buildings and infrastructure.
What can families expect from this Strategy?

Theme 1: Informed, active and healthy families.
Objective: To work in partnership with the community to enhance the wellbeing of children aged 0-12 years and their families through improved information provision and active participation.

Theme 2: Physical environment and safety.
Objective: To create natural and urban environments that enhance Kingston as a child and family friendly city.

Theme 3: Inclusive family and children’s services and facilities.
Objective: To promote access to inclusive family and children’s services and facilities that meet current and future demand.
For more information

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or visit the website
🌐 www.kingston.vic.gov.au