

# Playground and Exercise Equipment Development and Maintenance Policy

<b>Policy Reference Number</b>	5977979
<b>Responsible Department</b>	Infrastructure Services
<b>Related Policies</b>	Accessibility; Recreation, Sports and Cultural Facilities; Council Facility Hire
<b>Related Plans</b>	Open Space Strategy ; Community Land Management Plan
<b>Date of Initial Adoption</b>	16 December 2003
<b>Last Reviewed by Council</b>	16 July 2019

## 1. Purpose

To guide the installation of new playgrounds and exercise equipment, and the maintenance of existing playgrounds and exercise equipment on Campbelltown City Council's parks and reserves, aiming to provide play and exercise opportunities that are:

- appropriately located,
- safe while encouraging children to challenge themselves and take calculated risks,
- equitably distributed,
- appealing and accessible to a range of ages and abilities
- nature play

## 2. Introduction

Play in public spaces is important as it is accessible to the whole Community and can create meeting places whilst providing opportunities for children to take calculated risks, be active and interact with different Community members. Council providing exercise equipment in addition to play opportunities enables all ages to be considered and provided for.

## 3. Power to Make the Policy

The Local Government Act 1999 and Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) provide the legislative framework for this Policy.

## 4. Strategic Plan Link

This Policy has the following link to Council's Strategic Plan 2010 - 2020

### **City Planning (Goal 3) -**

Planning that achieves a balance between infrastructure, development, and community needs

## 5. Principles

- Playgrounds and exercise equipment will be designed and maintained to achieve or exceed Australian Standards.
- All residents should be able to walk to a park or reserve containing playground and / or exercise equipment (within approximately 500 metres from their residence).
- Playgrounds will seek to provide safe, accessible, challenging, enjoyable and interesting spaces for residents of all ages and abilities relax, gather socially and be active.
- Playgrounds will seek to provide a range of activities that encourage social, cognitive and physical play opportunities
- Playgrounds will incorporate landscape and natural play elements as well as traditional play equipment where appropriate

## 6. Definitions

Any reference to 'playgrounds' includes, but is not limited to all play equipment, exercise equipment, nature play spaces, soft fall areas, grounds, shade structures, associated garden beds, logs, boulders, perimeter fencing and any other associated features that encourage play (e.g. sculptures or community art).

## 7. Policy

### 7.1 Existing playgrounds

Existing playgrounds will be inspected at least quarterly to ensure they achieve or exceed Australian Standards. In doing so:

- A 'Playground Inspection Checklist' that meets Australian standards will be used to guide the assessment of existing playgrounds and faults identified will be corrected, or the playground taken out of service until repairs are made
- Playgrounds identified as requiring upgrading will be placed on a list of playgrounds requiring upgrades, and presented to Council for consideration during the budgetary process.

### 7.2 New playgrounds

- New playgrounds will be established on Council reserves where it has been identified that there is a gap in provision of facilities within walking distance (eg approximately 500 metres) of surrounding dwellings.
- Priority will be given to areas where there is an identified potential increase in the number of children under 15 years of age or as identified in the Open Space Strategy.
- New playgrounds will be constructed in accordance with the current Australian standards and developed in accordance with the Principles contained in this Policy. A risk assessment will be undertaken before the construction of any new playground to identify and control (where reasonably practical) any potential hazards.

- Where possible new playgrounds will be located in an area that maximises the use of natural shade. In areas where there is no or minimal natural shade, or landscaping can't be provided to create natural shade, a shade structure may be considered as part of the development of a new playground.

### **7.3 Accessible Playgrounds**

#### **7.3.1 Accessibility and Inclusion**

Where possible, redevelopment of playgrounds on parks classified in Council's Open Space Strategy as 'Regional' and 'District' will include access for people of all abilities.

Space around playgrounds and exercise equipment installed in such parks will contain accessible under-surfacing and elements such as decks and ramps that allow children of all abilities to be immersed within a playspace as opposed to playing on the fringe, and connected to an accessible route leading into the playground.

Suitable spaces will be provided to allow carers to play with children.

Plantings around playgrounds will wherever possible:

- Minimise the use of plants that cause allergic reactions
- Incorporate CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles
- Enable access and use by vision-impaired or hearing-impaired users through plantings of distinctly scented or textured coloured flowers and shrubs

#### **7.3.2 Physical access**

The design of new playgrounds and upgrades will seek to provide access to the playground by bicycles, pedestrians and small-wheeled vehicles including wheelchairs, gophers and prams.

An accessible route leading into the playground will consist of surfaces that are firm, stable and slip resistant.

Accessible routes will connect to at least one point in a transfer system for elevated play equipment where available.

Priority will be given to the inclusion of pedestrian refuges and kerb side protuberances adjacent to reserves with playgrounds that are in close proximity to arterial or sub arterial roads.

Where possible, parking bays for people with a disability will be provided close to access for all playgrounds.

### **7.4 Appropriate Playgrounds**

#### **7.4.1 Location**

The location, service level and replacement of new playgrounds and exercise equipment in parks and reserves will take into consideration the following factors:

- Safe access and accessibility (disability access, car parking, bicycle paths, pedestrian paths and crossings).
- Local demographics.
- Distribution of other playgrounds.
- Environmental impact including native vegetation, biodiversity, and fauna habitat
- Proximity to natural elements and features.
- Proximity to other facilities and services.
- Proximity to natural shade or located where trees can be planted
- Passive surveillance.
- Community engagement and feedback
- Reserve hierarchy

#### **7.4.2 Supporting amenities**

Supporting amenities such as seating for carers, shade (from trees or shade structures), bins, drinking fountains and access pathways will be considered where appropriate.

#### **7.4.3 Fencing**

Fencing playgrounds is not always necessary and should be assessed on a case by case basis. Most of Campbelltown's playgrounds have been purposely located away from dangers such as busy roads or waterways, making fencing an unnecessary cost and design feature. Best practice play space design calls for play opportunities to be integrated into the surrounding landscape/reserve/public space rather than separated or isolated through fencing or other means.

#### **7.4.4 Risk Benefit**

Playgrounds will aim to provide opportunities for children to undertake calculated risks while adhering to Australian Standards for Playgrounds. This requires risk assessments on playgrounds to consider the following;

- Does the benefit to the child outweigh the risk the activity presents to the child?
- Can the child assess and identify the associated risk with the activity? (e.g. jumping from a high platform or balancing across a beam)
- Hazards that a child would not be able to identify and assess (e.g. finger entrapments in equipment and sharp objects hidden) must be eliminated.

### **7.4.5 Community Engagement**

A community engagement strategy, including children and young people should be developed and implemented before the upgrade, replacement, removal or installation of playgrounds in line with Child Friendly Campbelltown principles:

- children and young people are authentically engaged and involved in shaping decision making
- children and young people have a range of choices and access to play and leisure in their community, including risky play, outdoor and nature-based play and leisure.

### **8. Review & Evaluation**

This Policy will be reviewed annually. The Chief Executive Officer will report to Council on the outcome of the review and make recommendations for amendment, alteration or a substitution of a new Policy if considered necessary.

### **9. Availability of the Policy**

This Policy will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and at Council's website [www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au](http://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au). Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.