

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

POLICY

POL-CMS 04

Objective:

To utilise a whole-of-Government and a whole-of-community approach, to reduce the number of Mandurah children who are developmentally vulnerable according to the Australian Early Developmental Index, particularly in the areas of language and cognitive skills and; physical health and wellbeing.

Statement:

The City of Mandurah (the 'City') is committed to a whole-of-Government and a whole-of-community approach to ensure that every child (aged 0-11) has the best start in life, in order to create a better future for themselves and the Mandurah community.

The City acknowledges that investing in the health, education, development and care of our children benefits children and their families, our communities and the economy.

The City's roles and responsibilities in early childhood development are:

- **Collaborate** with other agencies to support families to provide a nurturing home environment and access services.
- **Lead** in developing inclusive local planning processes for the built and natural environment that take into account the needs of children and families, and promoting community safety.
- **Lead** (where the City provides a service targeted at young children and family) in providing programs that consider the inclusion of children experiencing one or more barriers to social participation (low-income family; cultural and language barriers; and disability).
- **Lead** (where the City provides a service targeted at young children and family) in providing effective policy responses based on research and workforce development for staff.

The identified priority groups for the delivery of this policy and accompanying strategies are those that are experiencing one or more barriers to social participation, these are:

- Socioeconomic status/low income families
- Cultural and language barriers including Indigenous families
- Living with disability

The City will work and collaborate closely with other spheres of government and the wider community, to address four focus areas and outcomes:

Focus Area 1: Safe Environment

Outcome 1: Children's environments are nurturing, culturally appropriate and safe.

Focus Area 2: Literacy & Learning

Outcome 2: Children have the knowledge and skills for life and learning.

Focus Area 3: Social Inclusion

Outcome 3: Children are provided with opportunities that increase social inclusion and reduced disadvantage.

Focus Area 4: Building the Capacity of Parents & Carers

Outcome 4: Families and service providers are confident and have the capabilities to support the development of the children in their care.

Responsible Directorate:	Sustainable Communities
Reviewer:	Manager Community Development
Creation date:	Minute G.12/9/12, 25 September 2012
Amendments:	Minute G.35/2/15, 24 February 2015 Minute G.12/7/19, 23 July 2019
Related Documentation:	City of Mandurah Early Childhood Strategy: Better Start Better Future