

Darebin Families Youth and Children Strategy

– Action Planning process

Fact sheet

1. Families Youth and Children Strategy

Endorsed by Council in August 2024, the [Families, Youth and Children Strategy](#) aims to enable Council and partners to take a long-term strategic approach to improving outcomes for children and young people aged 0-25 years and their families. The strategy provides a framework for action that supports Council, community and a wide range of partners to work together to make a difference to the lives of children, young people and families.

The actions areas of the strategy are outlined below:

Essentials for life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supports with basic needs including childcare, education, housing supports, food relief and financial supports are available and accessible when needed, including wrap-around supports for those who need them.• Darebin has strong partnerships and advocacy to improve access to affordable housing for young people and families in our community.• The causes of youth homelessness are addressed so that no young person ends up homeless.• Young people understand their rights as workers and those rights are respected by employers.• Young people are supported to identify and achieve their employment and career aspirations.• Young people and families know what benefits and supports they are entitled to and are supported to access them.
Inclusion & belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing places, spaces and activities that support connection for children, young people and families.• Working together to activate our places, spaces and services to create more opportunities for connection and belonging.• Making Darebin a community where everyone can find a group or community where they feel they belong, whatever their interests.• Places, spaces, activities and services that are safe, welcoming and inclusive for all children, young people and families, including neurodivergent people, LGBTQIA+ people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally diverse communities, people with disabilities and anyone else who may be marginalised or excluded.• Increased connection across generations and cultures – weaving the community together
Health & wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental health support is available when and where children, young people and families need it.• Children, young people and families have equitable access to a wide range of affordable physical activity opportunities to match their interests.• Children, young people and families have access to thriving natural environments that support wellbeing.• Children, young people and families have access to the health services they need.• Services and organisations across Darebin work together to promote social and emotional wellbeing and mental health for children, young people and families.
Safety & independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Darebin is a place where everyone feels physically, culturally, emotionally and psychologically safe, at home and in the community.• Prevention of family violence and all forms of violence against women, gender diverse people and children.• Children are safe and protected from harm online.• Public spaces and places are safe and welcoming for all children and young people.• All services are culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families.• Child Safe Standards are a high priority for all Darebin services.• Accessible and safe active and public transport supporting independence and wellbeing.• Children, young people and families are more aware of the supports available to assist them to be safe in their community.• Reduce unnecessary barriers and restrictions on children and young people's independence and autonomy to enable them to access the services and supports they need.
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All children and young people in Darebin have access to high quality care, education and learning opportunities from the early years through to young adulthood. Access to education and learning is not limited by socioeconomic or structural barriers.• Increased active participation and engagement in learning across the lifespan including kindergarten, school and other education and training.• Children, young people and their families are well supported throughout their education journeys including through all of the critical transition points.• Children, young people are equipped with the skills they need to succeed in life, are aware of the pathways available to them and receive the support they need to make choices about their next steps.

How do we work together?

The Strategy is a reference and a tool which we will use in our collaboration going forward to:

- Align action towards the issues that are most significant for children, young people and families in Darebin (as shared via our consultation process).
- Develop Action Plans to guide the actions that Council and partners will take to deliver on the aims outlined in this Strategy.
- Hold ourselves collectively account to deliver on the priorities that the community has identified.
- Advocate for action by others where they are in a position to influence change.
- Extend and strengthen our collaboration, bringing in new partners who can help us address the action areas and priorities.

What role does Council play?

Five key roles outlined by the Municipal Association of Victoria	Roles partners have asked Council to play
<p>Planning and coordination – acting as a key coordination point and community planner for services and activities that support children, young people, and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide platforms for collaboration and community action. • Facilitate connections and information sharing between services to improve service coordination and access. • Provide coordination and support to facilitate collaboration and action. • Data collection and analysis. • Provide funding to services, groups and programs for Families, Youth & Children.
<p>Service provision – delivering a range of programs, activities, and initiatives for children, young people, and families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the ideas put forward by community and stakeholders
<p>Facility planning – planning, providing, and maintaining a range of infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve buildings, facilities and parks.
<p>Advocacy – lobbying and advocating to state and federal governments and other key stakeholders on behalf of children, young people and their families, and the services that support them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for funding and support from other levels of government.
<p>Strengthening community capacity – facilitating community connections and community participation in decision-making, including supporting children and young people's role as active citizens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genuine and meaningful engagement, listen to the community and stakeholders. • Provide platforms for collaboration and community action.

What role do our partner organisations play?

Partner organisations who participated in the Stakeholder Summit in February 2024, articulated a set of key roles that they can play in improving outcomes for children, young people and families in collaboration with Council and each other:

- Continued engagement in strategy development: raising issues and sharing information
- Holding Council and other partners to account.
- Supporting or providing inclusive services and spaces for all children and families.
- Building connections, sharing information and collaborating across sectors.
- Listening to young people, creating more space for their voices to be heard.
- Advocating for the needs of children, young people and families.
- Implementing agreed actions.

2. The action planning process

What are the aims of the action planning process?

The goal of the action planning process is to develop a two-year action plan that harnesses the collective effort of Council and partners in working towards the aims of each of the Strategy action areas outlined earlier.

What is involved in the action planning process?

1. Pre-workshop homework	With reference to all relevant action areas, chat to management and colleagues to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What new initiatives or projects are you undertaking over the next 2 years?• Are there opportunities to undertake other initiatives or projects if you had additional support?• What kind of support is needed to get these initiatives/projects off the ground?• What would success look like?
2. Workshop 1 10 March 9.30am-12.30pm Darebin Arts Centre	Identifying potential actions and opportunities with and between stakeholder organisations.
3. Online collaboration	Providing input and feedback on potential actions and opportunities online, allowing for further discussions before workshop 2.
4. Workshop 2 24 March 9.30am-11am Darebin Arts Centre	Review and solidification of actions.
5. Follow up	Council will follow up with partner organisations to finalise collaborative actions for inclusion in the plan.

Who should come to the workshops?

Representatives from your organisation that have an excellent working knowledge of current, upcoming or potential projects and initiatives and have some ability to provide in-principle authorisation to further explore ideas developed during the workshops are best-placed to attend. Council will follow up with attendees about potential actions after each workshop so there is opportunity for you to go back and discuss with colleagues and management following workshops.

Any questions or feedback?

You can contact [Seb Cunningham](#), Coordinator Community Planning and Initiatives on 0413 041 733.