

City of Canterbury

State of the Children Report 2014



City of Canterbury
City of Cultural Diversity

City of Canterbury

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All of the children and youth who participated in our focus groups, and gave us their time in filling out our survey

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All the service providers who gave us their time in agency visits and those who spent time doing the survey

Message from the Mayor and General Manager

We are pleased to present the City of Canterbury's inaugural State of the Children Report.

This report was prepared by Canterbury City Council with the support of students from the University of Sydney over 12 months starting from April 2013.

The City of Canterbury is home to a vibrant and culturally-diverse population, with nearly one quarter (24.68%) of the residents aged under 18 years of age. City of Canterbury is committed to upholding children's rights and, in particular, to making City of Canterbury a Child-Friendly City. Our aim is for children and young people to be active participants in the community, where they are acknowledged as equal citizens and where their opinions are valued. Our city aims to meet the needs of children of all ages.

In order to inform future planning and continue developing our City in child-friendly ways, we needed to assess the current status of our children's overall wellbeing, encompassing health, safety, learning and development, leisure and participation.

This report identifies those areas where we are doing well and areas where improvements can be made, as well as some areas that require more data. Recommendations for future work towards becoming more child friendly are relevant, not just to Council, but to all people living and working in the City of Canterbury.

Children in the City of Canterbury are already doing well in many ways, and we are dedicated to ongoing monitoring of and reporting on their wellbeing. We look forward to a future where all children are healthy, developing and learning well, feel safe, enjoy plenty of natural outdoor spaces and opportunities for leisure, and are able to participate in their communities.

Cr Brian Robson

Mayor

Jim Montague PSM

General Manager

Executive Summary

In 2009 Canterbury City Council endorsed the implementation of the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative. This inaugural State of the Children's Report was produced following consultation with children, families and service providers, as well as research of available statistics and other information relevant to children in our City. The purpose of this report is to assess the degree of support and respect for the rights of children in all areas of their lives, and to assist Council and other agencies involved with children and young people to uphold and advocate for children's rights.

This report examines the general wellbeing of children in the City of Canterbury, according to key themes of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and compares specific indicators across Greater Sydney and New South Wales. The report highlights ways in which Canterbury's children are doing well, while also indicating areas for improvement and gaps in our knowledge, and seeks to provide direction for further development of Canterbury as a Child Friendly City.

Where are we doing well?

- Immunisation of children aged under 2 years
- Focus on mental health issues – need to continue
- Primary school numeracy and literacy results
- Green spaces – large numbers of parks and playgrounds, voted most child friendly
- Children feel safe
- Libraries well utilised
- Quality Early childhood education & care

Where can we improve?

- Immunisation of children aged 5 years
- More health providers and allied health practitioners
- Provision of more affordable and suitable housing
- Continue to clean up the Cooks River, and clean up streets and shopping centres
- Literacy and numeracy in high school students
- Better computers and faster WiFi in libraries
- More youth services across the City
- Upgrade parks and playgrounds and make spaces inclusive of children with disabilities
- Promotion of children's rights, involvement of children in decision making

What gaps are there in our knowledge?

- Immunisation rates for young people
- Numbers of children with disabilities and requiring and/or accessing support services
- Exact numbers of early childhood education & care places available daily
- True picture of preschool aged children and the Australian Early Development Index
- Children in the child protection system: living within vulnerable families or in out of home care
- Numbers of juvenile offenders and types of offence

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PART A

City of Canterbury Children in Context

Introduction and report structure

Overview of the City of Canterbury

City of Canterbury's Roles and Responsibilities

City of Canterbury Strategic Plan

UNICEF Framework for Action

Assists any city to become more child friendly in all aspects of governance, environment and services.

The framework describes nine elements to advise and support local governments in the process.



**“All grown ups started off as children (though few of them remember)”
Antoine de Saint-Exupery “The Little Prince”**

Introduction

In 2009 Canterbury City Council endorsed the implementation of the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative including the development of strategic plans that acknowledge children's rights and incorporate child friendly initiatives across Council.

Using UNICEF's Framework for Action for Building Child Friendly Cities, an Advisory Committee was established to begin working through the steps to ensure a local system of governance, committed to fulfilling children's rights, was developed.

The Advisory Committee comprised a variety of Council staff, a local resident representing the families in Canterbury, and professionals from a range of organisations, including education, recreation, health and welfare, providing services for children & young people across the City. (For the full list of members refer to the Acknowledgements). While there are no children on the committee as yet, they were consulted and their views are incorporated into this report.

In order to develop meaningful policies and strategies for building a child friendly city, the committee needed to start with a sound knowledge base in relation to the current state of affairs regarding Canterbury's children and their rights. For the purposes of this report children are defined as those from birth to 12 years and young people as those teenagers from 13 to 17 years. As well as children and young people, families and professionals were interviewed and/or surveyed for this report (primary research). A range of other reports and statistical information was also consulted (secondary research) for further information and comparison of trends and patterns identified in the primary research.

It also needs to be noted that some of the secondary data accessed includes information in relation to young people older than 17 years, and some 18 and 19 year olds participated in our survey and focus groups. This was considered relevant as they were still either at school or accessing a youth service or both.

Article 1 Definition of the child: **The Convention defines a 'child' as every human being below the age of eighteen years**

Recommendations included in this report are derived from survey and interview responses and as such relate to issues and matters of concern to children living in and attending school or using other services, in the City of Canterbury.

These are discussed in terms of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which incorporates the whole spectrum of human rights. Findings of the report can enable us all to seek improvements in service provision and advocacy in upholding the rights of children and young people, and thereby enabling the City of Canterbury to be recognised as a UNICEF Child Friendly City.

Report Structure

This report largely draws on an ecological model, recognising the child within a family, community and broader society, and with a focus on social capital to support children's wellbeing, as well as a link to the strategic themes of our City Plan.

Social capital is the idea that social networks have value, with social connectedness leading to improvements in economic productivity, safety and a healthier community, especially for children (Morgan, Eastwood & Faniran, 2009). Conversely, growing up in a 'toxic' social environment, such as one where violence, abuse and deprivation are common, can hinder the development and wellbeing of children, adolescents and adults.

A number of factors, including connectedness, have been identified as alleviating social disorder:

- Social support
- Group belonging
- Stable emotional relationships with parents & relatives
- A sense of self-efficacy
- A feeling of safety within a community
- Access to education & academic support
- Open public spaces for children to foster interaction between adults and other children

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) (2012). *The state of the world's children 2012: Children in an Urban World*. New York, USA: Author, p. 62

For a community to exhibit all of these factors means that the community is giving children and youth the best possible opportunities to develop to their maximum potential. Strong social capital is valuable for all of the community, not just children, because it can enhance multiple areas of life including:

- Students perform better when parents are more involved in community affairs
- People with stronger friendship networks are healthier & more likely to be employed
- Involvement in government by civic groups can lead to better decision making
- There is less crime in places where people know their neighbours
- Education systems work better when citizen groups are involved

While the Articles within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are discrete, there are also interrelated themes and it is useful to report on our findings under these broader themes. In this report the Convention and above factors are considered within the following categories of Children's Wellbeing: Health, Learning & Development, Leisure, Safety, and Participation.

Each topic is also related to the strategic themes of our City Plan. Under each heading there will be general information about that theme, information specifically related to services and facilities in the City of Canterbury, information on what Canterbury City Council currently provides, survey and focus group results related to the topic and comments including specific suggestions from participants, and concludes with relevant recommendations.

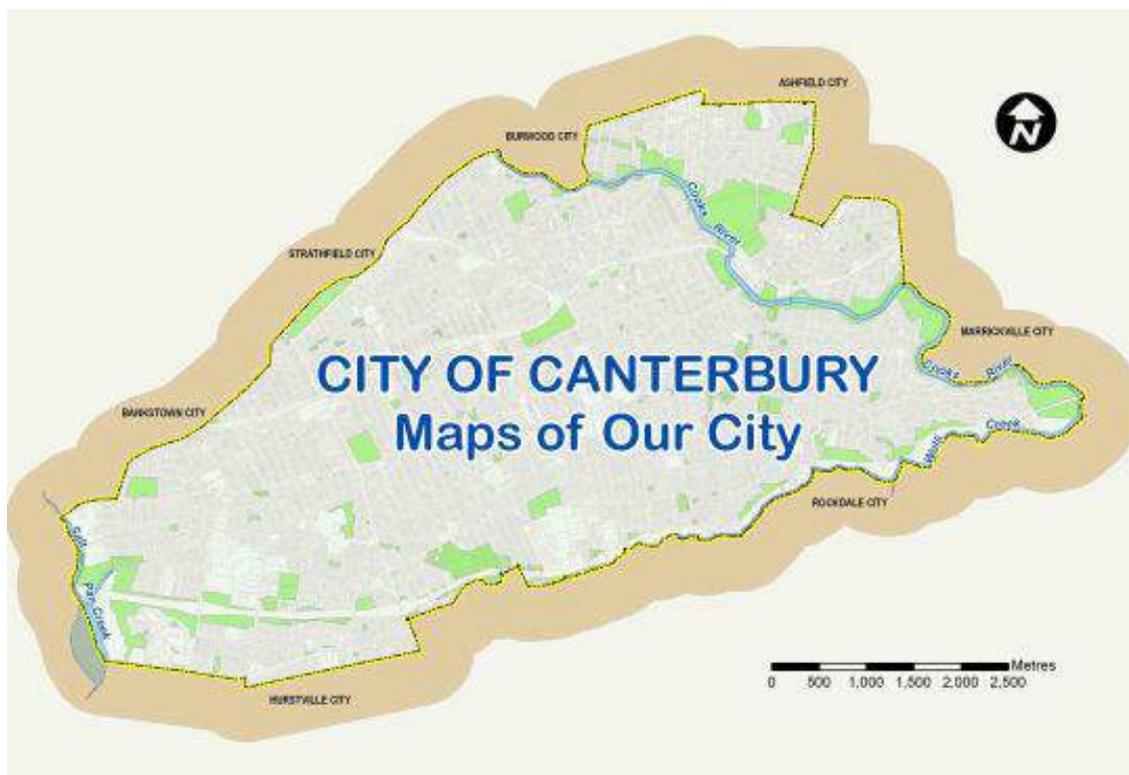
Overview of the City of Canterbury

The City of Canterbury is a culturally, socially and economically diverse local government area of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. It is located approximately 17 kilometres south-west of the Sydney CBD. There is a total population of 137,449 including 32,115 children and young people aged under 18 years (ABS, 2011).

With 66,445 people (48%) born overseas, and migrating from 55 different countries, Canterbury is known as the City of Cultural Diversity. The majority of these people (45%) come from non-English speaking countries and many have difficulties with using English as a medium of communication. Accounting for nearly half the residents in Canterbury, this population is higher than the proportion of non-English speaking overseas born people living in NSW (18.6%).

The population of Canterbury is also diverse in terms of socio-economic status, with some areas scoring well on the SEIFA (Socio-economic indexes for areas) Index of Disadvantage and others scoring poorly. With a score of 922 the SEIFA Index for the City of Canterbury is relatively low, and as such is considered an area of disadvantage for many residents.

Canterbury City Council is proactive in working with the whole community to meet the needs of all groups and improve the city for all residents. The key themes of our Community Strategic Plan 2014-2023 are Attractive City, Stronger Community, Healthy Environment, Strategic Leadership and Improving Council, with the vision of being “a great place to live and work”.



City of Canterbury’s Roles and Responsibilities

Creating a Child Friendly City involves a range of stakeholders, including children and families, services and organisations available within the community, and all levels of government. Although the majority of funding for services comes from State and Commonwealth governments, local Council’s role is to coordinate services, infrastructure and facilities already in place, which need to be evaluated to ensure that children, young people and families are utilising these services.

Canterbury City Council provides a number of excellent opportunities and services within the area (see green information boxes). To enable the City of Canterbury to achieve Child Friendly City status, we need to ensure that our strategic plan involves children and young people in the decision making process for all aspects of Council, including social planning, community development, facility planning and urban design.

City of Canterbury Strategic Plan

Our Community Strategic Plan 2014-2023 identifies the long-term aspirations our communities have for life and work in the City of Canterbury. Table 1 below outlines the themes and long term goals of this plan. Further detail regarding strategies that Canterbury City Council, partner organisations and individuals can undertake to work toward these goals (community outcomes and trend indicators for this plan), as well as our Delivery and Operating Plans, are available on our website.

Table 1: Canterbury Community Strategic Plan

Theme	Long Term Goal
1. Attractive City	1.1 Attractive streetscapes
	1.2 Balanced urban development
	1.3 Prosperous urban economy
2. Stronger community	2.1 Embracing diversity
	2.2 Health and safety
	2.3 Access to facilities and services
3. Sustainable environment	3.1 Transport alternatives that work
	3.2 responsible use of resources
	3.3 Healthy natural environment
4. Strategic leadership	4.1 Healthy finances
	4.2 Engaged community
	4.3 Effective governance
5. Improving Council	5.1 Efficient services
	5.2 responsible employer
	5.3 Well maintained equipment

PART B

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Local Government and the Child Friendly Cities Initiative

Importance of Children's Voices

Project Methodology

Child Friendly Cities Initiative

A global UNICEF scheme to encourage cities around the world to place children at the forefront of their urban planning. The wellbeing of children is the ultimate indicator of a healthy habitat, a democratic society and of good governance.



Convention on the Rights of the Child

The UNICEF Child Friendly Cities initiative (CFCI) promotes implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the goal of improving the lives of children by recognising their rights and creating better communities.

In December 1990 Australia ratified the UN Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC), which signified our agreement to be legally bound by the terms of the treaty and agree to review our laws relating to children. As Australians we are therefore required to uphold children's rights and to ensure that children in this country are aware of these rights.

Through legislation such as child protection Acts and various other Laws, Australia and each State and Territory have started taking steps to ensure that children's rights are being upheld and appropriate services are funded and provided. Each local government area (LGA) can play their own part by ensuring that their city is a UNICEF Child Friendly City (CFC).

The CRC comprises 54 Articles encompassing all aspects of a child's life. Key principles of the CRC related to building a CFC specifically refer to the following Articles:

Article 2: Non-discrimination of any kind

Article 3: Best interests of the child as a primary consideration

Article 6: Every child's right to life and maximum development

Article 12: Listening to children and respecting their views

Article 2 Non-discrimination:
respect and ensure the rights (of every child) without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status

These Articles are therefore a central focus of this report.

Local Government and the Child Friendly Cities Initiative

The CFCI is a global UNICEF scheme to encourage cities around the world to place children at the forefront of their urban planning. It was launched in 1996 to act on the resolution passed during the second UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to make cities liveable places for all. The conference declared that **the wellbeing of children is the ultimate indicator of a healthy habitat, a democratic society and good governance.**

UNICEF developed a Framework for Action for Building Child Friendly Cities that identifies steps to build a local system of governance committed to fulfilling children's rights, outlining the process needed to implement the UN CRC by national governments into a local government process.

"Becoming 'child friendly' is a continuous process of innovation, monitoring and improvement for councils. The UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative is about recognising councils for their ongoing efforts towards improvements and demonstrated impacts achieved in the everyday lives of its young citizens" (unicef, 2014). A CFC involves a system of local governance committed to fulfilling children's rights. The CFCI promotes implementation of the Convention led by local government, at the level where it has the greatest impact on children's lives. A CFC actively engages in fulfilling the right of every child to:

- ❖ Influence decisions about their city
- ❖ Express their opinion on the city they want
- ❖ Participate in family, community and social life
- ❖ Receive basic services such as health care and education
- ❖ Drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation
- ❖ Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse
- ❖ Walk safely in the streets on their own
- ❖ Meet friends and play
- ❖ Have green spaces for plants and animals
- ❖ Live in an unpolluted environment
- ❖ Participate in cultural and social events
- ❖ Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability

Article 3 Best interest of the child: **In all actions concerning children....the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration**

A CFC gives priority to children, especially in the provision of basic services and the allocation of resources. It is therefore important to know which areas need more assistance, and why they need assistance.

Importance of Children's Views

The Convention states that children have a right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken seriously when adults are making decisions that affect them. The Convention "encourages adults to listen to the opinions of children and involve them in decision-making.....(while recognising) ...that the level of a child's participation in decisions must be appropriate to the child's level of maturity". (unicef fact sheet)

Article 12 Respect for the views of the child: **assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child**

In order to inform the State of Canterbury's Children Report, it was vital that we seek, listen to and take account of children's opinions about living in the City of Canterbury.

Project Methodology

A mix of both qualitative and quantitative research methods informs this report. The initial research data came from secondary sources, consulting previously published information to create a foundation for the design. In turn, this data supplemented the findings of the primary research which involved surveys and focus groups with a range of participants as noted below.

Surveys

Three short surveys were created to reach the following target groups: children and young people (ages birth to 17); parents, guardians and carers; and child and family service providers. (**Surveys at Appendix 1, 2 & 3**).

The surveys were created using Survey Monkey and promoted by email and advertisements, and were open for completion over for two months during 2013. Both electronic and hard copies were available to service providers to distribute to staff and clients. Participation statements were included at the beginning of each survey and three Family Movie Passes were offered as incentives

for completing the surveys. Each person who completed the survey was invited to leave their email address to go into the draw to win one of the Family Movie Passes, and it was stipulated that their email address would be used for no other purpose than to notify them if they won. **(promotion poster for surveys Appendix 4)**

Focus Groups

During this time, Focus Groups were also organised to supplement the data from the surveys. Purposive sampling was used to target a range of age groups in a range of suburbs across the City of Canterbury. In all cases participation statements were provided to the children and young people along with copies given to parents. For pre-schoolers, participation statements were provided to both children (written in child friendly ways) and to their parents. **(Participation statement Appendix 5)**

Food incentives in the form of afternoon snacks (chips & drinks) were provided with the primary and high schoolers, and play-based activities were organised with the preschool aged children. The purpose of the activities was explained and consent was sought from the participants to record their voices digitally and where relevant keep copies of their drawings. Participants were notified that at any time they could leave the focus group if they wished to. The discussions were recorded using iPhones where feasible, and once transcribed the recordings were deleted. Actual names and other identifying information of the young people are not used in this report. There was an option for these participants to pick their own pseudonym for the report to label their quotes, while children's own first names are used.

There were a total of seven focus groups and each was approximately 30 minutes in length.

The three focus groups which were conducted with children below school age were at Hurlstone Park Children's Centre (HPCC), Punchbowl Children's Centre (PCC) and during a play group at the Lakemba Neighbourhood Centre.

There were four focus groups conducted with older primary school and high school aged children and youth. Two of these were held at Campsie Library, one at Lakemba library, and another at Belmore Youth Resource Centre. **(Focus groups at Appendix 6)**

Issues in the Research Process

Translations: Initially it was proposed that the survey would be created in different languages to reach the large cultural and linguistic diverse (CALD) community in the City of Canterbury, but due to issues with the Survey Monkey format this proved difficult. Instead it was offered that translations could be organised for anyone not proficient in English who wanted to complete the survey. Contact details were provided for this purpose and service providers were encouraged to let us know if this was the case, and if possible to assist those not proficient in English with completing the survey. At the Lakemba playgroup CALD parents were consulted and assisted to fill out the Parents/Guardians/Carers survey. Children's rights resources were found in a variety of languages - including Arabic, Chinese, Greek and Korean - and were sent out to those service providers who requested further information for their clients who were not proficient in English.

Percentage of survey responses: The number of survey responses exceeded the expectations of the researchers. **Seventy responses were received from children and young people, eighty five from families, and twenty four from service providers.** Due to our methods of distribution it is unknown how many people saw the survey to then assess a percentage of completion. **(Demographics of survey respondents Appendix 7).**

Responses also need to be considered in terms of the demographics of respondents. Most parents who responded were parents of children under school age and this will influence responses about services and recreation facilities used and perceptions of safety. Parents' understanding of early childhood education and care can also influence their comments in relation to child care as opposed to early childhood education.

Child friendly report: Issues regarding the dissemination of the research findings to children and young people also arose. Children and youth in the focus groups requested that they receive a copy of the report when it was completed. It was decided, therefore, that a child-friendly version of the report should also be created and disseminated using the City of Canterbury website and also through service providers. To access this Prezi, follow this link:

http://prezi.com/d7p-yya0ff/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy

A presentation on children's rights and responsibilities has also been designed as a teaching tool for schools, libraries, youth centres etc. to use. It highlights that with rights come responsibilities to help others in the community achieve their rights, and is a visual aid for the report. To access this prezi, follow this link:

http://prezi.com/v4hsou757grl/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy



Drawing by Cassandra aged 4 : "This is my house with an orange roof. I like gardening, cooking cupcakes, and scootering at the park"

PART C

Voices of Canterbury's Young Citizens

Presentation of Findings

Overview of Canterbury's Population under 18 years of age

Children's Wellbeing

Health

Learning and Development

Leisure

Safety

Participation

If you were Mayor, What would you change?

Tiffany (8): "to do sport every day!"

Jihau (11) "stop the dumping in the Cooks River"

Ali (11) "everyone should be treated equally" "even if you were the boss, you still had to treat everyone equally"

"Grown ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is exhausting for children always and forever to be giving explanations" Antoine de Saint-Exupery "The Little Prince"

Presentation of Findings

This section of the report provides data on the numbers and ages of children in the City of Canterbury and reports on the findings under each area. There is an initial overview of Children's Wellbeing in general, followed by information on each area of a child's life which contributes to wellbeing.

Health comprises the subheadings of Births in Canterbury, Immunisation, Provision of Health Services, Mental Health, Children with a Disability, Nutrition, Housing, and Sustainability.

Learning and Development includes Early Childhood Education and Care, Education – Primary and High School, and Vocational Training & Employment.

Leisure describes Green Spaces, Libraries and Youth Groups, and Shopping Centres.

Safety discusses Crime Prevention, Child Protection, Car Safety, and Bullying and Internet Safety.

Participation explores Decision Making, Freedom of Expression, Children from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island Background, Children from Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds, and Knowledge of Rights.

Each area is structured in the following manner:

- Discussion of relevant information from secondary research (eg. Australian Bureau of Statistics, NAPLAN results, various other reports) about the lives of children and young people in the City of Canterbury
- Details about services and programs in the City of Canterbury and how they meet the particular rights related to that section
- Details about services, programs and initiatives of Canterbury City Council that uphold those rights
- Comments from children and young people who participated in the focus groups
- Comparison of response rates from each of the groups that participated in the surveys

Overview of Canterbury's population under 18 years of age

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011, children and young people aged from birth to 18 years made up 24.68% of the population in the City of Canterbury. This is quite similar to the proportion represented in NSW (24.41%), reflecting almost one quarter of the residents in each catchment area. In accordance with the statistics cited previously for the total population of the City of Canterbury, many of these children are from a wide range of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and many of them are living in social disadvantage.

In the following Table 2 the total of the City of Canterbury's children (32,115) is separated into suburbs and age groups relevant for service provision.

Table2: Ages of children by suburbs

Suburb	Under 2		3-4 y.o.	5-7 y.o.	8-11 y.o.	12-14 y.o.	15-17 y.o.	TOTAL
	y.o.	2 y.o.						
Ashbury	57	47	95	133	159	131	118	740
Belfield	128	60	165	222	218	166	195	1154
Belmore	356	189	348	464	475	475	482	2889
Beverly Hills	38	22	51	51	59	57	77	355
Campsie	604	296	563	727	945	742	703	4580
Canterbury	167	79	138	197	269	161	226	1237
Croydon Park	125	70	90	143	191	145	127	891
Earlwood	416	228	445	631	799	602	543	3664
Hurlstone Park	115	51	98	126	172	96	135	793
Kingsgrove	134	88	157	183	245	191	184	1202
Lakemba	726	313	623	769	850	570	494	4345
Narwee	84	40	70	95	137	78	117	621
Punchbowl	432	187	381	514	637	496	460	3152
Riverwood	114	66	114	127	221	188	175	1005
Roselands	345	179	331	490	584	439	459	2827
Wiley Park	453	209	336	461	509	360	332	2660

Between 2006 and 2011, according to the ABS census data, numbers of babies and pre-schoolers, and secondary schoolers have all grown in the City of Canterbury, while there has been a minor drop in numbers of primary schoolers. See Table 3:

Table 3: Age structure – City of Canterbury service age groups

Service age group	2006			2011			Change 2006 to 2011
	City of Canterbury	%	NSW %	City of Canterbury	%	NSW %	
Babies and pre-schoolers (0 to 4)	9,427	7.3	6.4	10,441	7.6	6.6	+1,014
Primary schoolers (5 to 11)	12,310	9.5	9.3	12,090	8.8	8.8	-221
Secondary schoolers (12 to 17)	9,290	7.2	8.2	9,788	7.1	7.7	+498

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2006 and 2011. Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#), the population experts. (Usual residence data) Dominant groups

Children’s Well Being

According to UNICEF (2007) measuring a child’s wellbeing is to “know whether children feel loved, cherished, special and supported, within the family and community, and whether the family and community are being supported in this task by public policy and resources” (p. 39). There are several aspects of life which contribute to wellbeing, including:

- Support and nurture through family and community;
- Freedom from illness, through healthcare;
- Freedom from disability, through inclusivity;
- Realisation of personal potential through education;
- Shelter, security and privacy, through housing;
- Personal safety and protection from crime;
- Command over economic resources, enabling consumption;
- And time for and access to cultural and leisure activities (Trewin, 2001)

As can be seen from the above list, children’s wellbeing is dependent on a range of interlinked factors and conditions in their lives, and these also contribute to the wellbeing of the community (social capital).

Health Stronger Community

Social support is a key factor in building social capital in communities, and helps ensure the health of all citizens. The provision of direct health services is not the responsibility of local government.

Births in Canterbury

Canterbury is home to a large number of children, and statistics collated by NSW Health show a higher number of live births than any other area in the Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) for 2010.

Table 4: Live births by statistical local area of residence, SLHD 2010

Local area of residence	Number	Percentage
Ashfield	549	6.4%
Burwood	359	4.2%
Canada Bay – Concord	573	6.7%
Canada Bay – Drummoyne	597	7.0%
Canterbury	2,367	27.6%
Leichhardt	1,039	12.1%
Marrickville	1,316	15.3%
Strathfield	468	5.5%
Sydney – South	811	9.4%
Sydney – West	508	5.9%
Total	8,587	100%

Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence (2012). *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2010*. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health.

Table 4 provides details in relation to each area in the SLHD. This table shows that approximately 27.6% of live births occurred from parents living within the Canterbury LGA, which is much higher than any other LGA in this region.

Preterm Births: Babies who are born before 37 weeks of gestational age are considered to be preterm, meaning that they have not had a chance to develop their organs completely. Although there is no known cause of preterm babies, it has been suggested that expectant mothers who work on their feet, stress, smoking, and nutrition could all be contributing factors.

Article 6 Survival and development: ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child

The shorter term the pregnancy, the more likely that the baby will die within the first year of their life. Preterm babies are also more likely to develop respiratory issues, to have vision and hearing problems, develop cerebral palsy and a range of other issues. Although medical advancements have given preterm babies a better chance at life, there is always a risk.

Table 5: Births by gestational age, Local Health District and hospital, NSW 2010.

Weeks	Canterbury hospital	Sydney LHD	NSW
<32	0.8%	2.1%	1.4%
32-33	0.2%	1.1%	0.9%
34-36	3.6%	5.0%	5.1%
37+	95.5%	91.8%	92.6%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence (2012). *New South Wales Mothers and Babies 2010*. Sydney: NSW Ministry of Health.

The above table 5 shows that a higher percentage of children (95.5%) born in Canterbury hospital in 2010 were born after 37 weeks, compared to only 91.8% in Sydney and 92.6% of babies in NSW.

Immunisation

Until recently, Canterbury City Council provided a children’s immunisation service which has now ceased due to many people opting to receive this service from their local General Practitioner.

Immunisation for children is vital in order to prevent them from contracting specific diseases that are preventable, and any long term affects that may be associated with them.

Zac (4) “have a
needle to get strong”

High rates of vaccinations within a community can also contribute to a phenomenon called ‘herd immunity’, which is where susceptible populations are protected from a specific disease because the rest of the community are immunised and there is less risk of contracting the disease.

However, for vaccination to work to its full potential and protect the community at large, approximately 95% of the population needs to be vaccinated. (Australian Academy of Science, 2012). The following tables 6 & 7 indicate the percentage of children immunised across NSW and within the Canterbury area.

Table 6: Percentage of children in NSW who are fully immunised according to the number of children registered on the Australia Childhood Immunisation Register, March 2013.

Age -months	12-15 (1 year)	24-27 (2 years)	60-63 (5 years)
Fully immunised	90.9%	91.9%	91.7%

Department of Human Services (2013a). *Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR) statistics*. Note: age calculated by December 31, 2012.

Table 7: Percentage of children aged 1, 2 and 5 who were fully immunised, by postcode, in the Canterbury LGA, 2011-2012.

Postcode	Suburbs	1 year	2 years	5 years
2133	Croydon Park	92	94	88
2191	Belfield	93	95	94
2192	Belmore	92	90	87
2193	Ashbury	92	92	89
	Canterbury			
	Hurlstone Park			
2194	Campsie	89	91	87
2195	Lakemba	90	88	88
	Wiley Park			
2196	Punchbowl	89	92	89
	Roselands			
2206	Earlwood	93	93	91
2208	Kingsgrove	89	92	92
2209	Beverly Hills	94	89	91
	Narwee			
2210	Riverwood	93	95	92
	Average for Canterbury LGA	91.5	91.9	89.8

National Health Performance Authority (NHPA) (2013). *Child immunisation rates: Postcode level data, NSW, 2011-2012*. Retrieved July 5, 2013 from <http://www.nhpa.gov.au/internet/nhpa/publishing.nsf/Content/Child-immunisation-rates-Postcode-level-data-NSW-2011-12>

Although the two tables are for slightly different time periods, they still give a fair indication of Canterbury’s immunisation rate compared to NSW. While there is a slightly higher rate of 1 year olds within Canterbury who are deemed as fully immunised, the percentage of immunised 2 year olds is the same, and the percentage of immunised 5 year olds is lower. For the City of Canterbury this means that 10.2 % of 5 year olds were not fully immunised.

Provision of Health Services

NSW Health Sydney Local Health district released a Canterbury Local Government Area Health Profile in 2013, and this is the source for the following information regarding the provision of health services in the City of Canterbury:

The Canterbury LGA includes a 167 bed district hospital, the Canterbury Hospital. In terms of private health services, Canterbury includes a single day surgery facility that specialises in endoscopy, as well as nine private or not for profit nursing homes.

Selected characteristics of General Practitioners currently practicing across the whole Inner West Health area clearly shows that the availability of GPs per capita in Canterbury is among the lowest within the catchment (1.29 per 1,000 persons). The number of practice nurses per-capita is similarly low (0.24 per 1,000 persons).

Canterbury residents have access to a range of community health services located in major facilities in Croydon, Marrickville, Redfern and Canterbury. Each of these provide services based on varied catchments, with most being available to all catchment LGAs.

Within Canterbury, the availability of community health services, as based on public listings of community health services available through the SLHD, and NSW HERO database show:

- a major community health centre at Canterbury
- six community health centres providing child and family services (including five early childhood health centres)
- two services providing community health nursing services
- two mental health services.

Article 24 Health and health services: **recognise the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of health..(and) strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services**

The Canterbury LGA includes only two listed mental health services, the Canterbury Community Mental Health Centre and Canterbury Rehab – the Bridgewater Centre.

Mental Health

Mental Health is currently the biggest health issue facing Australians, and Canterbury City Council has recently focused on issues of mental health.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Council and BreakThru Peoples Solution, a disability employment service, was signed in December 2013. The aim of the partnership is to build networks, share existing resources and develop sustainable programs for young people within our City. BreakThru Peoples Solution is a not for profit organisation supporting families and their children aged birth to 18 years who may be affected by mental health issues and empowering them to build resilience and improve their well-being. BreakThru is situated at Belmore Youth Resource Centre.

Another initiative is the Canterbury Connects Mental Health & Wellbeing Campaign. In support of Mental Health Week but running over two months, Canterbury Connects has seventeen community partners involved in organising and holding various events and activities to promote mental health and wellbeing. We disseminate this message across services and the community including all age groups. In 2013 our children's services were involved, having particular anti stress days with children participating in relaxation and Tai Chi.

BreakThru Peoples Solution

Canterbury Connects Mental Health & Wellbeing Campaign

Children with a disability

In terms of allied health practitioners in the Inner West area, Canterbury has a lower per-capita provision of allied health practitioners in almost all practitioner types. Availability of clinical psychologists, dieticians, pharmacists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists and speech pathologists appear to be lower, compared to the average across the SLH catchment. However, children with disabilities are supported in various ways in Canterbury.

Canterbury Community Health employs a multidisciplinary Child & Family team to work with children aged from birth to 12 years, and their families, across the City of Canterbury. This team includes speech pathologists, an occupational therapist and physiotherapist, psychologists, social workers and paediatrician. Koorana Child & Family Services employs four speech pathologists and two occupational therapists to work with clients accessing their inclusive and early intervention services for preschool aged children. Wangee Park Primary School, located at Lakemba, caters to children with severe intellectual and physical disabilities.

Canterbury City Council currently employs two speech pathologists who provide speech pathology services to children under school age across the City. This service provides therapy and intervention for any type or level of language delay or disorder, ranging from children with a mild speech delay to children with severe disabilities.

2 child speech pathologists

Inclusive children's services

Disability Access Committee

Our children's services operate with an inclusive philosophy that embraces children of all abilities. Families with children with disabilities are welcomed to the enrolment process and supported through the placement of their child in our services. Staff treat all children equally and encourage the learning and development and participation of children with disabilities.

The membership of the City of Canterbury Disability Access Committee is entirely adult. They have recently identified a need to provide disability awareness training at local primary and secondary schools, and a need for the committee to have representation of parents of children with disabilities.

Nutrition

Nutrition is an important factor for children to grow to their full potential and live happy, healthy lives. Information from the ABS shows that, nationally, the older a person gets the less likely they are to have an adequate amount of fruit and vegetables in their day. Although the results for the City of Canterbury could not be found for this specific information, it can be presumed that Canterbury would reflect this data to a point.

Children aged 12 to 17 are the worst off, with approximately 95% of these age groups having an inadequate daily intake of fruit and vegetables; while 70% of children aged 8 to 11 don't eat enough fruit and vegetables. It is possible that younger children are encouraged more by their parents to eat more fruit and vegetables, and children need to be taught that fresh fruit and vegetables are good for them from a young age.

Article 27 Adequate standard of living: recognise the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.....provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing

There are national programs available which can encourage children of all ages to eat more fruit and vegetables. For example, in NSW the Healthy Kids Association supports a program called 'Crunch & Sip', which is a small break during class where school aged children have the opportunity to have a fresh piece of fruit or some vegetables and some water. Not only does this get children in the routine of eating more fruit and vegetables, it also gives them extra energy to be more productive throughout the day.

Canterbury City Council promotes healthy eating and exercise in our children's programs. Staff in our early childhood education and care services have participated in Munch & Move for pre-schoolers and implement this healthy eating and physical activity program with children in our services. Our Family Day Care Coordinator is a facilitator of the training program.

Munch & Move
Active After School

Our Clemton Park After School Care program has participated in the Active After School program for several years now and recently was awarded a Super Centre for their long term involvement and for having three staff trained in the program. This program is funded through the Australian Sports Commission with the aim of getting children to be more actively involved in games and sporting activities.

Children in our **focus groups** talked a lot about sports and that they would like to do more, and clearly identified foods that are healthy and those that are not.....

What is healthy? –

Zac (4) "milk, water, mango, plum, chilli"

Zain (4) "I like apples, bananas, oranges, even a pear"

Hadi (5) "salad, tabouli" Gelila (5) "fruit salad"

Zain (4) "Sometimes I don't like to get junk food"

What is junk food? –

Zac (4) "Hungry Jacks"

Hadi (5) "Oporto" Gelila (5) "McDonalds"

Housing

The health and wellbeing of all people can be linked in part to the nature of their housing, which should provide adequate shelter, security and privacy. This was supported in a 2008 Housing report undertaken by the Canterbury Child and Family Interagency.

Their conclusions were that “for a young child, a few years in a household that is experiencing financial stress, substandard facilities and overcrowding with the associated impacts on your parents well-being, is far from the start in life that we want for our local children. The indications are that in some parts of the Canterbury area we may find more children per square kilometre in these circumstances than anywhere else in Australia”.

Furthermore, “the official statistics identify local residential areas that have high levels of CALD families, relatively low incomes, very high levels of private rental accommodation in old unit blocks, and densities of children 0 – 4 year old that are amongst the highest in Australia.”

Table 8: SEIFA INDEX and Housing comparison to benchmark areas and percentage of children

Area	2011 SEIFA index	% of low income households	% of people experiencing housing stress	% of social housing households	% of children under 18 in suburb
Riverwood	745.2	40.6%	17.9%	46.0%	21.37%
Punchbowl	835.3	26.5%	24.0%	9.3%	29.91%
Wiley Park	858.9	22.2%	28.9%	2.8%	28.88%
Lakemba	860.9	24.3%	28.9%	2.0%	29.10%
Campsie - Clemton Park	898.5	22.3%	25.5%	3.7%	21.28%
Belmore	903.1	22.3%	19.5%	5.4%	24.23%
Canterbury LGA	922.0	22.3%	18.9%	6.4%	24.68%
Narwee	923.5	28.6%	19.9%	18.7%	20.52%
Canterbury	966.9	17.7%	14.0%	1.4%	21.22%
Roselands	969.3	19.9%	15.5%	5.5%	26.93%
Belfield	976.6	20.7%	14.1%	8.4%	25.73%
Croydon Park	984.9	19.5%	16.8%	7.0%	22.37%
Kingsgrove	988.9	21.0%	11.0%	7.2%	22.00%
NSW	995.8	19.6%	11.4%	4.9%	24.41%
Australia	1,002.0	19.1%	10.7%	4.5%	24.50%
Hurlstone Park	1,009.4	18.4%	9.2%	2.6%	19.99%
Greater Sydney	1,011.3	16.0%	11.5%	5.0%	24.19%
Earlwood	1,013.0	17.5%	8.5%	1.3%	22.84%
Beverly Hills	1,015.4	18.9%	10.5%	0.6%	23.86%
SSROC	1,016.2	15.9%	11.1%	5.2%	20.70%
Ashbury	1,057.2	13.8%	4.7%	0.3%	24.56%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2011. Compiled and presented in profile.id by [.id](#), the population experts. (Usual residence data)

The above table 8 includes updated statistics from the 2011 census data in regard to housing and the SEIFA Index. In Table 8, low income households are those on **less than \$600p/w before tax**, and those experiencing housing stress are **households in the lowest 40% of incomes who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on housing costs.**

As can be seen from this Table, those suburbs which have the lowest SEIFA index and/or the highest percentage of low income households, social housing or people experiencing housing stress, are also those suburbs with the highest number of children.

Due to the ongoing lack of affordable and suitable housing for some Canterbury families, Canterbury City Council are making a submission, and Metro Migrant Resource Centre and Canterbury City Community Centre are also making a submission, to the Legislative Council Senate Inquiry into Social, Public and Affordable Housing.

Focus groups

Zain (4) "My cousins live upstairs and my family downstairs"

Gelila (5) "I sleep with my mum and my dad in their room"

Sustainability

While sustainability relates to various aspects of life, for the purpose of this report we are focusing on a healthy environment, and care for the natural environment. In talking about their City, many respondents to our surveys and focus groups commented on pollution, particularly in the Cooks River, on dirty streets and shopping centres

Canterbury City Council has developed a Community Strategic Plan with a focus on Sustainable Canterbury, which involves partnerships with other organisations in order to address the issues and achieve the best outcomes. The Cooks River Alliance is one such group with eight Councils focused on the complex problems of cleaning the river.

We support sustainability education in local primary and high schools through the Sustainable Schools Program, a network of teachers meeting quarterly to share and learn from each other. The aim of the network is to build capacity and confidence for teachers to integrate sustainability education in their classrooms. We also provide an annual small grants program to support environmental projects in schools with school students. Our Children's services staff worked with Environmental policy staff on the Little Green Steps sustainability program with preschool aged children in our services.

Sustainable Canterbury
Sustainable Schools
Small Grants (environmental)
Little Green Steps
Cooks River Alliance

Focus groups

Jihau (11): "stop the pollution"

Niki (14) "Clean up Canterbury"

Survey Results (For more detail See Appendix 8)

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Health:

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
58.8%	66.7%

Right upheld in Canterbury: to access basic services such as health, education & shelter

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
71.4%	55.3%	79.2%

Right upheld in Canterbury: to live in an unpolluted environment

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
48.6%	28.2%	25%

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Built environments (housing, shopping centres)

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
47.1%	29.2%

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Inclusivity

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
20 %	37.5 %

The right to access basic services such as health, education and shelter was seen to be upheld by all groups. For children and youth this scored the second highest, for families the third highest and for service providers the highest.

One of the rights which scored very low was to live in an unpolluted environment - scored third lowest by families and fourth lowest by children.

According to service providers, one of the marginalised groups which are least catered to are those children and youth who require mental health support (16.7%).

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (Trewin, 2001, p. 85).

Learning and Development **Stronger Community**

Education is a key determinant of wellbeing and a contributing factor in building social capital. Every child has the right to an education at all levels, preschool, primary, secondary and higher education.

Early Childhood Education and Care

International research has demonstrated the importance of early childhood education and care, and the Australian government has recognised this in a national early childhood agenda involving regulations, standards and a learning framework for early childhood services – preschool, long day care and family day care. These regulations and standards also apply to Outside School Hours Services (before school, after school and vacation care), and there is a separate framework for these school aged services.

The Australian Government is investing in the early years with the rationale that it has long term benefits for both individuals and society, based on the following:

- this is the greatest period of brain development
- it is the best period to impact on life trajectory
- it will help increase national productivity, and
- it will provide greater human capital return on investment.

The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a measure of young children’s development that is collected every three years in order to inform the support needs of preschool aged children and their families and the importance of early intervention.

The following Table 9 shows the five domains of the AEDI from 2012, with the percentage of children in the City of Canterbury and NSW who are developmentally vulnerable in 1 or more areas. The list also includes those suburbs which have the highest percentage of vulnerable children within Canterbury.

Across the City, children are doing well in the areas of Physical Health & Wellbeing and Emotional Maturity, slightly worse in Language & Cognitive Skills, and poorer in Social Competence and Communication Skills & General Knowledge. The lowest results are in the suburbs of Wiley Park, Punchbowl, Lakemba and Campsie.

According to the AEDI in 2012, 74.7% of children in NSW attended preschool before commencing kindergarten, compared to only 57.8% of children in Canterbury. Wiley Park and Lakemba were particularly low, with only 41.7% and 44.9% respectively of children attending preschool. According to the 2011 ABS Census, however, Lakemba and Wiley Park have the highest percentage of children aged 0-4 (10.4% and 10.5% respectively). The AEDI does state that for these two suburbs the data collected is only 60-80% of the ABS statistics of the five year old population, and warns readers to interpret with caution.

Article 28 Right to education: **recognise the right of the child to education at all levels**

Article 29 Goals of education: **education of the child shall be directed to the development of the child’s personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential**

Table 9 AEDI 2012 - percentage of children in the City of Canterbury and NSW who are developmentally vulnerable

Physical Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canterbury LGA 8.3% • NSW 8.3% • Wiley Park 14.7% • Punchbowl 12.9% • Lakemba 11.9%
Social Competence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canterbury LGA 11.9% • NSW 8.5% • Wiley Park 20.3% • Campsie 15.5% • Punchbowl 15.3%
Emotional Maturity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canterbury LGA 5.3% • NSW 6.2% • Punchbowl 9.0% • Wiley Park 7.7%
Language & Cognitive Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canterbury LGA 5.0% • NSW 4.8% • Punchbowl 8.9% • Wiley Park 6.3% • Lakemba 6.2%
Communication Skills & General Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canterbury LGA 12.6% • NSW 8.5% • Campsie 19.2% • Wiley Park 18.9% • Lakemba 18.3%

Australian Government (2013b). *AEDI Community Profile 2012 – Canterbury, New South Wales*. Australian Government, Canberra

Red indicates Canterbury LGA is not doing as well as NSW.

Green indicates Canterbury LGA is doing as well as or better than NSW.

Early childhood education and care in Australia has historically been divided, in terms of services, particularly between preschools and long day care centres, with the misconception that the former is for education and the latter is for care. The national early childhood agenda has finally brought with it the recognition that all education services, including preschools and schools, have an element of care, and all so called “child care” services also provide education. Each of these services are regulated, monitored and assessed by Education and Care Regulations and Standards.

The differentiation of childcare as opposed to preschool within the community continues for now, however, and in terms of reporting statistics for AEDI, this could further influence the numbers of children reported as attending “preschool” in our areas.

There are 10,423 preschool children, aged under 5, in the City of Canterbury. In terms of places for them within preschool, long day care or family day care, it is difficult to be exact as attendance patterns vary between part time and full time, so this report includes the number of places available per week day. The following Table 10 provides approximate numbers of children and places for each suburb, per day.

Article 18 State assistance for parental responsibilities: **render appropriate assistance to parents...in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities....(and)...ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child care services and facilities for which they are eligible**

Table 10: Approximate number of child care places DAILY available (including family day care) in each suburb compared to the number of children living in each suburb (ABS, 2011 Census).

Suburb	Approx. places for children (0-5)	Number of children in each suburb (0-4) (ABS)	% of places available compared to children
Ashbury	32	199	16%
Belfield	281	353	80%
Belmore	265	893	30%
Beverly Hills		111	0%
Campsie (Clemton Park)	367	1,463	25%
Canterbury	4	384	1%
Croydon Park	97	285	34%
Earlwood	239	1,089	21%
Hurlstone Park	220	264	83%
Kingsgrove		379	0%
Lakemba	316	1,662	19%
Narwee	92	194	48%
Punchbowl	426	1,000	42%
Riverwood	89	294	30%
Roselands	213	855	25%
Wiley Park	184	998	18%
Canterbury LGA	2,825	10,423	27%

There is not only a variety of types of education and care services in Australia, but also a range of service providers, including privately owned, community based, local government, Department of Education, and corporate, and most services in the City of Canterbury are privately owned.

Canterbury City Council provides a range of high quality services for preschool and school aged children. Our early childhood services all cater to the education and care needs of children and families. Our outside school hours services provide recreation and care needs for school aged children and their families. We also support families in their parenting role by providing relevant information and workshops.

4 Children’s Centres located in Lakemba, Hurlstone Park, Earlwood & Punchbowl.
 Occasional Care Centre at Campsie
 Family Day Care in educators homes across all suburbs
 Before School Care at Clemton Park
 After School Care at Lakemba and Clemton Park
 Vacation care at Belmore North, Clemton Park & Lakemba
 Parenting information and workshops on positive parenting

Education – primary and high school

The City of Canterbury has an increasing number of private schools, and this would not seem to match the demographics of disadvantaged people in the area. Approximately 63.7% of children are enrolled in a government primary school and 56.4% of children in are enrolled in a government high school; compared to NSW where 68.7% of children are enrolled in government primary schools and 60.8% are enrolled in government high schools (Morgan, Eastwood & Faniran, 2009).

Article 28 Right to Education: All children have the right to a primary education, which should be free. For children to benefit from education, schools must be run in an orderly way – without the use of violence. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education of which they are capable.

For an LGA with a low SEIFA index, especially with suburbs with some of the lowest SEIFA index scores in NSW, it is important to have an education level that is at least on par with NSW, if not better. When children are receiving a better education, they are more likely to lead healthier lives and end intergenerational poverty.

NAPLAN (National Australian Program – Literacy and Numeracy) is a national annual test on Years 3 & 5 (primary school) and 7 & 9 (high school) to determine how students are faring in terms of literacy and numeracy. Although there are four domains in NAPLAN, this report will only be looking at reading and numeracy as the basic foundations of education. The following table 11 compares the mean scores for NSW students in these two domains in 2012, with the mean scores of all (government and non-government) schools within the City of Canterbury for the same year.

Table 11: Mean scores for NSW students compared to students in all schools in the City of Canterbury, in reading & numeracy components of NAPLAN, 2012

	Year 3 NSW	Year 3 Canterbury	Year 5 NSW	Year 5 Canterbury	Year 7 NSW	Year 7 Canterbury	Year 9 NSW	Year 9 Canterbury
Reading	426	428	499.8	494	546.1	504	577.9	542
Numeracy	405	412	497.7	507	543.4	511	591.1	566

As the above table shows, overall children in both government and non-government schools in the City of Canterbury are scoring below the overall average for NSW. While Year 3 reading and numeracy results and Year 5 numeracy results are slightly above the average, the high school results

are much lower. For more detailed results, **APPENDIX 9** lists the mean scores for students in individual government and non-government primary and high schools in the LGA.

Out of twenty seven primary schools, eight score above the NSW average in both reading & numeracy for Year 3 and Year 5; two score above average for numeracy and three score above average for reading in Year 3; and two score above average in numeracy in Year 5. All remaining primary schools score below average in Years 3 & 5. Of eight high schools in the area, six score below average for both literacy and numeracy in Years 7 and 9; one scores above average for numeracy & literacy in Year 9 and for numeracy in Year 7; and one scores above average for reading in Year 9.

Vocational training/employment

A number of young people in our focus groups voiced opinions about the lack of vocational training and employment opportunities in the City. Families and service providers also noted this in their surveys.

This has recently been addressed, with a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Canterbury and Creating Brighter Careers Connections. This MOU is intended to address issues of school engagement, school retention, employment and/or pathways to further education for young people. Another goal of the MOU is to provide an opportunity for businesses to engage with young people through the establishment of the Business Supporting Youth Network in the Canterbury LGA.

Canterbury City Council also provides a well utilised drop in service for youth at Lakemba Library and Youth Resource Centre at Belmore, with programs and referral pathways for young people. Youth Week is celebrated in the City of Canterbury each year through the provision of a range of activities for young people aged 12-24 years. The activities aim to further develop participants develop leadership, social, educational and employment skills.

MOU with Creating Brighter Careers Connections
Belmore Youth Resource Centre
Lakemba Library drop in centre
Youth Week

Focus groups

Young people differentiated between schools that were child friendly and those that were not, based on the attitude of the principal. While some young people had difficulties with tertiary education or employment, they did acknowledge support from youth workers.

UB (19) "they've basically made it look like a jail cell that school - it feels like a penitentiary"

"I've got P (*Worker from vocational training who visits BYRC*). She's helping me, because she took me to BreakThru"

C (18) "Best school ever - Yeah he [*the principal*] will show you respect"

Survey results

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Education:

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
54.1%	50%

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Early Childhood Education:

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
50.6%	54.2%

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Child Care:

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
67.1%	50%

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Vocational training:

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
5.9%	8.3%

The area which was considered most child-friendly within the City of Canterbury by parents was child care, and we need to remember that the majority of respondents had children under school age.

The least child friendly area according to both families and service providers was vocational training (job skills), although young people did acknowledge support received through youth groups.

“I feel, as a parent, early education and educators from Canterbury Council are great and do an excellent job. I feel this is one of the best achievements Council has”

Leisure **Attractive City, Stronger community, Healthy environment**

All people have a right to leisure and the need for a good work life balance is regularly emphasised in the adult world.

Article 31 Leisure, play and culture: recognise the right of each child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts ...(and)...encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity

For children, play is much more than that. On 1 February 2013 the United Nations adopted an official General Comment, clarifying for governments worldwide the meaning and importance of Article 31, long considered the “forgotten” article of the Convention. The main objective of this General Comment is to enhance governments’ understanding of the importance of Article 13 for children’s well- being and development, and provide guidance in the implementation of the Article.

The Australian National Early Years Learning Framework has acknowledged a number of key factors that support children’s learning and development in the vital years of early childhood, and learning through play is one. “Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine.....they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other’s thinking and build new understandings” (p.15)

In terms of a CFC, children have a right to meet friends and play, have green spaces for plants and animals, and participate in cultural and social events.

Green Spaces

Open public spaces for children to foster interaction between adults and other children is another key factor in social capital. In urban settings public play spaces offer a number of benefits to children and communities alike. Not only does it offer physical health benefits to individuals, it can also contribute to better mental wellbeing through reducing stress, increasing personal development and self-esteem.

Families also benefit by becoming involved with the community and meeting other families around the area (City of Canterbury, 2010). In medium to high density housing areas, which populate the City of Canterbury, public spaces enable children to escape an overcrowded house and to have some privacy from other family members (UNICEF, 2012).

Within the City of Canterbury there are 345 hectares of public open space in 251 park areas, which equates to 25 square metres of open space per person. Although there is plenty of space, there are some issues regarding these spaces. For instance, some parks are not visible from surrounding roads, meaning that children and parents may not feel safe going there; and some parks are in poor maintenance condition and are not attractive to use, meaning that they are not used to their full potential (City of Canterbury, 2010, p. 23). The following table 12 has been taken from Council’s 2011 Strategic Recreation Plan:

Table 12: Recreation opportunities in Canterbury City

Target group	Informal recreation facilities	Issues regarding provision
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 95 playgrounds - children's bike paths - private indoor children's play facilities (Earlwood, Roselands) - activities and programs for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council playgrounds are aging, out-dated, provide little imagination or engagement and require increasing maintenance to meet safety standards - There is an unclear hierarchy and uneven distribution of playgrounds and isolated amenity. - Limited opportunities associated with playgrounds, playgroups, children's bike paths and activities for children with special needs - There is limited access to affordable occasional and vacation care programs and services within Canterbury
Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - youth centre (Belmore Youth Resource Centre; PCYC Belmore) - youth café (Campsie) - teenage play equipment (Croydon Park) - two skate parks (Riverwood, Lakemba) - basketball courts - BMX/mountain bike track (Canterbury) - Australian Air League (Riverwood) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a lack of quality and low-cost informal leisure and recreation opportunities in Canterbury for young people - There is an imbalance in distribution and provision of youth facilities and programs in the LGA
People with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - activities - accessible buildings and recreation settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General access to and within open space and recreation areas for people with a disability is poor - Recreation activities for people with a disability are limited, lack imagination, challenge and influenced by the carer or care organisation.
People from a CALD community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no specific facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a significant barrier for CALD communities in the language and interpretation of recreation opportunities in Canterbury - There are limited usable open space opportunities for family/cultural gatherings, activities and recreation.

City of Canterbury (2010). *Canterbury strategic recreation plan final report*. Sydney, Australia; Author., p. 24-25.

The Recreation Plan has been followed up by a Playground Study (still in draft form), with a more specific focus just on playgrounds in the LGA. Key findings in the playground study (below) also support those in the Recreation Plan:

- A large number of playgrounds are ageing and will require replacement over the next 10 years and beyond. Ideally the playgrounds would be replaced earlier than proposed in the replacement program but the cost of doing so is likely to be too great for this to occur.
- Some suburbs are lacking playgrounds and playspaces, including Wiley Park, Lakemba, Roselands, Punchbowl, Canterbury and Belmore. This is a particular issue where there is medium and higher density development and where communities experience lower socio-economic conditions.
- Higher level innovative, unique and creative playgrounds are lacking in the City. People appear to travel out of the City to obtain access to higher level playgrounds.
- Most playgrounds cater for 4-8 year olds, and play equipment and experiences for toddlers and younger children as well as older children are lacking.
- Playgrounds and playspaces that support children with a disability are lacking and opportunities for 'all abilities' playgrounds should be considered.
- There is potential to improve the quality and diversity of a number of playgrounds and playspaces within the City, including the quality of the parks in which they are located (e.g. Anzac Park).
- There is potential to improve infrastructure associated with playgrounds including access to quality toilets at key playgrounds and the connection of seating, tables and shelters with playspaces.

Focus Groups

While responses from our focus groups and surveys are similar to those cited in the recreation plan and the playground study, there were also a lot of positive comments about the availability of parks & recreation facilities. One other point that was stressed by many young people was the lack of lighting to enable open and safe gathering in these spaces after dark.

(Parks) PN (19) And there's no equipment
 HT (14) You know that equipment, um, the fitness stuff
 PN (14) Like some bars and a bench

Zac (4) I like the park. I can even ride my bike there

(Parks) UB (19) Not enough bubblers
 HT (14) There's a lot of space though

Wiley Park Liberty Swing and other equipment for all abilities
 Wiley Park – outdoor exercise equipment recently installed
 Canterbury Aquatic Centre, Roselands Aquatic Centre

Libraries and Youth Groups

Libraries provide a recreational and cultural space and free access to services for people of all ages, and our libraries are well utilised by children and young people. Libraries are located at Campsie, Lakemba, Earlwood and Riverwood. Services include:

Borrowing of resources – books, DVDs CDs, audio books, ebooks & e-audiobooks

Access to internet & Wifi

Access to online games & databases

Homework help

Online tutoring

Free recreational and educational programs for children & young people including:

Birth to 2 years: baby rhyme time

2 to 4 years: Preschool storytime

5 to 10 years: after school craft activities & school holiday activities

11 to 13 years: after school craft activities & school holiday activities

14 to 18 years: after school drop in program & school holiday activities – at Belmore Youth Resource Centre as well as Lakemba Library

There is also a plan for our library programs to include a special storytime for children with disabilities, and another program developing early literacy workshops for families.

For this report focus groups took place in two of our libraries, where children spend a lot of time and are very comfortable with library staff and facilities. There were many positive comments made in relation to libraries, as well as suggestions for better computers and faster wifi.

Jihau (11) “I basically like playing here, (library) on the computers”

Shopping Centres

Young people in our focus groups mentioned shopping centres and food courts as popular places for them to spend leisure time and to meet friends. Many comments were made about the lack of cleanliness and hygiene in these spaces, as well as a desire for more variety and better shops.

Focus groups

Andrew (13) I like when they have Fusion festival (youth

(Campsie Centre shops)
Andrew (13): Yeah it smells so bad.

BD (11): The Swimming pool.
N: (14) Everything around is just cool.
BBJ (17): The ice skating rink.
F (13): The library

Survey results

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Recreation (parks, playgrounds):

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
64.7%	54.2%

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Culture:

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
38.8%	41.7%

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Access to natural environments:

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
48.2%	16.7%

Right upheld in Canterbury: Meet friends and play

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
70 %	68.2 %	83.3 %

Right upheld in Canterbury: Access to green spaces for plants & animals

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
58.6 %	64.7 %	50 %

Right upheld in Canterbury: Participate in Family, Community & Social Life

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
65.7 %	65.9 %	83.3 %

Right upheld in Canterbury: Participate in Social Events

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
70 %	62.4 %	83.3 %

While there are some suggestions for improvements to our green spaces, there is also a general positive response from children and parents, and was voted the most child friendly area.

In regard to the right to meet friends and play, children and youth scored this third highest, and both parents and service providers scored it highest.

One of the areas which was considered most child-friendly within the City of Canterbury by both parents and service providers was recreation (parks, sports grounds), scoring second highest.

One of the least child-friendly areas according to service providers was access to natural environments.

“Play, both spontaneous and organised, is an important component of healthy development” (UNICEF, 2012, p. 62)

Safety Stronger Community, Healthy environment, Attractive city

A feeling of safety within a community is another factor related to social capital. A sense of belonging and talking to neighbours is an indicator of how safe an area is. Research has shown (Sampson & Groves, 1989) that crime rates are lower in a community where everyone knows each other because they look out for each other.

Article 19 Protection from all forms of violence: **protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse**

Unfortunately, there has been no study which has focused on Canterbury as a whole and whether there is a sense of belonging. However, Canterbury City Community Centre (CCCC) conducted the Listening@Lakemba project and their report found that the residents in Lakemba had a strong sense of community, and that 91% of males and 86% of females surveyed talked to the people in the neighbourhood. The qualitative results also indicate that individuals felt a sense of belonging within their community. **Kandasamy, N. (2011). *Lakemba consultations, household and organisation survey*. Commissioned by Canterbury City Community Centre, NSW, Australia: Author.**

CCCC also manages STARS volunteer program, training & supporting local volunteers. Communities with a high rate of volunteering show high levels of social cohesion. There is evidence that if young people are more involved in volunteering it may reduce the likelihood of them being involved in antisocial behaviours **(Wilson, 2000, as cited in Morgan, Eastwood * & Faniran, 2009)**. Along with Canterbury City Council's annual recognition of local volunteers, the STARS program is assisting to increase the volunteer rates in the City of Canterbury which were, in 2006, the second lowest of all Sydney LGAs.

Crime Prevention

Canterbury City Council is committed to creating a safe urban environment and to reducing opportunities for crime to occur. One way to achieve this is through coordinated programs with partners such as the NSW Police Local Area Commands and NSW Fire Brigades.

While there has been, and to some extent continues to be, a community and media perception of some parts of Canterbury as unsafe crime spots, the reality is that the rates of crime have stabilised and in some instances decreased over the past ten years.

Canterbury City Council's **Community Safety Committee** is made up of diverse representatives including Councillor's and Council Staff, NSW Police, NSW Fire and Rescue, Canterbury Domestic Violence Liaison Committee and Canterbury Community Drug Action Team. They have developed a comprehensive programs successfully engaging local residents and agencies in crime prevention initiatives.

A subcommittee of the Community Safety Committee has been established to advise our community on crime prevention in the built environment and surrounds. The subcommittee achieves this by **reviewing relevant development applications** and promoting the use of strategies based on 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design' (CPTED) to ensure the development of existing and future buildings is consistent with the latest community safety and crime prevention strategies, guidelines and requirements.

In partnership with NSW Police, **safety inspections** are conducted using principles of CPTED to ascertain how the built environment may be contributing to anti-social behaviour. Factors include lighting, access control, surveillance, environmental maintenance and activity and space management.

Educational resources, available in our community languages, are disseminated to increase **community awareness** about strategies to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime. These include our Home and Street Safety Kit and Business Safety brochure.

Community **Safety Summits** are convened in our City to increase perceptions of safety and improve overall amenity. The objectives of the Summits are to discuss real and perceived safety issues in Canterbury; discuss and agree on priority safety issues for Canterbury; and discuss strategies to address the priority issues for Canterbury.

The presence of illegal graffiti is a community concern that has adverse costs to the social, environmental, built physical and economic fabric of the local community. Illegal graffiti distorts perceptions about actual levels of crime and safety, thus having an overall impact on the wellbeing and social cohesion of the community. We have implemented a number of **graffiti treatment programs** including: Traffic Signal Box Program – Boxed Art Project - Murals; Community Service Order Project – Graffiti treatment on private property; Graffiti Educational Programs targeting primary aged students; and Participation in Graffiti Removal Days.

Canterbury City Council provides an allocation of funds to support Community Safety and Crime Prevention initiatives throughout the City of Canterbury in the areas of domestic violence. Through this donation program our local **Domestic Violence Liaison Committee** has provided the following services to women experiencing domestic violence: White Ribbon Day – Awareness campaign to stop all forms of violence; yoga classes to improve the health and well-being of victims of domestic violence; information sessions on family law, accommodation, healthy relationships, safety

awareness, immigration matters, referral pathways and local services; financial support for locksmiths and removalists; and Mindfulness workshops.

The It's Time to Talk (ITTT) Committee was established in 2007 and is a joint partnership project of the City of Canterbury, Bankstown City Council and the Bankstown and Canterbury Domestic Violence Liaison Committees. Since then the Committee has coordinated the development of several ongoing and innovative programs that enable the community to better understand the issue of domestic violence and empower community members to act and report the crime.

Canterbury City Council provides an allocation of funds to support Community Safety and Crime Prevention initiatives throughout the City of Canterbury in the areas of drugs and alcohol. Through this donation program our local **Drug Action Team** has provided the following services to young people: free responsible Service of Alcohol courses; educational workshops around drug and alcohol misuse; alternative pathways for abstinence; and positive structures activities as an alternative to drug and alcohol misuse.

Child Protection

Child Protection services in the City of Canterbury include a local NSW Family & Community Services Community Service Centre and Jannawi Child & Family Centre. Jannawi works with both children and families to help them improve their parenting and keep children safe from harm. They also convene the area Child Protection meetings, with members of various agencies sharing information and resources to better protect children. To support vulnerable families with children at risk of harm, Canterbury services and families also have access to early intervention programs under both Brighter Futures and the Family Referral Service.

Canterbury City Council ensures that all persons we employ to work with children have a Working with Children Check clearance, and also attend training in Child Protection. This includes children's services, library and aquatic centre staff. Our Manager Children's Services facilitates regular child protection workshops with relevant staff, sits on the Board of Jannawi, and attends child protection meetings to stay up to date with legislative and practical information around this issue.

We have partnered with NAPCAN so that each year we participate in National Child Protection Week, promoting child safety within our services and the community, and providing information to families about keeping their children safe from harm.

Car Safety

To promote child safety in cars and support our local residents, Canterbury City Council provides a baby capsule and child care seat hire service. All capsules and car seats are NRMA approved. Offered at a reduced price, this service allows parents to spend their money on other necessities for their child rather than needing to buy a brand new capsule/car seat.

Bullying and Internet safety

Two areas of concern raised by young people were bullying at school, both by other children and also by teachers, and internet safety. These are obviously major areas of concern nationally and internationally, and this level of awareness of the issues is important to help keep children safe. There are numerous programs to help deal with bullying and schools are required to have policies in

place to help prevent bullying. Internet safety also receives a large amount of promotion. It is vital that families are involved in understanding these issues and protecting their children.

- Community Safety Committee
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Safety Inspections
- Community Awareness Strategy
- Community Safety Summits
- Assessment of Development Applications
- Graffiti Management
- Domestic Violence Liaison Committee
- Drugs Action Team
- Child Protection Training & Promotion
- Baby capsule/child car seat hire

Focus groups

William (13) No, the park is really dark. There's no lights

I don't feel safe at the park'

PN (19): That's the thing about the internet. You've got to be careful, because once you post something it's not yours anymore. It's the internet's.

Rianne (10) dogs should always be on leashes, because sometimes they scare children

BBJ (17) I got bashed everyday nearly (at school)

Survey results

Right upheld in Canterbury: Walk safely in streets on own

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
61.4 %	32.9 %	25 %

Right upheld in Canterbury: Be protected from exploitation, violence & abuse in all situations

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
62.9 %	37.6 %	70.8 %

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Safety:

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
24.7 %	25 %

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Transport:

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
33.3 %	45.9%

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Social & Justice services:

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
14.1 %	16.7%

Right upheld in Canterbury: Privacy

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers
74.3 %	40 %

Children in the City of Canterbury reported feeling much safer than families or service providers believe they are. For the right to walk safely in streets on their own, children scored this seventh highest, while families scored it fourth lowest and service providers scored it second lowest. Families and service providers also rated Safety as one of the lowest areas that are child friendly in the City of Canterbury. Families and service providers also nominated Media and Social and Justice Services among the lowest in terms of being child friendly.

According to service providers, the marginalised groups which are least catered to in the City of Canterbury are those requiring drug and alcohol rehabilitation/counselling (8.3%), juvenile offenders (12.5%), and similarly the groups which were least catered to in the services in which service providers work within were juvenile offenders (70.8%), and those requiring alcohol and drug rehabilitation (66.7%).

The rights which the least services report that they uphold are access to information/mass media (41.7%), freedom of association (45.8%), and knowledge of their rights (50%). One of the areas which was thought the least child friendly by parents in the City of Canterbury was media (14.1%)

Feelings of trust and safety within a community lead to higher levels of interaction between community members, which in turn can lead to a decrease in crime rates and an increase in healthier life styles, such as exercising more frequently (Morgan, Eastwood & Faniran, 2009).

Participation **Strategic leadership**

The opportunity to participate in decision making is an important aspect of children and young people's lives that is often ignored. Not only does participating empower them, it also encourages them to have more social responsibility for the wider community and to take pride in their community (NSW Commission for Children and Young People, 2012).

Article 12 Respect for the views of the child: **When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen & have their opinions taken into account. This Convention encourages adults to listen to the opinions of children & involve them in decision making.**

Decision making

Including children and young people in the decision making process can occur in all spheres of an individual's life. Within the family, parents can encourage their children to make age appropriate decisions and include them in big decisions for the family. Children's centres and schools can also include children in decision making by guiding them and ensuring that they have all of the necessary information, and making sure that the children feel that their ideas have been accepted.

Starting this process from a young age can have developmental benefits for children and young people, including problem-solving, communication and negotiation skills. It is important, however, that their ideas and views are considered seriously. Allowing children and young people to participate in decision making also benefits others. It allows for a new perspective, one that may not have been thought of previously; ensures that the service is meeting children's needs, which means that they are more likely to utilise the service; and it enhances relationships between adults and children/young people, which can create more trust within a community.

Family survey responses indicated that most people thought this right was not upheld. Children in our focus groups wanted to know if we would really be taking notice of what they told us and were generally disbelieving that their opinion would be valued or make a difference. Service providers rated themselves much higher, and with this result may benefit from reflection and review of their processes.

Freedom of expression

We can ensure this right is upheld through this report, and more particularly through the children's version of the report. Furthermore, Canterbury City Council has consulted with children and youth for the development of the Community Strategic Plan.

Another way that Canterbury City Council upholds children's rights for Freedom of expression and Respect for their views is through the Youth Council and Youth Consultation. Canterbury Youth Council is an advisory committee that is made up of Councillors, council staff and young people that

Article 13 Freedom of expression: **Children have the right to get & share information, as long as the information is not damaging to them or others. In exercising the right to freedom of expression, children have the responsibility to also respect the rights, freedoms & reputations of others. The freedom of expression includes the right to share information in any way they choose, including by talking, drawing or writing.**

represent our diverse communities. The purpose of Canterbury Youth Council is to identify emerging issues and respond through innovative programs that are both developed and delivered by young people for young people. This approach allows us to hear firsthand the issues young people may be experiencing.

Canterbury City Council convenes a biannual youth consultation. The purpose of these consultations is to identify areas of concern for young people to enable us and our youth service partners to respond through the provision of targeted programs and services.

Children’s Advisory Committee and
State of Canterbury’s Children Report
Community Strategic Plan
Canterbury Youth Council
Youth Consultation

Children from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island Background

The City of Canterbury has a lower population percentage of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders compared to the Greater Sydney Region, New South Wales, and the whole of Australia (ABS, 2011). The following Table 13 provides statistics from the 2011 ABS for numbers and population percentages. With a community of 796 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, this group requires our focus. This is particularly so for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth population.

Table 13: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ABS 2011 Statistics

	City of Canterbury	Greater Sydney	New South Wales	Australia
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	796 0.6%	54,746 1.2%	172,621 2.5%	548,369 2.5%

The following quote includes earlier 2006 information, but is just as relevant today. “While Australia as a whole has an ageing population, this trend is reversed for Aboriginal people. Children and young people form a large proportion of the Aboriginal population. For example, Aboriginal people comprise 1.9% of the total population but 3.25% of the youth population of Australia,” (YAPA, 2006, p.33).

In our surveys conducted with children and youth, 3.2% of the respondents identified as Australian Aboriginal.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and youth require our focus to help remedy many of the inequalities that they face on a daily basis. “Youth services can reduce some of the disadvantages faced by Aboriginal people by helping young people stay connected (or be re-connected) to education and employment, by providing practical assistance and support and by addressing racism and discrimination in the broader community.” (YAPA, 2006, p.33)

Canterbury City Council convenes an Aboriginal Advisory Group to work cooperatively in support of issues facing Aboriginal people and to uphold their rights. A Reconciliation Walk is held biennially, and negotiations are currently underway for an Inner West Regional community NAIDOC week event.

Children from Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds

According to ABS 2011 there are 54 different nationalities, other than those born in Australia, represented in the City of Canterbury. Harmony among all people is obviously important in our community. We have been known as the City of Cultural Diversity for many years, and agencies in the area are accustomed to working with people from various CALD backgrounds. For this reason, perhaps, service providers rated Cultural Diversity as one way that they uphold children's rights, with 100% saying they cater to CALD children and youth.

This contrasts with only 22.4% of families responding that cultural diversity is catered for, as well as families and children rating non-discrimination quite low in terms of rights being upheld.

Aboriginal Advisory Group
Multicultural Advisory Committee
"Harmony" Statement of Values

Focus groups

N (14): At my school many teachers are racist. Makes me feel so bad.

F(13): They always call you black.

N (14): Because people call me black and I hate it

N (14): But some (people) are racist. ND (16): Some are racist and some are good

Knowledge of their rights

All children should be aware that they have rights and that all people have rights, that their rights must be respected and that they must respect the rights of others. One of the key strategies for building a CFC is the promotion of children's rights among children and within the whole community.

Article 42: Knowledge of rights : **Governments should make the Convention known to adults and children. Adults should help children learn about their rights, too.**

When asked whether they were aware of their rights under the UN CRC, 54.3% of children and youth said they did not know they had rights. The remaining 45.7% who were aware of their rights noted that they learned of them through a variety of ways including school, internet, TAFE, childcare, parents and friends.

Survey responses

Right upheld in Canterbury: Children's ideas are seriously considered by adults

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
44.3%	25.9%	75%

Right upheld in Canterbury: Express opinions on the city you want

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
42.9 %	27.1 %	41.7 %

Right upheld in Canterbury: Influence decisions about your city

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
44.3 %	27.1 %	16.7 %

Right upheld in Canterbury: Services educate you on your rights

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
45.7 %	37.6 %	54.2%

Right upheld in Canterbury: Be an equal citizen with access to every service

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
64.3 %	36.5 %	54.2 %

Right upheld in Canterbury: Be an equal citizen with same rights as adults

Children & young people	Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
47.1 %	25.9 %	54.2 %

In which area is Canterbury a CFC – Community participation & decision making

Parents/guardians/carers	Service providers
20 %	33.3 %

The rights that children believe they least have are the right to express opinions on the city they want, services stand up for your rights, you can influence ideas about your city, and your ideas and opinions are seriously considered by adults. Families also rated these rights the lowest.

According to the responses from service providers and in stark contrast to the responses from children, youth and parents, one of the rights which is upheld well and frequently is giving serious consideration to children's opinions. This may indicate that service providers believe they are doing a better job of upholding this right than they actually are.

One of the rights which the most parents believed their children had in the City of Canterbury was to participate in family, community and social life, scoring this second highest.

According to service providers, one of the groups which were least catered to in their services were lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex (LGBTI) children and youth (62.5%).

PART D

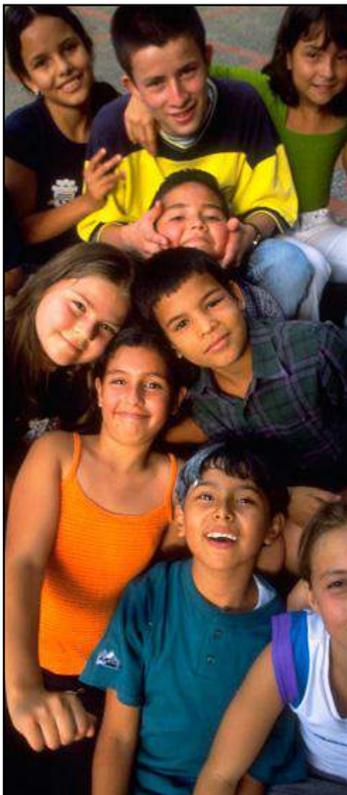
Ways Forward

Discussion of Key Findings

Suggestions

Recommendations

Child Friendly Cities in a Child Friendly World



Child Friendly Cities are developing in all regions of the world – large cities, medium size towns and smaller communities and rural settings. They illustrate the creativity and commitment of communities, children and their governments in making the Convention on the Rights of the Child a daily practice.

Discussion of Key Findings

According to families, service providers, and children and young people, there are a lot of good things happening in the City of Canterbury to uphold children's rights. The finalisation of this report, with background research and consultation with each of those groups of stakeholders, is not just another solid way of upholding these rights but an impetus for acting on feedback and encouraging or enabling change.

Some key areas for change have been suggested, and recommendations will be made relating to these. Canterbury City Council can take responsibility for some areas, while other agencies, services or government departments, and individuals would be responsible for other areas.

Ensuring that parents have the best possible care from the start of their pregnancy, and ongoing advice and information to help them make the best possible decisions regarding their children, is crucial. Providing information on immunisation, early childhood education and care, positive parenting, child development and encouraging children's learning and development, child protection, health eating, being active, and availability of services and programs would all be helpful. Ensuring this information is appropriate and accessible to all people is vital given our very large CALD population, and ensuring Aboriginal families receive information is also vital given our very small ATSI population.

We all need to review our services and programs to make sure they are fully inclusive of all cultures, languages, faiths, and abilities. We need to work to ensure the safety and protection of all children and young people in our City.

We need to ensure that Council's strategic plan, and recommendations made in service or program reviews (eg, Draft playground study) are followed up and implemented as fully as possible. We all need to work together to ensure children's rights are known and upheld throughout our City.

Extensive promotion of children's rights within the whole community, and in particular among children and young people, is essential. We need to treat children and young people with equal respect in order to encourage mutual respect from them. We need to encourage all services and organisations to include children in decision making, to ask their opinions, to listen to them and include their opinions in planning and service provision, and to give them feedback on their opinions.

Suggestions from the Community

We have recorded the suggestions that were included in survey responses and also those that were made during focus groups. These are summarised below and listed fully in **Appendix 10**.

Health

An Attractive Environment, which is also healthy, was a popular theme. Eight comments were made about the pollution and need to stop dumping in and to clean the Cooks River.

A further eleven comments were made about pollution and cleaning up spaces including streets, shops, footpaths, carparks, schools, parks and playgrounds– eg. Canterbury Road, the streets of Campsie, Haldon & Croydon Streets Lakemba, Campsie shops, mowing lawns in public spaces.

Affordable Housing was also a strong message, with five comments.

Children’s health in terms of healthy food and especially sports and other activities also received five comments.

The provision of health services, and especially allied health and early intervention services also received five comments.

Sustainability was mentioned in regard to outdoor lighting and solar panels once.

Hygiene in children’s centres and heating and cooling in a community facility were both mentioned once.

Learning & Development

Early Childhood Education & Care received sixteen comments, mostly about the need for more affordable, accessible places in long day care, preschool, family day care and outside school hours services, with four suggestions for improved services. There was also a request for better information to families about what quality early childhood education and care looks like, and a request for more parenting classes.

More playgroups for young children and carers was mentioned three times.

For older students there was one mention of a lack of high schools, and five comments about the need for mentoring/leadership, careers counselling, and employment opportunities.

Older students themselves commented on being spoken to disrespectfully and being sent home for reasons such as wearing nail polish or the wrong socks.

Leisure

This area received the most comments, and particularly in relation to parks and playgrounds, which received forty two comments in total. A few comments suggested the need for more open spaces, while overall there was a general impression that there are plenty of parks and playgrounds but that many need upgrades of both grounds and equipment.

Several specific suggestions were made including a need for toilets, fencing, taps and bubblers, tables and chairs, shade structures, waterproof areas, and lighting. The need for clean toilets was suggested several times, not just in parks but in shopping centres and libraries.

There were specific suggestions around equipment such as outdoor gym equipment, football posts, practice cricket nets, basketball courts, cycle tracks, skate park, and a need for equipment to be more innovative, creative and interactive. The need for disability accessible playgrounds and equipment was mentioned, and indoor play areas were also mentioned.

Young people received a lot of attention also, with fifteen comments about the need for more youth services across more suburbs, more activities and events, and safe places for young people to gather. There were two suggestions for a permanent Youth Officer at the libraries.

Aquatic centres received one mention with a suggestion of increased capacity of the indoor pool, as well as better play equipment and picnic facilities in the park next door at Canterbury. A skating and bike park for younger children was also suggested. A Community Safety Park and Community Gardens were also suggested.

Safety

The most common safety theme was in relation to roads and footpaths, with thirteen comments including suggestions for better roads and footpaths, more street lights especially near crossings, zebra crossings on busy streets, speed humps and traffic controlling devices. The walkway near Lakemba station was seen as particularly unsafe. Aggressive driving was also mentioned in relation to children/pedestrian safety. Another suggestion was for traffic free zones in shopping centres and better urban design to create vibrant and safe environments.

Improving availability of public transport was mentioned four times. Fencing around schools was mentioned twice, and education programs were also mentioned twice, for both children and adults.

As well as previous comments related to parks, two further suggestions included park lights for safety and replacing sawdust with safer ground cover in playgrounds.

Two comments involved a need for police to be more responsive and approachable. Stopping school bullying was one suggestion and another was for more casework services for young people in need.

Internet safety, privacy using library computers, and promotion of emergency numbers were suggestions from children and young people. One child also suggested dogs needing to be on leashes.

Participation

Promoting children's rights, listening to children's voices, and providing child friendly information all received equal attention. Advocacy and promotion of children's rights within the community, families and services, as well as with children was highlighted. So too was involving children in decision making, giving them a say and listening to their voices. Informing children in more child friendly ways is most important and several suggestions related to child friendly websites, particularly for Council, advertising aimed at children and young people, and youtube advertising for example.

An important suggestion related to this was for the provision of information and support for those consulting with children on their programs.

There was a suggestion that better access was needed to services that work well with children and families in culturally appropriate ways, and another about Council needing to engage with non - English speaking and disadvantaged groups. In contrast, there were also a few comments about the high number of culturally or disability specific services for children and families, especially playgroups and mothers' groups, with Anglo Australians having difficulty finding inclusive groups to join.

In order to support children's participation there were also suggestions for more information and a centralised directory of services for families.

Funding

Additional comments were made in relation to funding, marketing and staffing of existing services for expansion of services to vulnerable families not accessing any service.

Recommendations

Recommendation	Canterbury City Council's Role	Role of Others
1. Develop a Children's Strategy	Prepare a strategy statement to provide direction for all areas of Council to uphold children's rights and include them in planning. Develop policy and principles statements, achievable goals and process of implementation. Continue to monitor the status of children in Canterbury.	Agencies and organisations will be encouraged to develop a policy on children's rights.
	Consult the Youth Council and other stakeholders re the proposal to amend the Youth Council Charter to include all children aged under 18 years, rather than managing a separate children's committee.	This group will be involved in advocacy for children's rights in each of the following recommendations, informing others and encouraging them to uphold these rights and follow through on recommendations.
2. Promotion of the value of childhood vaccinations, particularly for 5 year olds	Our early childhood programs currently promote vaccinations through enrolment processes and follow up reminders with families. Promote through media and focus on children starting school.	All early childhood programs, schools, and health services will be encouraged to promote the benefits of full immunisation for all children, including young people.
3. Provision of allied health professionals and mental health professionals	Continue providing speech pathology service while funding is available. Continue promotion of mental health through BreakThru and Canterbury Connect. Council to advertise for more services as required.	This service will continue to be provided through private service delivery with the user afforded the ability to choose their provider.'
4. Improve capacity for education facilities at all levels to be inclusive of children with disabilities	Our early and middle childhood programs include children with disabilities. Improved promotion of services through Council website and social media and pamphlet updates. Disability Access Committee plans to work with local schools on disability awareness training.	All early childhood, primary and high school institutions will be encouraged to audit and improve their ability to be fully inclusive of children with a range of disabilities.

Recommendation	Canterbury City Council's Role	Role of Others
5. Promotion of programs such as Munch & Move, Crunch & Sip, and Active After School	Continue and extend these programs in our children's services. Promote these programs through Children's Services Network and the media.	Primary schools to be encouraged to be involved in Crunch and Sip program, early childhood services to attend training in Munch & Move, and OSHC services to participate in the Active After School program.
6. Provision of affordable housing	Submission made to the Legislative Council Senate Inquiry into Social, Public and Affordable Housing. Continue advocating in this area.	Submission also made by Metro Migrant Resource Centre and Canterbury City Community Centre. Keep housing on the agenda at Interagency meetings.
7. Clean up Cooks River	Continue with current programs with the Cooks River Alliance, Sydney Water, and continue to support the community groups involved in bush regeneration and litter removal	All members of the community to be encouraged to play a part in keeping the river and surrounding environment clean.
8. Clean up streets and shopping centres	Continue with current programs such as illegal dumping strategy, and support of community groups such as Environment at Lakemba.	All members of the community to be encouraged to play a part in keeping these spaces clean.
9. Promote education on sustainability issues	Our environmental services staff work with internal and external partners to promote sustainable practices. Promote different issues through the local media.	All agencies, organisations and individuals in the community to be encouraged to get involved with issues of sustainability and play their part.
10. Provision of more high quality and affordable early childhood education and care and out of school hours services, in those suburbs that are under-resourced	We continue to provide high quality services across the City, setting a benchmark for other services and providing support through the local Network. Ensure our development application processes focus on services that are well designed, and encourage development in areas of need. Develop and distribute information about quality early education and care for families, through social media and Council advertising	New developers to be encouraged to consider where the most need is in the community rather than just developing based on affordability of land. Seek opportunities for capital funding for new services.

Recommendation	Canterbury City Council's Role	Role of Others
11. Provision of more appropriate parenting programs	Our children's services offer information and workshops on positive parenting. We are involved in a Parental Engagement Partnership aimed at encouraging families to be engaged with their child's learning,	Continue with the range of parenting programs that are currently available, while ensuring their suitability to particular individual families. All organisations to be encouraged to promote positive guidance of children.
12. Promote a focus on developing social competence, general knowledge and communication skills in pre-schoolers	Ensure our children's services continue to focus on these areas. Use this report to highlight these areas of need through local media, and benchmark results of Assessment & Rating of our services.	All early childhood services to be encouraged to focus attention on these areas of children's development, and to encourage all families to also focus on these skills with their children.
13. Continue promoting reading throughout primary and high school	Use this report to highlight these areas of need through local media. Our libraries can continue to advocate for a love of reading among all children.	All agencies and organisation to be encouraged to continue to advocate for literacy programs and encourage a love of reading.
14. Promote numeracy learning in high school	Use this report to highlight this area of need through local media. Continue to support the online Youth Tutor program.	All agencies and organisation to be encouraged to continue to advocate for numeracy programs and education.
15. Improve vocational training opportunities for young people	Continue with youth programs, and the MOU with Creating Brighter Careers Connections, as well as the MOU with TAFE.	All agencies and organisation to be encouraged to continue to advocate for vocation training opportunities for young people, and be prepared to accept student volunteers and work experience students.
16. Upgrade parks and playgrounds in various ways	Recently installed outdoor gym equipment at Wiley Park. Follow through on all abilities playground development. Implement recommendations from recent recreation plan review and playground study.	All members of the community to be encouraged to play a part in keeping these spaces clean.

Recommendation	Canterbury City Council's Role	Role of Others
17. Wider promotion of National Child Protection Week (NCPW) and related strategies for keeping children safe	Our children's services continue to participate in NCPW. Promote more widely through children's services network and local media, including publicity about Working with Children Checks..	All organisations and agencies to be encouraged to become involved with NCPW. Participation in Child Protection Committee.
18. Promotion of internet safety	Continue to do this through our libraries, youth programs and children's services programs.	All organisations and agencies encouraged to implement internet safety practices.
19. Promotion about anti bullying and respecting the rights of everyone	Review anti bullying policy. Promote through media.	All organisations and agencies encouraged to implement anti-bullying policies
20. Development of child friendly information and websites	Our library services, children's services and communications staff to cooperate on reviewing website and developing child friendly information and website.	All organisations and agencies to be encouraged to work on developing child friendly information & resources.
21. Wide promotion of children's rights in the community and among children	Promote this report in local newspapers. Distribute poster of the Convention in Child Friendly Language. Engage children in discussion about rights, through specific Children's consultations & Youth Council.	All organisations and agencies to be encouraged to display and/or distribute poster and ensure children are aware of their rights.
22. Promotion of listening to children's voices and more inclusion of children in decision making	Continue to consult with children at all levels of planning. Prepare media articles focused on this right and how we include children in our planning processes. Invite child participation on the Youth Council	All organisations and agencies to be encouraged to include children in decision making.
23. Focus on acceptance and inclusion of all people in activities and community events	Continue involvement with Aboriginal Advisory Group and Multicultural Advisory Committee. Promote "Harmony" Statement of Values, and Harmony Day throughout the community.	All organisations and agencies to be encouraged to review their current practices to ensure that all children and families feel included.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 –Survey Children and Youth

State of Canterbury's Children - Children and Youth

You are invited to participate in a survey regarding the State of Canterbury's children in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Child Friendly Cities (CFC) initiative. The survey seeks information regarding the well-being of children and young people (aged 0-18) in the City of Canterbury. The survey will involve 10 questions with a mixture of multiple choice and short answer. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

We are conducting separate surveys for the following groups in the City of Canterbury:

- Children and Youth
- Service Providers
- Parents

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you are not under any obligation to consent to complete the survey. Submitting a completed survey is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw any time prior to submitting your completed survey. Once you have submitted your survey anonymously, your responses cannot be withdrawn

NOTE: if you require assistance with the translation of the survey please contact freya.conomos@canterbury.nsw.gov.au

*1. What is your age?

- 0-4
- 5-9
- 10-14
- 15-18
- 19+

*2. What is your sex?

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to answer

Other (please specify)

State of Canterbury's Children - Children and Youth

*3. Which culture do you identify with? You can tick more than one.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American | <input type="checkbox"/> German | <input type="checkbox"/> Palestinian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Armenian | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek | <input type="checkbox"/> Peruvian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Hungarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Polish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Torres Strait Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian | <input type="checkbox"/> Indonesian | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bengali | <input type="checkbox"/> Iranian | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bosnian | <input type="checkbox"/> Iraqi | <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burmese | <input type="checkbox"/> Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Serbian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central and West African | <input type="checkbox"/> Italian | <input type="checkbox"/> Sinhalese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chilean | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Somali |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Jordanian | <input type="checkbox"/> South African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cook Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Croatian | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Sudanese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cypriot | <input type="checkbox"/> Macedonian | <input type="checkbox"/> Syrian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dutch | <input type="checkbox"/> Malay | <input type="checkbox"/> Thai |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian | <input type="checkbox"/> Maltese | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Maori | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopian | <input type="checkbox"/> Mauritian | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fijian | <input type="checkbox"/> Nepalese | <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealander | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French | <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |

Other (please specify)

State of Canterbury's Children - Children and Youth

***4. What kinds of services do you access around Canterbury? You can tick more than one.**

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centrelink | <input type="checkbox"/> Highschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Police |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Sport | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counselling (e.g. for trouble at home or school) | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTI Support Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Health Clinics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping Centres |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing/Music/Art Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Services for those experiencing/at risk of Homelessness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Services (physical, intellectual, sensory) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Therapists (Speech, Physical, Occupational) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctors (GP, Specialists) | <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant and Refugee Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Training (Job Skills) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug and Alcohol Services | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO Support (e.g. Barnardos, St Vincent de Pauls etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Carer Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Sports Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Parent Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Further Education (e.g. TAFE, University) | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Centres |

Other (please specify)

***5. In which suburbs do you use services in the City of Canterbury? (Canterbury is still a suburb within the City of Canterbury)**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ashbury | <input type="checkbox"/> Hurlstone Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belfield | <input type="checkbox"/> Kingsgrove |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belmore | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakemba |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beverley Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Narwee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campsie | <input type="checkbox"/> Punchbowl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canterbury | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverwood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clemton Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Roselands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Croydon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Wiley Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earwood | |

Other (please specify)

6. How do you think the services you used could be improved? (Optional)

State of Canterbury's Children - Children and Youth

***7. Which types of services do you think we need more of for children and youth? You can tick more than one.**

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centrelink | <input type="checkbox"/> Highschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Police |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Sport | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counselling (e.g. for trouble at home or school) | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTI Support Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Health Clinics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping Centres |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing/Music/Art Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Services for those experiencing/at risk of Homelessness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Services (physical, intellectual, sensory) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Therapists (Speech, Physical, Occupational) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctors (GP, Specialists) | <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant and Refugee Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Training (Job Skills) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug and Alcohol Services | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO Support (e.g. Barnardos, St Vincent de Pauls etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Carer Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Sports Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Parent Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Further Education (e.g. TAFE, University) | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Centres |

Other (please specify)

***8. Do you know that you have rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?**

- Yes
- No

If yes how did you know about them e.g. friends, school, internet

State of Canterbury's Children - Children and Youth

***9. Which rights do you think you have in the City of Canterbury? You can tick more than one.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to green spaces for plants and animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Right to access basic services such as health, education and shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to information/mass media | <input type="checkbox"/> Right to privacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be an equal citizen of your city with access to every service | <input type="checkbox"/> Services educate you on your rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse in all situations | <input type="checkbox"/> Services stand up for your rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Live in an unpolluted environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk safely in streets on your own |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meet friends and play | <input type="checkbox"/> You are an equal citizen with the same rights as adults |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No one discriminates against you | <input type="checkbox"/> You can express opinions on the city you want |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in cultural and social events | <input type="checkbox"/> You can influence decisions about your city |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in family, community and social life | <input type="checkbox"/> Your ideas and opinions are seriously considered by adults |

10. Is there anything else you want to add? (Optional)

11. For the chance to win movie tickets for completing this survey, please leave your email address below. Your email address will only be used to contact you if you win the movie tickets and for no other purpose.

Thank you for your time!

We encourage you to inform others about the survey. If you know anyone who would be interested in completing a survey as a child/youth, service provider, or parent/guardian/carer in the City of Canterbury please forward them the link, or ask them to email freya.conomos@canterbury.nsw.gov.au to forward the relevant link.

Appendix 2: Survey Parents/Guardians/Carers

State of Canterbury's Children - Parents/Guardians/Carers

You are invited to participate in a survey regarding the State of Canterbury's children in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Child Friendly Cities (CFC) initiative. The survey seeks information regarding the well-being of children and young people (aged 0-18) in the City of Canterbury. The survey will involve 10 questions with a mixture of multiple choice and short answer. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

We are conducting separate surveys for the following groups in the City of Canterbury:

- Children and Youth
- Service Providers
- Parents

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you are not under any obligation to consent to complete the survey. Submitting a completed survey is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw any time prior to submitting your completed survey. Once you have submitted your survey anonymously, your responses cannot be withdrawn

NOTE: if you require assistance with the translation of the survey please contact freya.conomos@canterbury.nsw.gov.au

***1. What is the age of your child/ren?**

0-4

5-9

10-14

15-18

18+

Other (please specify)

State of Canterbury's Children - Parents/Guardians/Carers

*2. Which culture does your child identify with? You can tick more than one.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American | <input type="checkbox"/> German | <input type="checkbox"/> Palestinian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Armenian | <input type="checkbox"/> Greek | <input type="checkbox"/> Peruvian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Hungarian | <input type="checkbox"/> Polish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian Torres Strait Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australian | <input type="checkbox"/> Indonesian | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bengali | <input type="checkbox"/> Iranian | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bosnian | <input type="checkbox"/> Iraqi | <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burmese | <input type="checkbox"/> Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Serbian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central and West African | <input type="checkbox"/> Italian | <input type="checkbox"/> Sinhalese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chilean | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Somali |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Jordanian | <input type="checkbox"/> South African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cook Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Croatian | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Sudanese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cypriot | <input type="checkbox"/> Macedonian | <input type="checkbox"/> Syrian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dutch | <input type="checkbox"/> Malay | <input type="checkbox"/> Thai |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egyptian | <input type="checkbox"/> Maltese | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Maori | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopian | <input type="checkbox"/> Mauritian | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fijian | <input type="checkbox"/> Nepalese | <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealander | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French | <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |

Other (please specify)

State of Canterbury's Children - Parents/Guardians/Carers

*3. What services do your children use within the City of Canterbury area?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centrelink | <input type="checkbox"/> Highschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Police |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Sport | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counselling (e.g. for trouble at home or school) | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTI Support Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Health Clinics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping Centres |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing/Music/Art Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Services for those experiencing/at risk of Homelessness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Services (physical, intellectual, sensory) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Therapists (Speech, Physical, Occupational) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctors (GP, Specialists) | <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant and Refugee Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Training (Job Skills) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug and Alcohol Services | <input type="checkbox"/> NGO Support (e.g. Barnardos, St Vincent de Pauls etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Carer Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Sports Grounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Parent Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Further Education (e.g. TAFE, University) | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Centres |

Other (please specify)

*4. In which suburbs are the services that your children use within the City of Canterbury?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ashbury | <input type="checkbox"/> Hurlstone Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beifield | <input type="checkbox"/> Kingsgrove |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belmore | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakemba |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beverley Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Narwee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campsie | <input type="checkbox"/> Punchbowl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canterbury | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverwood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clemtion Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Roselands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Croydon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Wiley Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earlwood | |

Other (please specify)

State of Canterbury's Children - Parents/Guardians/Carers

*5. In your opinion, which of the following groups of children/youth are NOT catered to in the City of Canterbury's services?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Children/Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth Experiencing/at risk of Homelessness | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Offenders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth from Single Parent Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth from Low Socio-Economic Backgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health support for Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth with Disabilities (physical, intellectual, sensory) | <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant and Refugee Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/youth who are at risk of significant harm at Home | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Carers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/youth who are at risk of significant harm in Relationships | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation/Counselling for Children/Youth | |

Other (please specify)

*6. In your opinion, which of the following rights of children/youth are upheld in the City of Canterbury? These are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are now internationally endorsed.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to green spaces for plants and animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet friends and play |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to information/mass media | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-discrimination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy for children's rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunity to express opinions and influence decisions on the city they want |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in cultural and social events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse in all situations | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in family, community and social life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education on their Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Right to access basic services such as health, education and shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equal citizenship with adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Right to privacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ideas and opinions are seriously considered by adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk safely in streets on their own |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Live in an unpolluted environment | |

State of Canterbury's Children - Parents/Guardians/Carers

***7. A Child Friendly City is considered to uphold the above rights. In your opinion in which areas is the City of Canterbury a Child Friendly City?**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to information | <input type="checkbox"/> Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to natural environments | <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusivity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Built Environments (e.g. shopping centres, housing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation (e.g. parks, sports grounds) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Participation and decision-making | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social and Justice Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Training (Job Skills) |

Other (please specify)

8. In your opinion, which areas of service in Canterbury used by your child/ren need improvement and why? (Optional)

9. Do you have any recommendations to enhance the well-being of Canterbury's children as a whole? (Optional)

10. For the chance to win movie tickets for completing this survey, please leave your email address below. Your email address will only be used to contact you if you win the movie tickets and for no other purpose.

Thank you for your time!

We encourage you to inform others about the survey. If you know anyone who would be interested in completing a survey as a child/youth, service provider, or parent/guardian/carer in the City of Canterbury please forward them the link, or ask them to email freya.conomos@canterbury.nsw.gov.au to forward the relevant link.

Appendix 3: Survey Service Providers

State of Canterbury's Children - Service Providers

You are invited to participate in a survey regarding the State of Canterbury's children in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Child Friendly Cities (CFC) initiative. The survey seeks information regarding the well-being of children and young people (aged 0-18) in the City of Canterbury. The survey will involve 10 questions with a mixture of multiple choice and short answer. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

We are conducting separate surveys for the following groups in the City of Canterbury:

- Children and Youth
- Service Providers
- Parents

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you are not under any obligation to consent to complete the survey. Submitting a completed survey is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw any time prior to submitting your completed survey. Once you have submitted your survey anonymously, your responses cannot be withdrawn

NOTE: if you require assistance with the translation of the survey please contact freya.conomos@canterbury.nsw.gov.au

***1. What field is your service primarily involved in? Please provide any further detail necessary to clarify this in the textbox.**

- Education
- Health
- Legal/Law Enforcement
- Child/Youth Welfare
- Built Environment
- Recreation
- Community Support

Other (please specify)

***2. What is the age range of the children or young people you work with?**

- 0-4
- 5-9
- 10-14
- 15-18

Other (please specify)

State of Canterbury's Children - Service Providers

*3. What suburbs does your service cater to?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ashbury | <input type="checkbox"/> Huristone Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belfield | <input type="checkbox"/> Kingsgrove |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belmore | <input type="checkbox"/> Lakemba |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beverley Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Narwee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campsie | <input type="checkbox"/> Punchbowl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canterbury | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverwood |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clemtan Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Roselands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Croydon Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Wiley Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earlwood | |

Other (please specify)

*4. In your opinion which marginalised children and youth does your service accommodate for?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Children/Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth Experiencing/at risk of Homelessness | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Offenders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth from Single Parent Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth from Low Socio-Economic Backgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health support for Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth with Disabilities (physical, intellectual, sensory) | <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant and Refugee Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/youth who are at risk of significant harm at Home | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Carers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/youth who are at risk of significant harm in Relationships | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation/Counselling for Children/Youth | |

Other (please specify)

State of Canterbury's Children - Service Providers

*5. In your opinion in which areas is Canterbury a Child Friendly City?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to information | <input type="checkbox"/> Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to natural environments | <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusivity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Built Environments (e.g. shopping centres, housing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation (e.g. parks, sports grounds) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Participation and decision-making | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social and Justice Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational Training (Job Skills) |

Other (please specify)

*6. In your opinion, which of the following groups are NOT catered to in your service?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Children/Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth Experiencing/at risk of Homelessness | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Offenders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth from Single Parent Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth from Low Socio-Economic Backgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health support for Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth with Disabilities (physical, intellectual, sensory) | <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant and Refugee Children/Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/youth who are at risk of significant harm at Home | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Carers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/youth who are at risk of significant harm in Relationships | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation/Counselling for Children/Youth | |

Other (please specify)

*7. In your opinion, which of the following rights from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child does your service uphold well?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to information/mass media | <input type="checkbox"/> Listening to children and respecting their views |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best interest of the child | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-discrimination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every child's right to life and maximum development | <input type="checkbox"/> Protection from all forms of violence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of association | <input type="checkbox"/> Right to access health care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of thought, conscience and religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Right to education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge of their rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Right to privacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure, play and culture | |

Other (please specify)

State of Canterbury's Children - Service Providers

*8. In your opinion, which of the following elements of the Child Friendly Cities initiative do you believe your service upholds?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service | <input type="checkbox"/> Live in an unpolluted environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Making Children's rights known |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children are equal citizens with same rights as adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet friends and play |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's ideas and opinions are seriously considered by adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in cultural and social events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express opinions on the city they want | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in family, community and social life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have green spaces for plants and animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Receive basic services such as health care, education and shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent advocacy for children | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk safely in the streets on their own |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Influence decisions about their city | |

Other (please specify)

9. In your opinion, how could your service be enhanced to improve Canterbury's Child Friendly Cities status?

10. Do you have any recommendations to enhance the well-being of Canterbury's children?

11. For the chance to win movie tickets for completing this survey, please leave your email address below. Your email address will only be used to contact you if you win the movie tickets and for no other purpose.

Thank you for your time!

We encourage you to inform others about the survey. If you know anyone who would be interested in completing a survey as a child/youth, service provider, or parent/guardian/carer in the City of Canterbury please forward them the link, or ask them to email freya.conomos@canterbury.nsw.gov.au to forward the relevant link.

Appendix 4: Promotion poster for survey

HAVE YOUR SAY! **&WIN!**

Help improve the City of
Canterbury for Children & Youth!

**For your chance to
win 1 of 3 Family Movie Passes...**



Simply visit www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/children
or scan the QR Code below
fill out the relevant survey
&
go into the draw to win 1 of 3
family movie passes from Event Cinemas!



The City of Canterbury is gathering information about the well-being of children and young people in our City. We are conducting separate surveys for the following groups:
Children and Youth | Service Providers | Parents

Part of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative based on the UN Convention on the rights of the child.



Scan the QR Code above
with your smartphone or tablet

Appendix 5: Participation Statement for focus groups

State of Canterbury's Children: the Child Friendly Cities Initiative

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

(1) What is the interview about?

You are invited to participate in an interview regarding the state of Canterbury's children in accordance with the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Child Friendly Cities* initiative. The survey seeks information regarding the well-being of children and young people (aged 0-18) in the City of Canterbury.

(2) What is the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child*?

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* is the most universally embraced human rights treaty in history. Four key principles of the convention are the foundations for building a *Child Friendly City*. These are:

- Non-discrimination
- The best interests of the child
- Every child's right to life and maximum development
- Listening to children and respecting their views

(3) What is the *Child Friendly Cities* initiative?

The CFC initiative is implemented with the hope to fulfill children's rights as outlined in the UN *Convention for the Rights of the Child*. CFC initiatives have been committed to and implemented by cities all around the world by their local governments to create safer and more inclusive cities for children. Some areas of focus in *Child Friendly Cities* have included education, health, safety, access and participation.

(4) Who is carrying out the interview?

The interview is being conducted by Karen Roberts and Social Work students from the University of Sydney; Freya Conomos and Lucy Stirton.

(5) Why are we doing the interview?

Our study will include the opinions of children, youth, parents and service providers in the Canterbury LGA on the state of Canterbury's children. Using your contributions we will make recommendations to the council for change to enhance the rights of children in Canterbury in accordance with the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

(6) How much time will the survey take?

This interview will take approximately 30 minutes.

(7) Can I withdraw from the interview?

Being in the interview is completely voluntary and you are not under any obligation to consent to taking part. Completing the interview is an indication of your consent to participate in the research. You can withdraw any time prior to the interview.

(8) Will anyone else know the results?

All aspects of the research, including results, will be strictly confidential and only the researchers will have access to information on participants except as required by law.

A report of the study will be submitted for publication, but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report.

(9) Will the research benefit children and youth?

This study aims to result in direct benefits for children and youth in the City of Canterbury by improving the services provided for them.

(10) Can I tell other people about the research?

We encourage you to inform other service providers/children & youth/parents in the area about the research and encourage them to contact us on the details above if they would like to participate.

If service providers/children & youth/parents wish to contribute please ask them to contact Freya on the details listed above. This is encouraged and can easily be arranged. We would particularly like to hear from children and youth on their thoughts.

(11) What if I require further information about the research or my involvement in it?

If after reading this information you would like more detail on the study, you can contact Karen Roberts who will discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have.

(12) What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of the research can contact Freya on the details listed above.

Appendix 6: Focus groups with children

Date	Location	Group
21 May 2013	Hurlstone Park Children's Centre	7 children, 2 male & 5 female, aged 3 to 4 years
22 May 2013	Lakemba Neighbourhood Centre	4 children, 2 male & 2 female, aged 2 to 3 years
22 May 2013	Campsie Library	7 children, 4 female & 3 male, aged 8 to 11 years
22 May 2013	Campsie Library	7 children, 1 female & 6 male, aged 12 to 13 years
28 May 2013	Lakemba Library	7 children, 5 male & 2 female, aged 11 to 18 years
5 June 2013	Belmore Youth Resource Centre	7 children and youth aged 12 to 21 years
28 November 2013	Punchbowl Children's Centre	4 children, 3 male & 1 female, aged 4 to 5 years

The focus group conducted at HPCC included two boys and five girls (aged 3-4 years), and at PCC with three boys and one girl (aged 4-5 years). The focus group at Lakemba Neighbourhood Centre was conducted with two boys and two girls (aged 2-3 years). Play-based activities were used to work with this age group. Optional activities were created where children could draw what they liked about the City of Canterbury and also what they would like to change in their community.

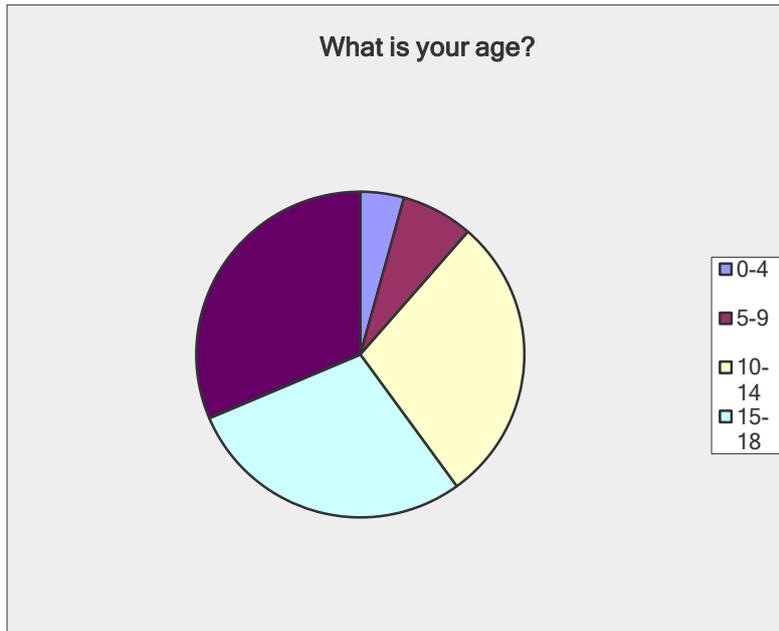
While the children drew their pictures both researchers and early childhood educators engaged them in conversation around their drawings. This process was recorded with iPhones at HPCC, and manually at the other two services. Copies of each drawing were kept from both focus groups with a description of the drawing given by the child and demographic information written on the back.

One focus group was conducted with primary school aged children at Campsie Library with four girls and three boys (aged 8 to 11 years). Another focus group was held with both primary school aged children and high-school aged youth at Lakemba Library with five boys and two girls (aged 11 to 18 years). Two separate focus groups were conducted with youth at Belmore Youth Resource Centre (BYRC) and Campsie Library. In the Campsie Library high school focus group there were six boys present and one girl (aged 12 to 13 years). The BYRC focus group contained four boys and three girls (aged 12 to 21 years). The researchers used an ice-breaker activity to start the group discussions, and then ended with a creative thinking exercise.

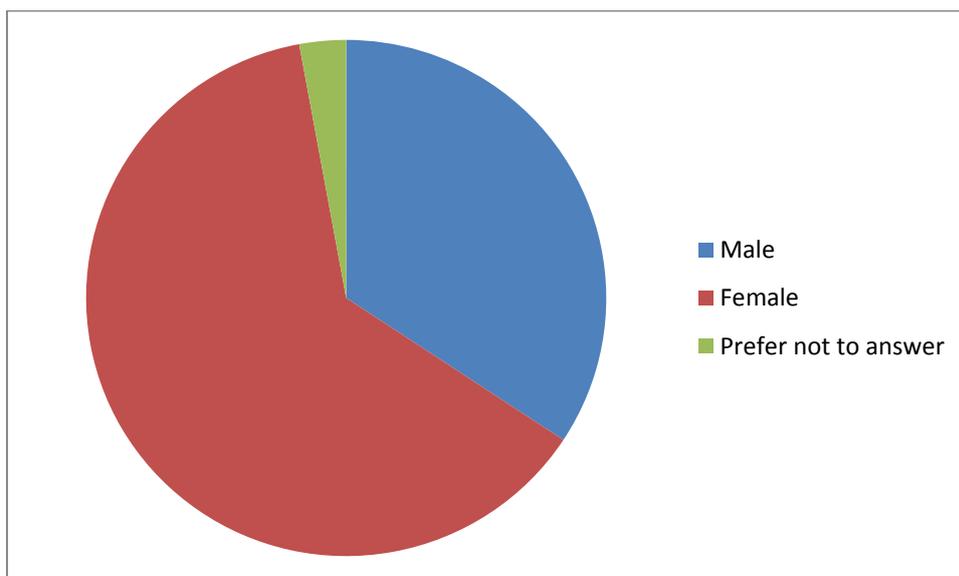
Appendix 7: Demographics from survey responses

Survey	Number of responses
Children and Youth	70
Parents and Guardians	85
Service Providers	24

Children and Youth – age demographics.



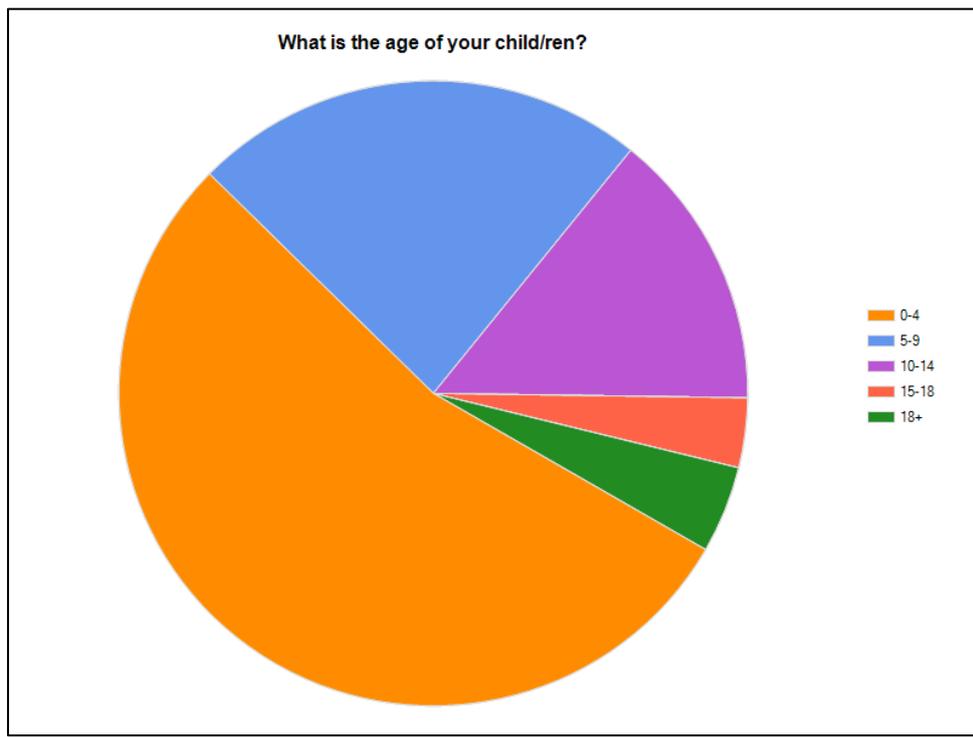
Children and Youth – gender



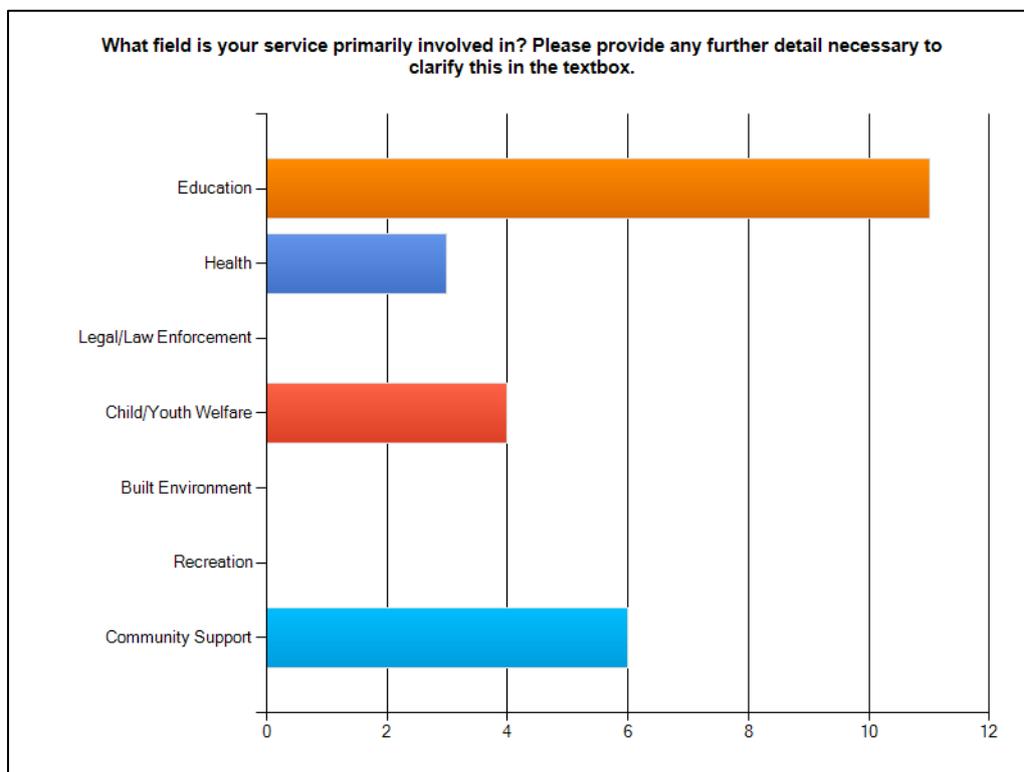
Cultural background from both children and youth & parents and guardians

Cultural Background	Children & Youth response	Parents & Guardian response
American	3.2	
Armenian	1.6	1.3
Australian TSI		1.3
Australian Aboriginal	3.2	
Australian	55.6	68.8
Bengali	1.6	5.2
Bosnian		1.3
Burmese	3.2	
Central & West African	1.6	2.6
Chilean	1.6	1.3
Chinese	25.4	9.1
Croatian	1.6	
Egyptian		2.6
English	4.8	2.6
Fijian	1.6	
Filipino	3.2	
French	1.6	
German	1.6	1.3
Greek	6.3	9.1
Indian	4.8	7.8
Indonesian	7.9	1.3
Iraqi	1.6	
Italian	1.6	2.6
Japanese	1.6	
Jordanian		1.3
Korean	9.5	
Lebanese	3.2	6.5
Maori		1.3
Mauritian	1.6	
Nepalese		1.3
New Zealander	4.8	1.3
Pakistani	4.8	2.6
Palestinian		1.3
Portuguese	1.6	
Russian	1.6	
Scottish		1.3
South African		1.3
Spanish	1.6	
Sudanese	1.6	1.3
Vietnamese	1.6	2.6
Other		2.6

Parents and Guardians – age of children in their care

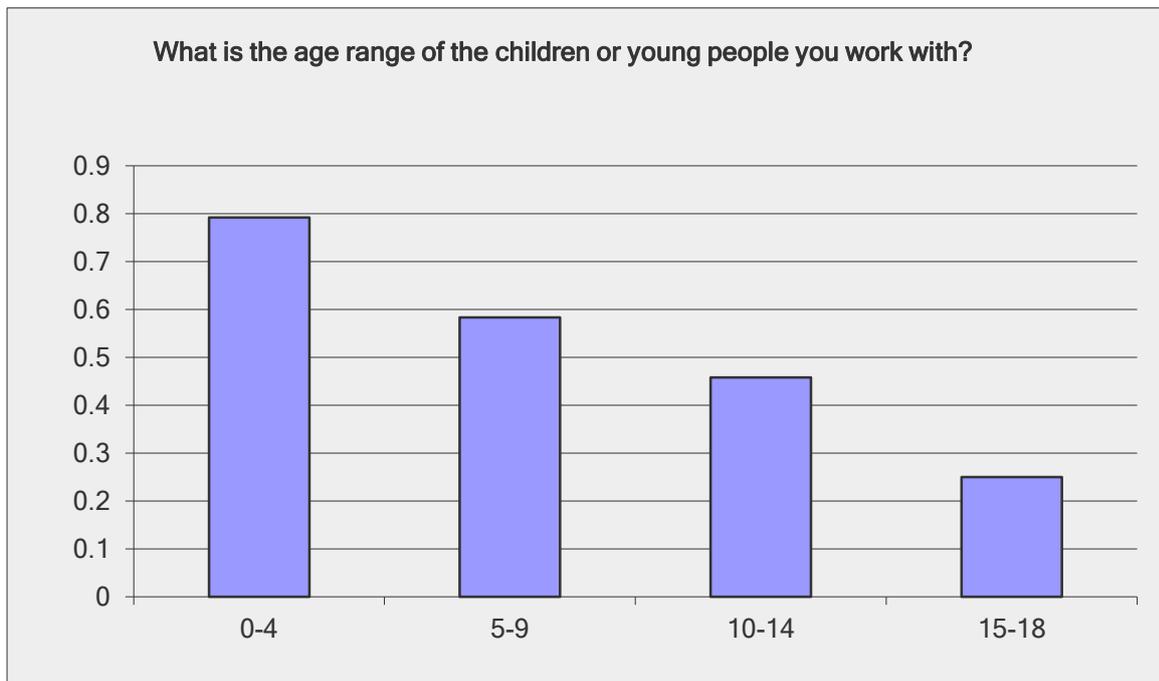


Service Providers – Primary field

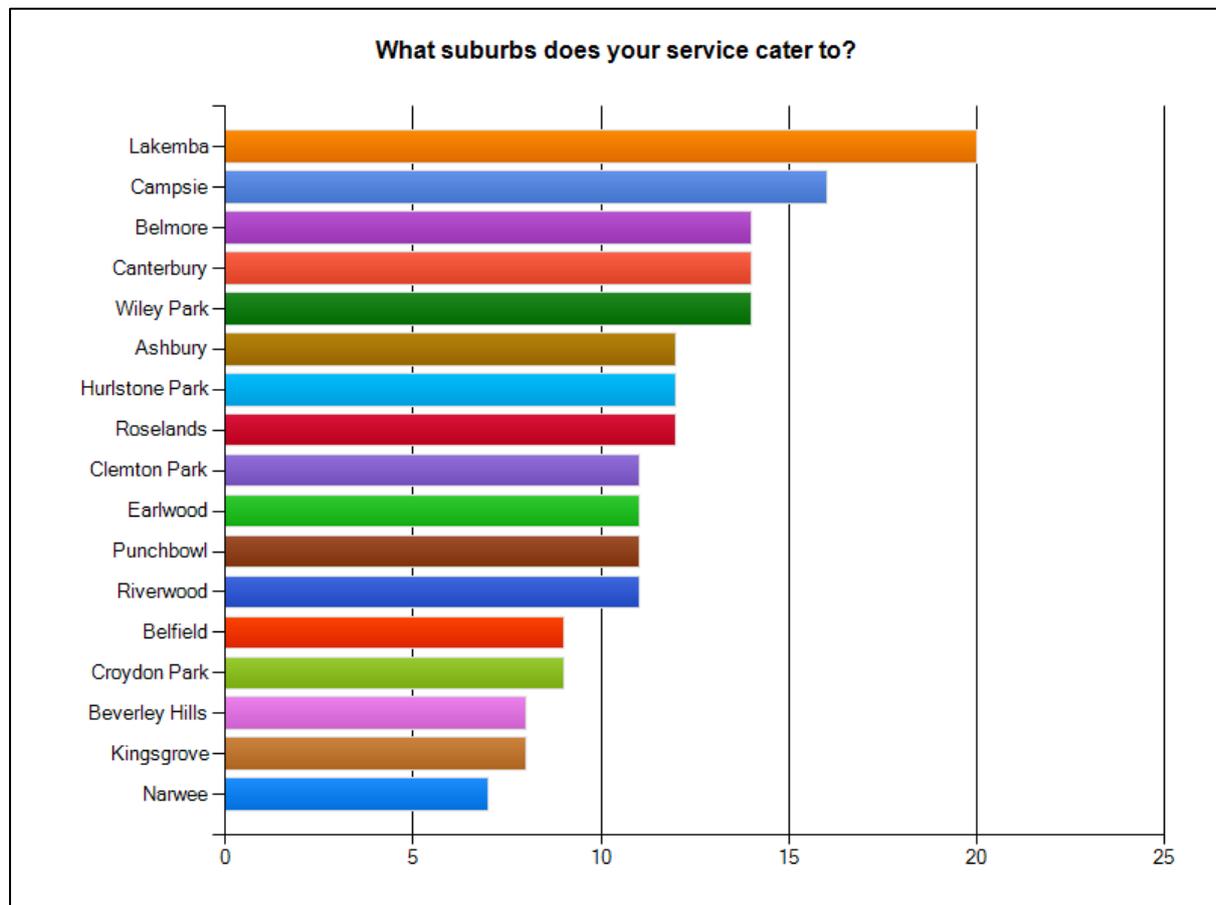


Other service responses included: outside of school care hours; a youth group run by a church; family support; library and long day care.

Service Providers – ages of children and youth who their service caters for



Service Providers – Suburbs catered to



Appendix 8: Survey responses

State of Canterbury's Children - Children and Youth

Which rights do you think you have in the City of Canterbury? You can tick more than one.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to green spaces for plants and animals	58.6%	41
Access to information/mass media	50.0%	35
Be an equal citizen of your city with access to every service	64.3%	45
Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse in all situations	62.9%	44
Live in an unpolluted environment	48.6%	34
Meet friends and play	70.0%	49
No one discriminates against you	55.7%	39
Participate in cultural and social events	65.7%	46
Participate in family, community and social life	65.7%	46
Right to access basic services such as health, education and shelter	71.4%	50
Right to privacy	74.3%	52
Services educate you on your rights	45.7%	32
Services stand up for your rights	44.3%	31
Walk safely in streets on your own	61.4%	43
You are an equal citizen with the same rights as adults	47.1%	33
You can express opinions on the city you want	42.9%	30
You can influence decisions about your city	44.3%	31
Your ideas and opinions are seriously considered by adults	44.3%	31
<i>answered question</i>		70/70

State of Canterbury's Children - Parents/Guardians/Carers

In your opinion, which of the following rights of children/youth are upheld in the City of Canterbury? These are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are now internationally endorsed.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to green spaces for plants and animals	64.7%	55
Access to information/mass media	50.6%	43
Advocacy for children's rights	32.9%	28
Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service	36.5%	31
Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse in all situations	37.6%	32
Education on their Rights	37.6%	32
Equal citizenship with adults	25.9%	22
Ideas and opinions are seriously considered by adults	25.9%	22
Live in an unpolluted environment	28.2%	24
Meet friends and play	68.2%	58
Non-discrimination	41.2%	35
Opportunity to express opinions and influence decisions on the city they want	27.1%	23
Participate in cultural and social events	62.4%	53
Participate in family, community and social life	65.9%	56
Right to access basic services such as health, education and shelter	55.3%	47
Right to privacy	40.0%	34
Walk safely in streets on their own	32.9%	28
<i>answered question</i>		85/85

State of Canterbury's Children - Service Providers

In your opinion, which of the following elements of the Child Friendly Cities initiative do you believe your service upholds?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service	54.2%	13
Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse	70.8%	17
Children are equal citizens with same rights as adults	54.2%	13
Children's ideas and opinions are seriously considered by adults	75.0%	18
Express opinions on the city they want	41.7%	10
Have green spaces for plants and animals	50.0%	12
Independent advocacy for children	58.3%	14
Influence decisions about their city	16.7%	4
Live in an unpolluted environment	25.0%	6
Making Children's rights known	54.2%	13
Meet friends and play	83.3%	20
Participate in cultural and social events	83.3%	20
Participate in family, community and social life	83.3%	20
Receive basic services such as health care, education and shelter	79.2%	19
Walk safely in the streets on their own	25.0%	6
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		24/24

State of Canterbury's Children - Parents/Guardians/Carers

A Child Friendly City is considered to uphold the above rights. In your opinion in which areas is the City of Canterbury a Child Friendly City?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to information	40.0%	34
Access to natural environments	48.2%	41
Built Environments (e.g. shopping centres, housing)	47.1%	40
Child Care	67.1%	57
Community Participation and decision-making	20.0%	17
Culture	38.8%	33
Early Childhood Education	50.6%	43
Education	54.1%	46
Health	58.8%	50
Inclusivity	20.0%	17
Media	14.1%	12
Recreation (e.g. parks, sports grounds)	64.7%	55
Safety	24.7%	21
Social and Justice Services	14.1%	12
Transport	45.9%	39
Vocational Training (Job Skills)	5.9%	5
Other (please specify)		2
<i>answered question</i>		85/85

State of Canterbury's Children - Service Providers

In your opinion in which areas is Canterbury a Child Friendly City?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to information	37.5%	9
Access to natural environments	16.7%	4
Built Environments (e.g. shopping centres, housing)	29.2%	7
Child Care	50.0%	12
Community Participation and decision-making	33.3%	8
Culture	41.7%	10
Early Childhood Education	54.2%	13
Education	50.0%	12
Health	66.7%	16
Inclusivity	37.5%	9
Media	12.5%	3
Recreation (e.g. parks, sports grounds)	54.2%	13
Safety	25.0%	6
Social and Justice Services	16.7%	4
Transport	33.3%	8
Vocational Training (Job Skills)	8.3%	2
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		24/24

State of Canterbury's Children - Parents/Guardians/Carers

In your opinion, which of the following groups of children/youth are NOT catered to in the City of Canterbury's services?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Children/Youth	22.4%	19
Children/Youth Experiencing/at risk of Homelessness	14.1%	12
Children/Youth from Single Parent Families	18.8%	16
Children/Youth from Low Socio-Economic Backgrounds	15.3%	13
Children/Youth with Disabilities (physical, intellectual, sensory)	20.0%	17
Children/youth who are at risk of significant harm at Home	8.2%	7
Children/youth who are at risk of significant harm in Relationships	5.9%	5
Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation/Counselling for Children/Youth	5.9%	5
Indigenous Children/Youth	5.9%	5
Juvenile Offenders	4.7%	4
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex Children/Youth	12.9%	11
Mental Health support for Children/Youth	10.6%	9
Migrant and Refugee Children/Youth	9.4%	8
Young Carers	10.6%	9
Young Parents	15.3%	13
Other (please specify)		11
<i>answered question</i>		85/85

State of Canterbury's Children - Service Providers

In your opinion which marginalised children and youth does your service accommodate for?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Children/Youth	100.0%	24
Children/Youth Experiencing/at risk of Homelessness	20.8%	5
Children/Youth from Single Parent Families	58.3%	14
Children/Youth from Low Socio-Economic Backgrounds	87.5%	21
Children/Youth with Disabilities (physical, intellectual, sensory)	70.8%	17
Children/youth who are at risk of significant harm at Home	45.8%	11
Children/youth who are at risk of significant harm in Relationships	20.8%	5
Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation/Counselling for Children/Youth	8.3%	2
Indigenous Children/Youth	29.2%	7
Juvenile Offenders	12.5%	3
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Intersex Children/Youth	20.8%	5
Mental Health support for Children/Youth	16.7%	4
Migrant and Refugee Children/Youth	66.7%	16
Young Carers	20.8%	5
Young Parents	33.3%	8
Other (please specify)		3
<i>answered question</i>		24/24

Appendix 9: NAPLAN score all Canterbury schools

School	Enrolled	ICSEA	Year 3	Year 5	Year 7	Year 9
Ashbury						
<i>St Francis Xavier School</i>	282	1086	R: 438 N: 427	R: 516 N: 528		
Ashbury Public School	376	1123	R: 459 N: 436	R: 537 N: 523		
Belfield						
<i>St Michael's School</i>	298	1073	R: 409 N: 404	R: 482 N: 485		
Belmore						
<i>All Saints Greek Orthodox Grammar School</i>	652	1063	R: 451 N: 418	R: 500 N: 510	R: 537 N: 551	R: 580 N: 603
<i>St Joseph's Primary School</i>	316	1007	R: 394 N: 380	R: 496 N: 477		
Belmore North Public School	329	997	R: 412 N: 385	R: 414 N: 438		
Belmore South Public School	215	988	R: 381 N: 362	R: 429 N: 466		
Belmore Boys High School	364	972			R: 475 N: 491	R: 517 N: 549
Beverly Hills						
Beverly Hills North Public School	697	1063	R: 422 N: 406	R: 515 N: 530		
Campsie						
Campsie Public School	705	1011	R: 428 N: 428	R: 480 N: 523		
Harcourt Public School	601	1057	R: 413 N: 416	R: 466 N: 492		
<i>St Mel's Primary School</i>	301	1042	R: 413 N: 398	R: 476 N: 473		
Canterbury						
Canterbury Boys High School	476	982			R: 499 N: 521	R: 548 N: 587
Canterbury Girls High School	655	1010			R: 540 N: 527	R: 580 N: 581
Canterbury Public School	255	1080	R: 438 N: 398	R: 473 N: 461		
Canterbury South Public School	194	1051	R: 424 N: 391	R: 471 N: 493		
Earlwood						
Clemton Park Primary School	608	1057	R: 427 N: 398	R: 473 N: 494		
Earlwood Public School	629	1093	R: 450 N: 443	R: 555 N: 575		

<i>Our Lady of Lourdes School</i>	397	1075	R: 436 N: 431	R: 505 N: 522		
Undercliffe Public School	160	1047	R: 443 N: 431	R: 516 N: 521		
Hurlstone Park						
Edgeware School	27	Special needs				
Kingsgrove						
Kingsgrove North High School	873	989			R: 511 N: 527	R: 534 N: 570
Lakemba						
<i>Holy Spirit College</i>	1055	971			R: 522 N: 521	R: 559 N: 569
<i>Rissalah College</i>	491	1045	R: 439 N: 444	R: 499 N: 529		
<i>St Therese's School</i>	253	958	R: 431 N: 380	R: 468 N: 467		
Lakemba Public School	404	1018	R: 396 N: 375	R: 455 N: 468		
Hampden Park Public School	694	1044	R: 375 N: 370	R: 442 N: 461		
Wangee Park Public	28	Special needs				
Canterbury Vale School	20	Special needs				
Narwee						
Narwee Public School	245	1020	R: 402 N: 384	R: 461 N: 502		
Punchbowl						
<i>St Jerome's Primary School</i>	315	982	R: 411 N: 383	R: 452 N: 462		
Punchbowl Boys High	391	966			R: 458 N: 473	R: 508 N: 544
Punchbowl Public School	620	972	R: 384 N: 373	R: 441 N: 452		
Riverwood						
Riverwood Public School	74	947	R: 316 N: 302	R: 434 N: 451		
Hannans Rd Public School	171	941	R: 361 N: 355	R: 474 N: 479		
Roselands						
McCallums Hill Public School	368	1005	R: 406 N: 384	R: 450 N: 451		
Wiley Park						
Wiley Park Girls High	589	957			R: 490 N: 483	R: 510 N: 523
Wiley Park Public	543	985	R: 405 N: 409	R: 457 N: 466		

Red indicates below the NSW average. Green indicates above the NSW average.
Non-government schools are highlighted in italics.

<http://www.myschool.edu.au>

*The Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) was created specifically to enable meaningful comparisons of National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test achievement by students in schools across Australia. The variables that make up an ICSEA value use family background information provided to schools directly by families, including parental occupation, and the school education and non-school education levels they achieved. The Australian average is 1000. Schools with a score above this is considered more advantaged, whereas schools with a lower score is considered to be at more of a disadvantage.

As the above table shows, the majority of schools within Canterbury LGA are below the NSW average. Canterbury primary schools are faring much better compared to Canterbury high schools.

It is important that children are receiving the best possible education so that they can learn to their full potential. Unfortunately, these results do not indicate why these schools are not doing very well, however the low ICSEA scores could be one indication. By looking at the demographics of children and youth in the Canterbury LGA, there could be some plausible links. - For example, the higher rate of migrant and refugee children within the Canterbury LGA, and that English is not their first language therefore they may be struggling more in school.

Appendix 10: All Suggestions from Surveys & Focus Groups

Suggestions from Surveys and Lakemba Playgroup (Voices of Adult & Children & Young People)

HEALTH

- Allowing all primary schools to participate in the Public Schools Sports Association (PSSA) – some children feel that their schools participation is more tokenistic
- Attractive Environment – cleaning up the Cooks River; clean up the frontage of Campsie shops (and possibly others); make sure that playground equipment is regularly cleaned;
- Sustainability – Installing solar panels for outdoor lighting;
- Cooks River remains polluted
- Cooks river needs to be cleaned it's full of rubbish and smells. This is a real potential for bacteria and certain types of diseases to be grown and potentially spread to children playing around the rivers edges and parklands.
- The Cooks River Water way is very polluted. Looking at that river sometimes I feel like we live in a third world country. It's way below the high standards of other parks and wildlife areas
- My children walk down Canterbury road to get to school. Canterbury Rd is very ugly. It would be really great if money was spent improving the look of derelict shop fronts etc. More trees, plants and parks along Canterbury rd. would also make the environment for all of us so much better.
- The streets of Campsie are filthy. I feel my child is at risk if she takes her shoes off in the park. It sets a very poor example to children. There is rubbish everywhere and the lawns in public spaces are not mowed often enough so you feel you may step on a needle. This is my biggest issue. I am embarrassed to live in Campsie.
- housing - safer for children; more room for children to play outside
- Pollution is also an issue in Lakemba
- Parks can be cleaner. Not a council issue, it's a public issue as the public are the ones who litter.
- Clean up the roads, footpaths and car park areas
- Clean up Cooks River
- sale of healthy food
- More activities to keep children active and included in their wider society in a non-religious way.
- Cost of housing (incl. rental) impacts on well-being of children - inadequate space and too high percentage of parents budget. Need affordable and adequate housing
- The terrible rubbish and pollution in Cooks River.
- Cheaper sports activities - costs are too much & children go without
- Council should be able to hold sport sessions/ other activities (e.g. art classes, soccer etc.) for young kids on weekends. Not only will this encourage kids to be more active but will also provide them with opportunities to interact with other kids their age living in local area.
- Work on cleaning up the Cook's River.
- Affordable housing
- Increase the number of Speech Pathologists that provide services to children in the area, particularly given the demographics of the area and the huge need that currently exists for

services. In addition to this, to provide a greater number of a variety of health services to children, including medical, Occupational Therapy and Psychological services. It would be great if further research can be conducted in the community regarding what families and their children think that they need in the area. I think further funds need to be allocated to better improving a range of services currently provided for children and that the services provided to children need to be seen as a very high priority for the community as a whole.

- Suitable housing. Many of our families live in 2 bedroom unit with up to 7 people in the family
- Housing
- compulsory health checks regularly Comp immunisation cleaner/safer parks
- Provide more government agencies to support children with additional needs e.g. speech and OT professionals. I have work as an early childhood educator for many years and have noticed the amount of children with speech and OT issues rising and I know that Canterbury council have cut back on their early intervention speech department.
- Have more early intervention provided
- Better coverage of GP's
- Clean the streets especially on Main streets like Haldon and Croydon Street
- The unpolluted environment and safe streets and places as they need to know that their knowledge and practices of having clean environment is acknowledged by minimising the pollution around and addressing issues such as dumping and polluted streets seriously
- Poor heating/cooling in centres, such as this playgroup. Means children are more likely to get sick
- Hygiene at child centres needs to be improved. Perhaps more education on hygiene for children?

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

- Support the Riverwood Transition Project; be either providing the initial start up fee of \$2000, or any other support that they require at time of writing report. Will assist in disengaged youth within the Riverwood area to become active citizens and to learn new skills
- More facilities for child carers and playgroups in Lakemba area
- high school, no high school around
- Insufficient child care e.g. 2 year waiting lists
- Better out of school care.
- Early childhood education because, working mother, can't give enough time to our child
- They need to recognised more home carers
- More child care available for under 5's, especially long day care open longer hours to allow time for parents travel times to / from work
- Child Care. The Hurlstone Park Children's Centre is a wonderful centre but only has 4 spaces for children in the 0-2 age bracket which is nowhere near adequate for the Canterbury council area.
- More good preschool places.
- child care centres need better hygiene
- Childcare needs improvement - the quality of service, the experience of workers, the child to staff ratio.

- Increase council funded child care
- Affordable childcare
- More fun days around education and play. Better understanding of environmental issues
- I feel as a parent early childhood education and educators from Canterbury council a great and do a excellent job. I feel this one of the best achievements council has
- MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- More children's centres for kids under school age could be provided (currently only 4 centres in the whole area run by Council)
- more careers counselling
- More availability to play group in Earlwood. One day only a week is too limiting.
- Expand child care centres so children can go to the same centre as their siblings and parents are not forced to send their children to child care centres out of the area.
- have more services available for free (such as playgroups); more parenting classes
- Improved quality / amount of long day care and child care service providers
- more peer mentor/leadership programs within community.
- better access to child care/preschool
- We could be teaming up with employment services to get more teenagers into casual after school work, fostering their sense of responsibility and having a role in society.
- Better information to parents about quality early childhood education and what it looks like.
- Preschools are too expensive for families from Low SE backgrounds – need an alternative

LEISURE

- Looking into having a permanent youth development officer for the libraries – Julie has been a big success with designing appropriate programs and the children seem to love her (as stated on surveys).
- Green spaces for children and youth – a big priority for most ages. Making sure that there is enough lighting on sports fields for children and youth to be able to play organised sports at night, and that the grounds are up to scratch.
- Installing football posts at Tasker park
- an inside playground
- Parks and play areas. The ones within Campsie & Canterbury may have had shelters erected over them in recent years but the equipment itself is in a state of disrepair. Screws missing, rubber ripped, ground unsafe underneath equipment etc.
- More playgrounds in parks with tables, chairs and TOILETS! And the parks and toilets need to be kept clean!
- Youth generally need better services in the LGA. Services that are easily accessible and distributed equitably throughout the LGA - not clustered in certain areas or on the edges of the LGA, like the Morris lemma Centre. Many young people don't have own transport and using trains at night can be intimidating
- Some parks need fencing, toilets and shade.
- Parks - lots of areas where the equipment needs to fixed. Need taps/bubblers at the park
- Aquatic centre- increase capacity of indoor pool, better play equipment near ice skating rink, picnic facilities in the park near Canterbury aquatic centre. Skating and bike park for younger kids to learn riding safely.
- have more community events such as yellow bus - so that children can interact in a not threatening safe environment - have locations and times advertised

- Playground upgrades. Improved children's area at Campsie library.
- More child-friendly public toilets. There is only the one in Campsie shopping centre; nowhere else. Public toilets in all libraries.
- Playgrounds require a significant improvement and investment to encourage the development of friendships, understanding on ones place within the community, sharing, enjoying the outdoor environment. Investments should be made in both larger and smaller parks. A good example is Steel Park in Marrickville.
- Play Area in Parks. Should be provided with more swings and slides and other playing equipment.
- after school activities and programs that are low cost
- playgrounds - need more creative play areas and public toilets
- Parks and playgrounds need to be improved - a lot could be learnt from how Marrickville & the City of Sydney prioritise investment in maintaining and building playgrounds
- Built environment and access to natural environment need improvement in Lakemba - need to travel to Belmore to go to the park..
- Community Safety Safe park equipment Community Gardens
- Access to appropriate open space for a range of ages is not available within easy walking distance for all residents and access to bushland. My son would like to cycle more rather than use public transport but there are not enough safe routes and connections to safe routes from where we live in Lakemba.
- Sporting area. /more parks should have practice cricket nets like at Beaman Park so cricketers can practise their skills. Particularly at Parry Park, Punchbowl Oval, Lance Hutchinson, Bland and other parks with cricket pitches that are open for the children to use. Also some solid brick walls in the parks for hitting up against with balls of all types, like in the park in Chapel Street Belmore behind McDonalds.
- Disabled access to playground facilities. Access to toilets at playgrounds.
- Children's playgrounds and parks can be improved (especially along the Cooks River)
- Upgrading of the playground areas and equipment especially around Campsie area. Playground equipment is very out-dated and does not comply with current OH&S issues. There are no fences around the playgrounds and most of the play equipment is not innovative or interactive enough. There is also the great need for INDOOR playground/play areas in shopping centre in Campsie. LIKE ones in Marrickville Metro.
- definitely the need to upgrade playgrounds around the Campsie area as they do not comply with current OH&S issues and the play equipment are very dated and there is no fence around most the playgrounds...a potential OH&S disaster!!!!
- More open spaces. Family friendly places
- Need more activities for young people and places where they can gather together safely
- Better weed control in natural areas, and planting of natives
- Youth centre at Lakemba is too far away from Earlwood, especially if you don't have a car.
- Any cultural activities that would increase a sense of belonging to the community, to the environment and to encourage creativity and safe exploration.
- Stop spending money on stupid infrastructure like the \$20,000 Hurlstone Park Village Centre sign and redirect it into providing safe, clean playgrounds for our children to enjoy.
- We need more sun shelters in playgrounds.

- Access to low cost child friendly activities Improved park equipment Improved toilets in parks
- More local parks with a range of play equipment for all ages. Utilise and work with schools to increase open play space
- Library access is good and the fact they open late on some evenings is great for many families
- Provide more Youth related activities to children from Low SES that are free and in the area most needed. Playground Upgrade and Indoor play area is needed.
- Provide better upgraded playgrounds in parks around Campsie, and the need for free INDOOR playground areas for rainy days when parents can take their kids out. Please look at Marrickville Metro their indoor playground is innovative and interactive. We need something like that here in Campsie for all the parents out there.
- Recommendations which were made for the improvement of services/City of Canterbury as a whole included youth centres being open every day of the week,
- I guess our youth group could be seen as a service that allows for youth to attend a community of people their age, play some games and learn about the way to live a Christian life. There are many youth who come who are not Christian or from church families but love to hang out in an environment that is loving, non-judgemental, safe. I don't see a need to enhance it in this way unless the city of Canterbury wishes to be more involved in a church group (I see why local govt. generally doesn't).
- Provision of more child friendly outdoor space
- More space for children to play outdoors –
- Funding for a permanent Youth Officer; a permanent space within the premises to be made a designated youth space; additional funding for children's school holiday programs
- To keep improving infrastructure and developing more children friendly places. Promote importance of outdoor play.
- We have approx. 30 youth attend our Friday night youth group. We have been in contact with over 60 youth in the City of Canterbury area over the 5 or 6 years that we've been running the group. All of them come to group saying "I wish I came sooner" or "I felt really welcomed"... I don't think that there are many places for high school aged youth to go on a Friday night that is fun for all ages, a social time, where lifelong friendships are built and connections are made in the local community. There probably needs to be more groups like that! They don't have to be religious in nature but a place for youth to hang out together as youth. The only other activity I know happens where youth congregate a lot, is skating at Canterbury Ice Rink on a Friday night.
- and more community resources to support playgroups in parks as a soft entry point for support and also as an avenue for parents to get outside with their children
- A range of activities for young people and children across the LGA that are free or low cost
- more after school leisure and recreational activities for Lakemba youth;
- Youth in Canterbury are desperately in need of social spaces. Although there are two excellent facilities in Belmore, outside of this suburb there are very limited locations for teenagers to interact and socialise with one another in a safe environment. Children are also growing up in medium density housing with limited access to play spaces. Localised small green spaces, playgrounds and reserves would help to counter the lack of back yards in the area
- more activities for children, especially outdoors
- More basketball courts
- A cycle/walking track

- More play equipment
- Need more green spaces for children in Lakemba that are safe and offer a structured environment, but also freedom to create

SAFETY

- Also they need to feel safe walking by themselves in the streets without fear of being approached by strangers or drunk people.
- Shopping/city centres need traffic free zones and better urban design/public art to promote vibrant and safe environments
- The roads need work, they are dangerous.
- Street lights especially near crossings.
- Park lights and street lights
- Safer streets with less traffic and more cycling facilities for commuting.
- Would not let my children walk the streets after sunset
- schools need to address safety issues such as adequate fencing
- Better off road facilities and footpaths to make it safer for children (more speed humps and traffic controlling devices too)
- POLICE. Went to Campsie police station after my wife and 3 years old daughter were threatened to be raped and killed by night. Police did nothing, did not even write a statement and told us to call them if someone appears at home. Wouldn't that have been too late! Felt like a second class citizen. Then went straight to the MP's office, the lady at the reception said that the office was about to close and we couldn't contact the MP and asked us to write everything in a letter and come back the next day. With the tone of her voice, she did not seem much interested in our story and our little daughter's welfare.
- Continue to address safety of children/pedestrians due to aggressive driving
- Provide programs of safety for children. Street-smart, stranger danger in a more pro-active way.
- have more zebra crossings in high traffic areas and busy streets
- Improve walkway at Lakemba station - next to a busy road and only wide enough for one pram. Children can run onto the road very easily
- More lights on Punchbowl crossing as it is dangerous.
- Have better active transport routes that connect well with off road routes.
- Police need to take the complaint seriously when the welfare of a child is involved, no matter what ethnicity or cultural back ground they are from. Making a statement is our right.
- Stop bullying in schools.
- Finally I feel that the safety in the area could be improved so that children can be given a greater sense of independence without being in danger.
- public transport for parents with prams mend footpaths cleaner parks
- Improve transport within Earlwood
- .Lack of public transport is also a huge issue for young people in the area, very few are willing or permitted to travel on the train to neighbouring suburbs.
- Keeping streets safer, parental education on raising children
- More casework services for youth in need
- More fencing around schools to make them safer for children

- The walkway near Lakemba station needs to be repaired and possibly widened – not safe for children and isn't big enough for more than one pram. Busy roads nearby
- Footpaths need to be repaired for prams and children's safety
- Sawdust in parks should be replaced with astro turf or something that is safe for children

PARTICIPATION

- Increase advertising for services already available and aim it at children and youth.
- Create a child friendly council website to make searching for services in their area easier and more appealing. (E.g. Bendigo's website).
- Including the Youth Council in decision making of built environments or other things within the area. Helps to consider the rights of the child and making sure that they're met.
- A CENTRALISED DIRECTORY FOR SERVICES TO USE THAT GETS REGULARLY UPDATED
- ONGOING PREZI SERIES TO EDUCATE
- CHILD FRIENDLY WEBSITE FOR CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL
- YOUTUBE ADVERTISING
- Young children with no specifics needs at all. For an Anglo with none of these issues the services are quite excluding. E.g. I could not find any mothers groups that were simply for mothers. I could only find mothers groups for Maoris or mothers groups for Chinese speakers or for people whose children have special needs etc. It really excludes you if you don't fit into one of those groups. I go to Marrickville Council for a lot of services because of that
- MORE CATERING TO THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF YOUTHS
- Parents rooms
- Providing support and building community for the LGBTI community - in particular those raising children. We currently travel to the Inner West for a sense of community.
- Also, we want services that do not exclude mainstream children and their parents. Middle class Australians also have a lot to offer the community and putting people into racial and language, religious and health groups for the provision of services, especially kid's play groups and mothers groups, does nothing to foster intercultural understanding and does nothing to make speakers of English feel welcome in the community.
- more promotion of services and rights in the community, and more groups that aren't linked to any particular culture but are inclusive of all people.
- By educating community (parents) about children rights By promoting importance of play. By advocating on children's behalf.
- More involvement with community groups in our area
- Information and support on consulting with children on programs they want. provide relevant information which is written in child friendly formats/design
- better access to services who work well with children and parents in a culturally appropriate way
- Promotion of children's right- raising awareness.
- we probably don't listen to the views of the children enough
- Increase advocacy education of rights and responsibilities of children and adults
- Have a voice on child friendly environments
- More information about location of scouting, guide groups and sporting venues. Hard copies of location of child care services, mental health facilities etc. Used to do this but not readily

available. Perhaps put publication on CD and distribute to child care services to share with parents.

- promote the rights to children locally in child friendly ways
- Council to actually engage better with the disadvantaged areas of its population instead of only the English speaking advantaged groups.

OTHER (funding)

- Having adequate funding
- Increased staffing so that we can access the more vulnerable families and provide more timely intervention
- Funding to run innovative programs.
- Better marketing of existing services. Expansion of services offered with increased funding. Targeted outreach to people not currently accessing services.
- Providing appropriate and financially accessible services for children and young people

Suggestions from Focus Groups (Voices of Children & Young People only)

HEALTH

- Sustainability solar panels, to save money [in lighting the park] and for sustainability
- Stop the dumping in the Cooks River
- for my school to have PSSA for any sport. to do sport every day!.
- Birds: change something in the school would be to shoo away the birds that poo into our schools.
- Clean up Canterbury
- Health workshop

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

- Teachers need to stop talking down to students
- Change aesthetics of schools
- Overly strict schools restricting right to education They send you home for like ridiculous reasons, eg Socks or Nail polish

LEISURE

- Clean parks with better facilities:
- Better wireless/computer facilities
- Skate park
- Better computers and public wifi
- Waterproof play area
- Lighting in parks; More shelter in the parks
- More Youth events
- Fix up built environment - old shops
- A bigger shopping centre: We need a Westfield here and a cinema
- Shop hygiene and variety
- Tasker Park- the toilets are dirty. It would be nice if there were more football posts.

- More computers in Campsie Library
- Parks: more parks
- Playgrounds: more playgrounds
- Space for young people to hang out (Lakemba)
- More parks/green space in Lakemba
- Utilise valuable space in services differently if it isn't being used effectively
- Band/music/dance studio at the BYRC
- I would change, upgrade the library
- Make it (the library) bigger. Make it a fun place. Make it so kids can come in and close the door, and the others can research and whatever. And get more games like Xbox. just you know like isolate one room from all the library people that doesn't want noise and stuff. So the big guy doesn't have to come and kick anybody out. Have a graffiti on the wall. Have pictures on the wall.
- More space for youth centre

SAFETY

- More privacy using library computers
- Promote emergency numbers and rules
- Internet danger awareness programs
- Loose dogs: dogs should always be on leashes
- Make police more approachable

PARTICIPATION

- Promote Canterbury's children/youth services through a youtube video
- Make everyone equal, everyone should be treated equally, even if you're the boss.
- Stop discrimination
- A prayer room in the youth centre
- Teach rights in schools

www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au

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