



City of
KINGSTON

Kingston's

Family and Children's Strategy

2020-2024



What is the Family and Children's Strategy?

THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S STRATEGY 2020-2024 (INCORPORATING THE MUNICIPAL EARLY YEARS PLAN) IS A LOCAL PLAN THAT AIMS TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0 – 12 YEARS IN THE CITY OF KINGSTON; INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION OF EDUCATION AND CARE, HEALTH SERVICES, ACTIVITIES AND OTHER LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Council's role in the early years largely focuses on:

- Planning and coordination
- Service provision
- Facility planning
- Advocacy
- Strengthening community capacity.



How was the Family and Children's strategy developed?

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S STRATEGY HAS BEEN LARGELY GUIDED BY EXISTING, NEW AND EMERGING STATE AND COMMONWEALTH POLICY DIRECTIONS.

We've also reflected on social and demographic data, previous strategies and achievements.

We also checked in with the community to make sure we are on the right track.



Why invest in the early years?

THERE IS A LARGE BODY OF RESEARCH DEMONSTRATING THAT INVESTING TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN ALL ASPECTS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT BRINGS LONG-TERM BENEFITS TO CHILDREN OVER THE COURSE OF THEIR LIVES AND TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

In Australia, the need to invest in early childhood was formally recognised in 2009 by the Council of Australian Governments with its endorsement of Investing in the Early Years – A National Early Childhood Development Strategy (COAG 2009). This strategy articulated a vision that, by 2020, ‘all children have the best start in life to create a better future for themselves and for the nation’.

All Australian governments have committed to increase children’s participation in high-quality Early Childhood Education and Care with a specific focus on increasing participation of Indigenous and disadvantaged children.



Our services

TO DATE COUNCIL HAS INVESTED OVER \$20 MILLION INTO QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOUR INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND THE UPGRADE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF OVER 14 COMMUNITY OPERATED KINDERGARTEN FACILITIES.

Council also directly provides a range of services for children and families including:

- Maternal and Child Health Services and Immunisation;
- Supported Playgroups;
- Early childhood education and care services;
- Family Day Care;
- Family Support; and
- School Aged Care programs.



our track-record

A SNAP SHOT OF OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S STRATEGY 2013-2017 INCLUDES THAT:

81%



81% of all Council owned early years education and care facilities were developed, redeveloped or upgraded

+9



The number of supported playgroups delivered by Council has increased from 2 to 11 sessions per week

97%



97% of families are offered a funded sessional kindergarten place at the kindergarten of their first preference



What do we plan to do now?

FOR THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S STRATEGY 2020-2024 WE WILL DEVELOP A NEW ACTION PLAN EVERY YEAR TO STRENGTHEN OUR CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO EMERGING TRENDS AND CHANGES TO STATE AND COMMONWEALTH POLICY DIRECTION.

Our objectives are:

1. Respond to changing community needs and government policy directions;
2. Position our most vulnerable children and families at the heart of our service delivery; and
3. Continuously improve our systems, process and staff capability.



For more information

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 kingston.vic.gov.au

