



Darebin City Council Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2021-2041: draft plan at a glance

Council is developing a long-term plan to make sure Darebin has the buildings and spaces it needs to provide equitable access to the essential services young children and their families need to thrive. We are now seeking feedback from the community and early years service providers on the draft Early Years Infrastructure Plan.

The Plan focuses on the facilities Darebin needs to provide key services and programs for children aged 0-6 and their families including Maternal and Child Health services, kindergarten, long day care, occasional care, playgroups and toy libraries.

Guiding Principles - the Plan includes the following principles to guide decision-making:

- **Equity** - enabling all children and families can thrive
- **Access** - facilities that are accessible for all children and families
- **Diversity and inclusion** - facilities that are welcoming and inclusive for all
- **Choice** - letting families choose the services that suit them best
- **Quality** - high quality facilities for high quality services
- **Integration** - supporting collaborative and integrated service provision
- **Whole of community approach** - providing benefit to the whole community
- **Community engagement** - being guided by the views of the community
- **Environmental sustainability** - sustainable and resilient facilities
- **Access to natural environments** - enabling children to play and learn in nature
- **Arts and creative culture** - connecting children to arts and culture
- **Economic development** - delivering social, economic and environmental value from our investments

Summary of Actions - the Plan includes the following key actions:

- Ensure existing early years facilities are used to the optimum level to provide more services and community use.
- Address functionality issues at Council's existing early years facilities.
- Expand existing early years facilities to provide additional capacity where required.
- Re-purpose other Council properties for early years service delivery where feasible.
- Plan to build new Council facilities in areas of high demand, including new Intergenerational Hubs and Early Years Hubs.
- Pursue advocacy and partnership strategies to deliver investment in early years facilities from a range of public and private sources.
- Consolidate Maternal and Child Health (MCH) locations so all MCH services are located at two-room facilities integrated with other services.
- Review demand for Occasional Care and identify options to increase supply if required.
- Review demand for playgroup spaces and identify options to increase supply if required.
- Address infrastructure needs identified by the Toy Library review.

Please provide your feedback on the principles and actions in the draft Plan by completing an online survey at www.yoursaydarebin.com.au/eyip or call 8470 8419. Provide your feedback by 14 November 2021.