



City of Hobart Children and Families

Strategy 2014 - 2019



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Introduction

History / Background

The City of Hobart recognises the opportunity to have the best start in life is both a fundamental right for every child and vital to the long term health of our community.

The City of Hobart has contributed to the health and wellbeing of children and families for many years through a range of facilities, events, services and programs and the employment of Community Development Officer - Children and Families.

The Children and Families Strategy relates to families with children in the early years (birth to six years) and children in the middle years (six to twelve years). The strategy also recognises parents, carers, siblings and grandparents and applies to families of all structures.

The first Children and Families Strategy was developed in 2008 and formalised the City of Hobart's commitment to the children and families living in and visiting Hobart.

The Children and Families Strategy provides a broad framework to:

- Connect organisations within the children and families sector in Hobart;
- Support and promote opportunities for parents to connect with each other;
- Support and promote dynamic, vibrant and culturally expressive City of Hobart and community opportunities for families and children to participate fully in community life;
- Support children and families access to services through information provision;
- Increase opportunities for children to live in healthy, happy and safe environments.

Community Engagement Process

The Children and Families Strategy was developed through engagement with over 400 people, which included service providers, parents, carers and children.

This involved face to face interviews, an online survey, small group consultation, engagement in public parks, including Franklin Square and Caldew Park, and at various public events.

The following groups, networks and activities were involved in this engagement process:

Hobart Children and Families Network; Hobart Mums Network; Hobart Natural Parenting Group; City of Hobart School Holiday program; Tasmanian Early Years funded research project 'Imagine Build Play'; four Hobart primary schools; City of Hobart Children and Families Officers Group and the Parents and Friends Network Tasmania.

During the review process, the context for discussions included the current level of resourcing, the current environment of financial restraint, the activities currently being undertaken by the City of Hobart and the City's social inclusion roles.

We asked the community the following questions:

1. Do you think the current City of Hobart Children and Families Strategy priority areas are still relevant?
2. What areas do you think are important for the City of Hobart to focus on for the next five years?
3. What areas do you think the City of Hobart should focus on for the next year?
4. Are you happy with the way the City of Hobart communicates activities for children and families in Hobart? If not, please give suggestions of how to improve?
5. What do you like about living in Hobart?

Issues

The key issues that were actioned in the most recent Children and Families Strategy have been reaffirmed through the community engagement process with some additional key issues identified.

They key issues have been identified as:

- A need for increased promotion and communication of services, activities, venues and events for children and families in Hobart.
- A need for the city to be more child and family friendly.
- A need for more arts and cultural events that are specifically targeted to children and families.
- A lack of support for activities and events for children and families in areas outside of the city centre.
- A lack of social and recreational opportunities for upper primary aged children.
- A need for improvements to the physical accessibility within City of Hobart infrastructure such as car parks, foot and cycle paths.

These issues will be addressed in three priority areas for activity:

- Networking and Communicating
- Engaging and Participating
- Coordinating across the City of Hobart

Demographic Context

Who are Hobart's Children and Families?








The 2011 ABS Census indicated that the Hobart Local Government Area population is 48,703, with 14.7% of the population being children between 0 and 14 years; 4.9% under the age of 4, and 8.9% between 5 and 14 years. 39.7% of families are couples with children; and 14.4% of families are single parents with children.


The 2011 data also identified that in Greater Hobart, 6.4% of the population is aged under the age of 5 years with 12.4% aged between 5 and 14 years.

Australian Early Development Indicators (AEDI) 2012

The AEDI is a population measure of how young children are developing as they enter school and provides a snapshot of early childhood development across Australia and in local areas. In 2012, the AEDI was completed in Hobart for 448 children in their first year of full time school.

Summary of AEDI Results for Hobart LGA

Domain	Percentage of children on track 	Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable 
 Physical health and wellbeing	80.4%	5.5%
 Social competence	83.2%	4.3%
 Emotional maturity	83.2%	4.9%
 Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	87.3%	2.3%
 Communication skills and general knowledge	80.6%	2.8%

Overall there are 13.4 per cent of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the AEDI  and 4 per cent are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains.

Hobart 2025 – A 20 Year Strategic Framework

Hobart 2025 was an extensive community visioning process that produced a framework for the City of Hobart's long term strategic planning. It gives a solid picture of what the people of Hobart want the city to be like in 2025.

Key Future Direction Statements

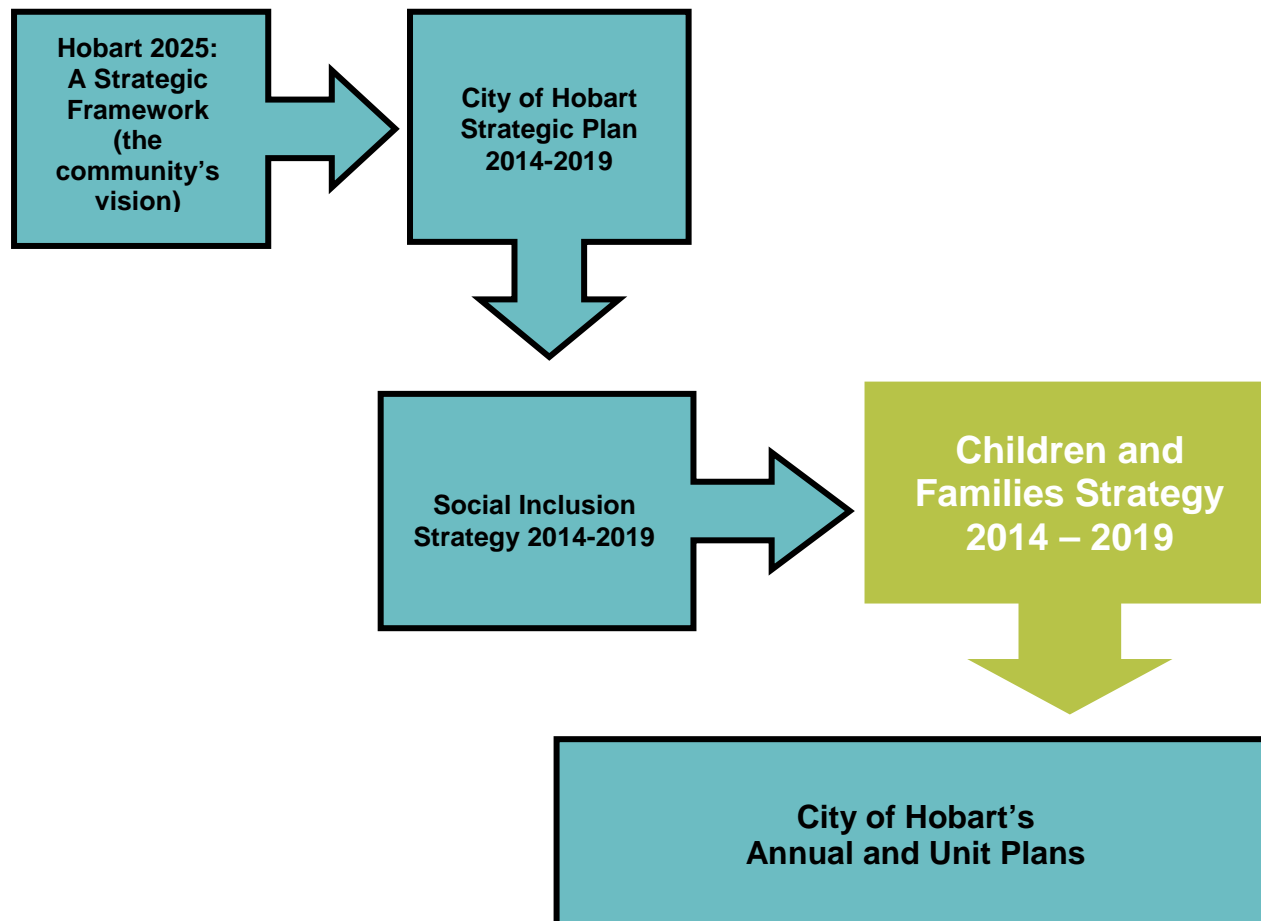
This picture is expressed in seven Future Direction Statements, three of which specifically target social inclusion outcomes.

- *Offers opportunities for all ages and a city for life*
In 2025 Hobart will be a city that provides opportunities for education, employment and fulfilling careers. A city that is able to retain its young people and provide a lifestyle that will encourage all ages to see the city as a desirable location and lifelong home.
- *Builds strong and healthy communities through diversity, participation and empathy*
In 2025 Hobart will be a city that reflects a spirit of community and tolerance. By valuing diversity and encouraging participation by all ages in the life of their community a friendly and compassionate society will underpin a safe and healthy city.
- *Is dynamic, vibrant and culturally expressive*
In 2025 Hobart will be a city that is a destination of choice and a place for business. Clever thinking and support for creativity will help build a strong economic foundation, and entertainment, arts and cultural activities promote the distinctive character of the city. Lifestyle opportunities and strong communities will ensure a vibrancy and a way of life that is Hobart.

Strategic Plans

The City of Hobart's Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019 identifies the actions the City of Hobart will take over the five year period to achieve the community's vision. The Social Inclusion Strategy specifically identifies the social outcomes for the city and informs Children and Families Strategy 2014 – 2019. These documents inform the Annual and Unit Plans produced each year by the City of Hobart.

This strategic framework is provided as a visual representation below.



Guiding Principles

The City of Hobart's Children and Families policy position sits within the context of the City's Social Inclusion Guiding Principles, as outlined below.

Social Inclusion – Guiding Principles

In recognition of the fundamental right of all citizens of Hobart to have the opportunity to participate fully socially, culturally, economically, physically and politically in the life of their community, the City of Hobart is committed to the following guiding principles:

- Recognising that diversity in the community is one of its greatest strengths
- Acknowledging that all individuals and communities have strengths, and building capacity through a whole-of-community approach
- Ensuring that the needs and aspirations of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the community are addressed in partnership with other key stakeholders
- Understanding and being informed about all aspects of the community
- Engaging the community as identifiers of community needs and aspirations and participators in the responses
- Identifying and understanding the underlying causes of social exclusion and giving priority to supporting early intervention and prevention approaches
- Promoting and providing equity and access to all City of Hobart's activities, programs, facilities and services
- Ensuring the City of Hobart's practices, policies and procedures actively build social inclusion and do not contribute to social exclusion
- Utilising a whole-of-organisation approach to address the barriers that exclude people from full participation in community life through the implementation of the Social Inclusion Strategy

Role of the City of Hobart

The City of Hobart has a unique role in promoting and providing for children and families in the Hobart municipal area. With this in mind the City's role for Children and Families Community Development area is fully aligned with its social inclusion roles, which are defined as follows:

Leadership

Hobart has a unique role as the capital city and regional hub. Many people who live outside the municipal area look to the City of Hobart as a key driver in addressing social issues.

Advocacy

There are many issues and opportunities where the City of Hobart can use its voice to advocate for outcomes that will benefit all.

Management

The City of Hobart has a key role in the strategic planning, development and management of land, infrastructure and facilities in order to benefit the community.

Connection

The City of Hobart has a significant lead role in bringing people and organisations together and establishing relationships in order to achieve community outcomes.

Informing

The City of Hobart as an organisation has access to a vast array of information, is a collector and source of information for the community and has a vital role in raising awareness on issues.

Facilitation

The City of Hobart is in a unique position of being able to provide a broad range of support to facilitate innovative community-based initiatives that respond to local need, and may include delivery of services when there is a clear need and a lack of capacity in the community to provide the required service.

Accountability

In terms of monitoring the City of Hobart's performance in the delivery of its Children and Families Strategy, the following approach will be utilised:

- Regular reporting to the Council. This is done three times a year for all City of Hobart operations, and annually through the Annual Report that is also presented to the community at the Council's Annual General Meeting held in November.
- Hobart Children and Families Network - This group also has a role in monitoring the implementation of the Children and Families Strategy 2014/2015 Action Plan and providing feedback on specific activities.

Regular community reporting and engagement is also undertaken through:

- City of Hobart Children and Families Officers Group
- City of Hobart School Holiday program participant surveys
- Hobart Mum's Network

Areas for Activity

Priority Area 1: Networking and Communicating

Networking and communicating are important aspects of community inclusion and these can ensure equitable access for all children and families to the full range of social, recreational, learning and cultural opportunities within City of Hobart community facilities and programs. The main areas of activity within this priority area are:

- Strengthen partnerships and stakeholder collaboration to best meet the needs of children and families in Hobart.
- Increase awareness of current services, programs, events facilities and environments available to children and families in Hobart through widespread promotion using a range of communication methods.
- Network with local schools and early childhood services to enhance connectedness with the broader community and to promote early years programs.

Priority Area 2: Engaging and Participating

The City of Hobart plays a key role in creating and coordinating participation opportunities for children and families to participate and can provide and support opportunities to influence what happens in local communities. The main areas of activity within this priority area are:

- Involve children and families in community engagement processes, future planning and the development of future strategies in response to matters of direct relevance and potential interest.
- Provide and support a range of social, recreational, creative activities, and events and facilities that engage children and families.

Priority Area 3: Coordinating Across The City of Hobart

Working collaboratively across the organisation increases the development and provision of quality services and programs for children and families. The main areas of activity within this priority area are:

- Coordinate a children and families 'whole of city' approach through formal and informal communication to identify and monitor opportunities that involve children and families.
- Work with relevant City of Hobart staff to encourage and promote increased participation within the City of Hobart's programs.

2015/2016 Action Plan

PRIORITY AREA OF ACTIVITY 1: Networking and Communicating		
Priority Areas for Action	Actions / Initiatives	Performance Measure
Strengthen partnerships and stakeholder collaboration to best meet needs of children and families in Hobart.	Convene the Hobart Children and Families Network to identify, monitor and progress issues and opportunities within the children and families sector.	Four Hobart Children and Families Network meetings held per year.
	Participate in national, state and local forums regarding children and families as relevant.	Participation as relevant.
	Participate in reference, steering and advisory committees as relevant.	Participation as relevant.
Increase awareness of current services, programs, events, facilities and environments available to children and families in Hobart through widespread promotion using a range of media.	Continue to work on <i>Hobart Kids</i> communication plan to promote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Hobart Children and Family services; • Strengthen partnerships to promote Hobart as a Child and Family Friendly City; and • Promote other activities, agencies and services that are available to children and families in Hobart. 	Communication Plan implemented.
	Strengthen partnerships that encourage promotion of Hobart as a Child and Family Friendly City.	Partnerships strengthened.
Network with local schools and early childhood services to enhance connectedness with the broader community and promotion of their programs.	Inform schools early in the year of Council related activities and events via letter or meeting with Principal.	Schools informed and meetings held.
	Liaise with early childhood services via Hobart Children and Families Network.	Early childhood services attend Hobart Children and Families Network Meetings.

PRIORITY AREA OF ACTIVITY 1: Networking and Communicating

Priority Areas for Action	Actions / Initiatives	Performance Measure
	Involve schools and early childhood services in City of Hobart Families Week and Children's Week activities.	Schools and early childhood services participate in Children's Week and Families Week activities.
	Support local schools and early years stakeholders to participate in community development and city activation initiatives.	Support given.

PRIORITY AREA OF ACTIVITY 2: Engaging and Participating

Priority Areas for Action	Actions / Initiatives	Performance Measure
Involve children and families in community consultation processes, future planning and the development of future strategies in response to matters of direct relevance and potential interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for and ensure children and families participation on relevant design processes that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – new/refurbished playgrounds; – community sport and recreational amenities; – retail Precinct developments; – parenting rooms; – specific programs and or celebrations such as Town Hall Anniversary; and – infrastructure in the city. 	Opportunities identified and consultation conducted where relevant.
	Promotion of <i>A Child Friendly Hobart Kids Doc</i> to relevant staff and business stakeholders.	A5 document promoted.
	Develop relationships with CBD and Salamanca Square businesses to encourage collaborative partnerships and promotion of activities for children and families.	Relationship developed.

PRIORITY AREA OF ACTIVITY 2: Engaging and Participating

Priority Areas for Action	Actions / Initiatives	Performance Measure
Provide and support a range of social, recreational and creative activities, programs, facilities and events that engage children and families.	Invite relevant stakeholders to be involved in opportunities, such as School Holiday Program, to promote their service and programs to the community.	Relevant stakeholders attend school holiday program.
	Work with children from local schools to conduct an activity for Childrens Week.	Children involved in planning 'Children's Week' activity.
	Work with Parks & Amenity Division to explore development of the Active Parks Program and Artplay model with a focus on recreation and creativity for Children and Families.	Models explored.

PRIORITY AREA OF ACTIVITY 3: Coordinating Across the City of Hobart

Priority Areas for Action	Actions / Initiatives	Performance Measure
Coordinate a children and families 'whole of Council' approach through formal and informal communication to identify and monitor children and families opportunities.	Conduct three (3) Children and Families Officers Group meetings per year.	3 meetings held per year.
Work with relevant City of Hobart staff to encourage and promote increased participation within the City of Hobart's programs.	Assist in the promotion of the City of Hobart Children's Immunisation program.	Promotion given via Children and Families Communication Plan, Hobart Mum's Network Monthly Newsletter.
	Work with relevant Council staff relating to parks, walking / cycle tracks and playground equipment to best meet needs of children and families.	Needs of children and families considered and implemented in designs.
	Support multicultural activities and events, including Harmony Day, NAIDOC Week and other relevant projects.	Support given to Community Development Multicultural Officer for multicultural projects.

PRIORITY AREA OF ACTIVITY 3: Coordinating Across the City of Hobart

Priority Areas for Action	Actions / Initiatives	Performance Measure
	Address equal access issues for children and families and attend events delivered for International Day for People with Disability (IPWD).	Participation opportunities for children with a disability provided. Participation in IDPWD event in December 2015.
Plan and deliver creative and cultural activities for children and families in the city.	Ensure needs of children and families are met relating to Infrastructure projects in the CBD such as Liverpool Street, Collins Court, Waterfront and Retail Precinct developments.	Involvement in infrastructure projects.
	Plan and deliver creative activities in for Children and Families in collaboration with Marketing Unit, Creative Hobart and City Activation group.	Creative activities delivered.
	Plan actions and or support place based activities for children and families in Hobart and surrounding areas such as Lenah Valley and South Hobart and as identified in Retails Precinct developments.	Actions and support given.
	Work with relevant stakeholders from Salamanca Square business group to develop arts based activation opportunities.	Meetings held and activities planned.