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## 1. Statement

Children, young people and families are central to Ipswich’s identity, growth and success. All of council is responsible for engaging with children, young people and families on matters that affect them.

We share the community’s aspirations for a city where all children, young people and families:

- feel valued and included and have an active role in their community.
- grow up in a clean and healthy environment with a strong connection to nature.
- are supported to live their best, healthy and active lives with access to good nutrition, healthy environments and physical activity opportunities.
- have equal access to affordable activities, services, information and knowledge.
- participate in and learn from a diverse range of local cultural experiences.
- have access to safe and inviting public places, spaces and community facilities.
- have the choice to live, work, play and thrive locally.

## 2. Purpose and Principles

This policy guides Ipswich City Council’s contribution to a child, youth and family-friendly city through our plans, strategies, infrastructure, programs and services. The following principles have been adapted from UNICEF’s guiding principles for a child-friendly city:

- **Participation:** Children, young people and families are engaged and provide input to council and community matters that affect them.
- **Best interests:** The best interests and safety of children, young people and families are central to council planning and program delivery.
- **Health and wellbeing:** Council contributes to the healthy development of children, young people and families by facilitating access to education, natural environments and cultural experiences, good nutrition and physical activity programs and social supports.
- **Inclusion:** Council pays special attention to the needs of children, young people and families that are in disadvantaged circumstances or experience barriers to their participation in city life.

- **Rights:** Council actively recognises and celebrates the rights, diversity, abilities and achievements of all children, young people and families in Ipswich.
- **Responsiveness:** Regular evaluation will ensure council remains responsive to changing needs over time, and anticipates future needs of the city's children, young people and families.

### 3. Strategic Plan Links

This policy aligns with the following iFuture 2021-2026 Corporate Plan themes:

- Vibrant and Growing
- Safe, Inclusive and Creative

This policy also contributes to the 2030 Global Sustainable Development Agenda, particularly Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing, Goal 11: Making cities and settlements safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

### 4. Regulatory Authority

- Local Government Act 2009 (Queensland)
- Human Rights Act 2019 (Queensland)
- Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019 (Queensland)
- Working With Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Queensland)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Queensland)
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Queensland)
- Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Commonwealth)
- Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Commonwealth)
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Commonwealth)

### 5. Human Rights Commitment

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

### 6. Scope

This policy applies to all councillors, council staff, contractors, and others that act on Ipswich City Council's behalf to ensure they work in accordance with the policy principles. This policy does not apply to external agencies and service providers, but reflects a shared aspiration for Ipswich as a city for all children, young people and families.

### 7. Roles and Responsibilities

**Creating a child, youth and family-friendly Ipswich is a shared community responsibility.**

Ipswich City Council has developed this policy and its next steps in a way that reflects shared aspirations for the City of Ipswich.

Implementation of this policy will be demonstrated across three key functions of council:

- **Manage (M):** Through actions that are the direct responsibility of local government. This includes but is not limited to inclusive city design and growth management, environmental and public health controls, local road and traffic network management, and community development programs, and management of council-owned facilities and services such as parks, playgrounds, libraries, community halls, skate parks, art gallery and civic centre, and festivals and events.
- **Support (S):** Through support for other agencies and organisations to deliver strategies, services and programs that contribute to create a child, youth and family-friendly city. This includes working in partnership with key organisations and equitable funding of community-led initiatives through our community funding programs
- **Advocate (A):** Through advocacy to other responsible agencies to deliver strategies, services or programs that better meet the current and future needs of the city's children, young people and families.

The Council is responsible for the approval and advocacy of new projects in line with this policy.

## 8. Key Stakeholders

This policy was developed with input from a cross-council working group and engagement at senior management level across all departments, including Planning and Regulatory Services, Community, Cultural and Economic Development, Infrastructure and Environment, Corporate Services and Coordination and Performance.

Implementation of this policy requires ongoing engagement with key stakeholders across the city's child, youth and families sector, including:

- Ipswich children, young people and families;
- Ipswich Youth Advisory Council;
- Key State and Federal Departments;
- Multi-agency committees;
- Schools and child-care providers;
- Local community services; and
- Local businesses.

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

We will know this policy is working when:

- children, young people and families help to inform how council engages meaningfully with them.
- more children, young people and families have a say on council activities and community matters that affect them, including the evaluation of these activities.
- we have strong media and marketing coverage to celebrate the achievements, abilities and diversity of the city's children, young people and families.
- public spaces and facilities in Ipswich are activated and regularly used by children, young people and families.

- we can report on strategic partnerships and action plans that contribute to improvements in the safety, health and wellbeing of children, young people and families.

## 10. Definitions

### **Children aged under 12 years, including:**

- 0-4 years: babies and pre-schoolers
- 5-11 years: young children, primary schoolers

### **Young people (youth) aged 12-24 years, including:**

- 12-17 years: teenagers, secondary schoolers
- 18-24 years: young adults who may live independently and who may work, take part in study or training, or be unemployed

### **Families**

Families are relationship-based. They can be related biologically, or through marriage, adoption, step, foster or informal care arrangements. A child's family can include parents, carers, grandparents, step-parents, aunts and uncles, foster parents, adoptive parents, or any other significant person that child identifies as their family.

When council analyses and reports on data for families in Ipswich, we will refer to the definition used by the relevant data collection or publishing agency.

### **Child-friendly city**

A child-friendly city (CFC) is a city, town, community or any system of local governance committed to improving the lives of children within their jurisdiction by realising their rights as articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### **Best interests**

The 'best interests' of a child, young person or family can be determined by their expressed views and wishes, and with consideration of their equal rights to safety and protection, culture, health, education and social development.

## 11. Policy Owner

The Strategy and Performance Branch (Office of the CEO) is the policy owner and the Manager, Performance is responsible for authoring and reviewing this policy.