

Submission 6 Children, Young People and the Built Environment

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Submission

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Inquiry into Children, Young People and the Built Environment

Submission

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Trends, changes and issues for children and young people in the development, implementation and coordination of policy, design and planning for the built environment.

With children and young people constituting 30-40% of the population and being integral to our future society it is imperative that the built environment reflects the fact that they are valued members of their community.

Research has demonstrated that being connected to their community is a strong resilience factor for children and young people. The built environment provides the perfect forum to do this by involving young people throughout the design and planning process and by an end result which demonstrates their value in the community.

How can the built environment demonstrate children and young people's value?

- Youth specific venues and areas such as youth services, skate parks and other recreational facilities should be visible in the community and not located in isolated areas
- Young people should be provided with safe recreational areas. Measures such as 40km zones reinforce this.
- In response to diminishing public space, young people should be provided with safe, public recreational spaces. To do this it must be recognized that young people do indeed have the right to congregate in groups in public spaces and have as much right to use public spaces as any other community members.
- The need for recreational areas is also emerging as a highly important factor with the increasing prevalence of childhood obesity.

Strategies to ensure that built environment issues affecting children and young people are readily identified and receive coordinated attention across portfolios and different levels of government.

Strategies need also to be in place to educate children and young people on how they can be active participants have their concerns heard. There needs to be more emphasis placed on education on the means and avenues available to children and young people so that they are able to identify their own issues as well.

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