



## FOLLOW UP PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY – CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

### Additional Questions

#### Responses from Wollongong City Council:

Please find below Wollongong City Councils response to the additional information requested by the Parliamentary Committee.

#### ***Question 1:***

Has the Council worked with the Commission on other joint projects in terms of providing policy assistance or other support. Has the Council completed any projects initiated by the Commission?

#### ***Response:***

Council has been involved in two “child friendly” projects with the Commission for Children & Young People as outlined below:

#### ➤ **Project 1**

##### *Built4kids*

Wollongong City Council along with a number of other Councils was invited to trial the child friendly indicators in an aspect of their work and provide feedback to the Commission on both the indicators and the draft document.

#### ➤ **Project 2**

##### *Child Friendly Communities Project*

Wollongong City Council formed a partnership with the Commission to

- Undertake a review of current procedures, policies and practices used in Councils planning work in relation to the built environment.
- Analyse the work in some other jurisdictions.
- Identify opportunities for improvements to existing processes and implement as appropriate.
- Provide documentation in the form of reports to assist the Commission to develop a generic tool for other local governments.

The Commission provided funds to Wollongong City Council to support the delivery of this project.

**Question 2:**

Have issues relating to child friendly communities received more mainstream consideration in Council development in recent years. To what extent does built4kids inform development policies and decision-making processes at the Council?

**Response**

The Child Friendly Initiative has received considerable support within Council in the past three years. This is evidenced in:

- Council giving a formal undertaking to progress the Child Friendly Initiative. This commitment is included in two of the organisations strategic plans that drive Council's activities for the coming years, the Management Plan 2009-12 and the Social Plan 2007-12.
- There has been an increased recognition of the importance of consulting with children and young people in built environment projects. It is now common place to consult with children in relation to developments such as playground design and skate park facilities as well as consider children and young people in the development of Council facilities and the revitalisation of public space.
- The importance of children's right to play and recreation is a key consideration in the development of the draft playground strategy.
- Children's participation in public art projects has increased with examples including the tree guards, artwork within playgrounds, murals at key recreations facilities.
- There has also been a general increase in awareness and commitment to considering children and young people in land-use planning.

The *Built4kids* document is used as a resource for Council Officers and is useful for new staff who may have limited knowledge of the child friendly initiative.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Tracy Venaglia, Co-ordinator Community Development and Social Planning on tel 4227 7017 or email [tvenaglia@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tvenaglia@wollongong.nsw.gov.au).